

What You Need to Know

# About Child Care in Muskoka

Many families find it helpful to visit a number of child care centres to see what is best for their child. Some families decide that their child would do better in a licensed home child care setting. Finding child care for your child can be one of the most important decisions you make and takes thought and planning. Whatever you decide is right for your child, there are a few things you should know about licensed child care in Muskoka.



## Licensed Child Care in Muskoka is **high quality**

All licensed child care centres are carefully monitored by the District Municipality of Muskoka Quality Assurance Program. Both centre-based care, and approved home child care providers must meet standards set out under the Day Nurseries Act. According to the Day Nurseries Act, there are restrictions on the number of children or babies that an adult can care for in a licensed child care centre or home child care setting. Other aspects of licensed child care that are closely monitored include rest time, time spent outside, learning, literacy, health and safety standards and menu planning.

## Licensed Child Care in Muskoka is **affordable**

In fact, the cost of child care in Muskoka is much less than in other parts of Ontario. Families who still find the cost of child care too high can apply to the District Municipality of Muskoka for Child Care Fee Subsidy. This program is based on a family's income and may help pay all or part of the cost of child care.



## Licensed Child Care in Muskoka is **good for all children**

Studies show that children who attend licensed child care centres or approved home child care before going to school have better social skills, are better able to handle new routines and are better prepared for the transition to Kindergarten. Kindergarten teachers say the same thing – that children who attend licensed child care centres or licensed home child care before coming to school handle the change better than their classmates.

Licensed child care will also help connect families with programs and services for their child and many child-focused services will come directly to a child care centre to work with a child who needs extra support.

## Licensed Child Care in Muskoka is available

Community partners in Muskoka actively work together to provide children in Muskoka with quality, affordable, licensed child care options for children from birth to 3.8 years old, as well as before and after school care for school age children. Every licensed child care provider has its own policies and procedures and many offer part-time care for children under 4 years of age. It is important to plan ahead when looking for child care – call early!



“When my husband and I go to work we are grateful knowing our child is close to home, cared for, making friends, creating masterpieces, learning new skills and language.... and I can tell from the sand in his shoes, he had a great time. ”

- Parent in Muskoka



For More Information  
About Child Care in Muskoka, including the  
Child Care Fee Subsidy Program, please call

705-645-2412 ext. 321

or go to:

[www.muskokachildcare.ca](http://www.muskokachildcare.ca)



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This is an integrated partnership project  
of the Muskoka Best Start Network