



Parent Handbook

SCHOOL YEAR 2021-2022

**Fairview Elementary & Ladysmith Primary
Out of School Care**



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Inquiring Little Minds Child Care Early Education Centre

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Communication

Accurate and clear communication is essential in maintaining high quality standards of child care. Communication provides critical information for making certain your child's daily visit to Inquiring Little Minds (ILM) is safe, educational, and fun. ILM welcomes questions and comments of any nature that are beneficial to the children. At an appropriate time, parents or guardians, ILM staff, and the manager can meet together to discuss any matter related to your child's care. If you have any questions, or concerns, regarding the information contained within the Fairview & Ladysmith Out of School Care Handbook, please contact us at:

- inquiringlittleminds@gmail.com
- Facebook Messenger is available in the Google Play Store and the Mac App Store
- Cell number which can be reached by call or text:
 - 250-327-1575 (Fairview Elementary)
 - 778-268-3578 (Ladysmith Primary)

Enrollment Policy

ILM's policies adapt as required for each individual child's needs. Before a child's enrolment is confirmed, the documents contained within the registration package must be completed by the parents or guardians and submitted to ILM. Staff members can help clarify any questions about the registration package's forms. The Medical Insurance Plan Number is the child's Care Card Number. Children are not permitted to attend daycare or preschool without a fully completed registration package (no exceptions).

Hours of Operation

Hours of operation are 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Office hours for speaking with a manager are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Lesson activities within ILM classes begin by 6:30 a.m.

For a late pick up, clients are charged \$15 for the first ten minutes that they are late. Each additional minute will be billed at \$1 per minute. For example, if the parent or guardian is 17 minutes late for pick up, they will be billed a \$22 late fee. Exceptions are at the discretion of the centre director/manager.

Ladysmith Primary and Fairview Elementary Enrolment Fees

2021-2022 Before School Care Enrolment Fees					
Days Per Week	Drop-In	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days	5 Days
Monthly Fee	9/day	72	108	144	180
*Fees cover one (1) Pro-D day per month					

2021-2022 After School Care Enrolment Fees					
Days Per Week	Drop-In	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days	5 Days
Monthly Fee	18/day	144	216	288	360
*Fees cover one (1) Pro-D day per month					

2021-2022 Before and After School Care Enrolment Fees					
Days Per Week	Drop-In	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days	5 Days
Monthly Fee	27/day	257.50	355	435	535
BC Government Fee Reduction Initiative		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Monthly Fees		257.50	355	435	535
Max. BC Gov. Subsidy		-84	-126	-168	-210
*Fees cover one (1) Pro-D day per month					

Closures

ILM Out of School Care is closed for all statutory holidays. In synchronization with the local school district's operating calendar, and following provincial government standards, ILM Out of School Care is closed for one week in December and remains closed throughout the school district's summer break.

- December Break: December 24, 2021 – January 4, 2022.
- During the 2021–2022 school year, ILM Out of School Care will be open 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for the Pro D Days which occur on October 25th, February 8th, and May 5th and 6th.
- October 22 and February 7 are *District Wide* Pro D Days in which no rentals occur on this day; school staff are taking part in professional development learning sessions
- Summer Break: June 30, 2022 – September 6, 2022.
- ILM may participate in school district Pro-D days, which may result in centre closures up to six times per year. Closure dates will be determined by workshop scheduling.

Please note that out of school care programs will not run in months that have scheduled closures. In addition, out of school care days scheduled for statutory holidays cannot be switched by parents and guardians.

Environmental and Emergency Closures

Environmental or safety related concerns may require that ILM staff issue an emergency closure during operational hours. ILM Out of School Care is authorized to close in conjunction with emergency closures by school districts. However, situations may require ILM to close when the School Districts have not closed. In these situations, ILM may not have the same building requirements or available staffing to safely remain open. When determining whether a centre is operational, ILM evaluates all accessible information to verify that conditions uphold the health and safety of children and staff.

Regarding COVID-19, the Government of British Columbia has advocated for child care centres to remain open during public school closures. Accordingly, ILM Out of School Care continues to follow the direction of the province's Chief Medical Health Officer.

Occasionally, public schools are open, yet their buses do not run due to environmental reasons. When this occurs, ILM Out of School Care follows the same protocol by not providing transportation.

Medications

Medication cannot enter an ILM child care centre without all relevant paperwork having been properly completed and submitted to the manager or director. Staff cannot administer medication to your child unless you have submitted all required paperwork.

Medication must remain in original containers with the pharmacist's label, containing clear print of your child's name, medication name, dosage instructions, current date, and time(s) to be administered.

Please note that children suffering from any cold or flu symptoms cannot enter an ILM Child Care facility. Parents/guardians who falsely sign their child's morning health check will have their contract terminated.

Snacks

Please provide your child with food for snack time. Each day, please add nutritious snacks which include fresh fruit and vegetables. Thank you for providing healthy choices.

Cleanliness and Hygiene

In case of accidental soiling, please make sure your child has multiple changes of clean clothes. On a daily basis, please take home your child's dirty or soiled clothing to ensure ILM can provide the cleanest possible environment for all children.

Liquid hand soap and individual hand towels are used for hand washing. Children and staff will wash their hands before and after food preparation and eating. Children and staff shall also clean their hands before and after diapering, after toileting, nose wiping, or sneezing, and after outside play.

To ensure privacy, toileting will be supervised from beyond the bathroom door. Other children shall be required to wait outside the washroom. After each use, the child will be asked to flush the toilet, and when the child is ready, a staff member will enter the bathroom to supervise handwashing.

During potty training, a child must be comfortable with regularly using a toilet to successfully use the bathroom. For the child's bladder health, and the facility's sanitization, a child who is not secure in frequently using the bathroom needs to continue wearing pull ups.

Single use tissues are available for facial cleaning. Tissues will be disposed of after each use. To prevent the spread of germs and viruses, children will be encouraged to *cough or sneeze into the inside corner of their elbow*.

Emergency Drills

Each ILM child care centre is required by law to conduct monthly fire drills and an annual earthquake drill. The dates and times for practicing emergency procedures are varied to ensure children do not become complacent.

Special Needs

The director and managers will make all reasonable modifications to ILM policies and practices to assist children with special needs. When a specific need is significant, the curriculum will be altered to fit the child's needs. Each child will be individually evaluated to determine eligibility. Parents are responsible for any needed extra support—additional information can be found in ILM's Inclusion Policy.

Gender and Diversity Policy

Parents and Guardians cannot request classroom and/or teacher changes for their children based on any person's age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, name, political beliefs, religious beliefs, and/or sexual orientation.

Activities and Curriculum

Curriculum and learning activities are planned with a child directed focus. Learning activities are designed to meet the developmental needs and interests of each child. Curriculum based lessons are safe, developmentally appropriate, and fun.

Outdoor play is an important part of a child's development and has a meaningful role in ILM's curriculum design. Each day, your child will engage in 40 minutes of outdoor time. Parents and guardians are required to ensure that their children are properly dressed for seasonal weather. Field trips and walks occur regularly and are carefully supervised. Frequently, walks within a centre's neighbourhood will take place without prior planning. Parents and guardians shall be notified before any field trip that travels beyond the immediate neighbourhood.

Unless essential for a specific lesson, ILM's educational policy limits children's access to screen time.

ILM Centre Rules

At ILM child care centres, children are taught three rules:

- Respect Yourself.
- Respect Your Neighbour.
- Respect Your Environment.

ILM's three rules will be included, referenced, and discussed throughout daily learning activities.

Abuse Policy

Except for the strict purpose of comforting, physical contact with any child is prohibited at ILM Out of School Care. ILM has zero tolerance of physical abuse between children, parents, and/or staff members. Aggressive behaviour or language from children, parents, or staff members shall not be tolerated. Regardless of whether care plans exist, children who fail to *respect each other's bodies will* be asked to leave the centre for the remainder of the day. Repeated abuse will result in termination of contract. Abiding by the Code of Ethics, ILM staff are required by law to report any suspicions of neglect or abuse to the Ministry of Child and Family Development.

Illness Policy

Due to COVID-19, each ILM centre's illness policy is updated every 24 hours. *Pandemic Illness Policy* remains in effect until further notice. Parents or guardians will be notified about each change in policy.

When a child becomes ill at child care, a parent or guardian is immediately contacted. If the parents or guardians provide daily transport to the ILM centre, they must pick up their child straightaway. Should the parents or guardians be unreachable, the alternate emergency contact person will be contacted to pick up the child. While waiting to be picked up, the ill child will be closely supervised while they rest in a quiet space. This procedure ensures the child has privacy to rest and limits further spread of illness—if ILM supplies the child with daily transport, a staff member provides drop off at the family home, a medical clinic, or hospital whenever possible.

Children can infect their siblings with viruses (example, the common cold and seasonal flu). A child may show symptoms 48 hours after their sibling has become ill. If any family member is sick, everyone should remain at home until the illness is over.

Emergencies

Should a child require emergency medical attention, ILM staff shall immediately call 911 to request an ambulance. Once the 911 call has been completed, parents or guardians will be directly notified about the emergency, and provided with the correct hospital destination. If a parent or guardian cannot be contacted, an alternate emergency contact shall be notified. ILM staff shall continue making attempts to contact the parent or guardian to pass on the information about the incident.

Termination Policy

We reserve the right to terminate a contract for the following (but not limited to):

- Repeated late pick ups for a child.
- Lack of parental cooperation.
- Insufficient compliance with handbook regulations.
- Neglecting to complete required forms.
- Failure to pay.
- Physical or verbal abuse of any person or property.
- Child has not adjusted to the centre within a reasonable time.
- Serious illness of child.
- ILM's inability to meet the child's needs.
- Any discrimination against our staff, including, but not limited to their gender identity, ethnicity, religion, and/or sexual orientation.
- Negative speech against any centre and/or staff on social media platforms.

If you are considering terminating your contract, ILM staff appreciate being provided with as much notice as possible. In return, you will be shown the same courtesy. Parents and guardians are required to give 30 days written notice before the date of contract termination. Regardless of whether the child is in attendance, the 30 days before contract termination must be paid in full. Any outstanding balance needs to be settled before written notice of termination will be accepted. No matter the amount owed, accounts not settled within 30 days are turned over to a collection agency. Once turned over to collections, a late fee totalling \$20 per week, as well as an additional 35% collections fee, will be added to any balance owed.

Discipline and Guidance Policy

The goal of discipline and guidance is for children to learn how to guide and direct their own behavior while interacting positively with other people. Guidance is a *process* of helping children build positive behaviors. Learning leads to self regulation. At ILM Out of School Care, children are guided toward becoming responsible for their own behavior. Many inappropriate or unacceptable actions by children are preventable when ILM staff practice appropriate guidance strategies.

The intervention techniques applied at ILM Out of School Care are designed to foster appropriate behavior. This list is not exhaustive, but instead, illustrative of the range of techniques utilized by staff. Supplementary intervention methods will be implemented by staff members when particular circumstances warrant.

A child may require a care plan. In agreement with the parents or guardians, an ILM staff member will lead the creation of the individual child's care plan. In some instances, parents or guardians may need to contact the Child Development Centre to seek additional aid from support staff.

ILM centres have a zero tolerance policy for abuse. A child shall be immediately sent home if they are abusive to staff. Abusive safety risks include hitting, kicking, punching, and/or spitting. Furthermore, a child who runs away from their out of school care group creates a safety risk. If a child runs away they shall be promptly sent home for the remainder of the day.

Conflict Resolution Policy

Compliments, concerns, and complaints can be emailed to inquiringlittleminds@gmail.com or communicated directly to an ILM centre manager before being posted/voiced on social media. Communications from parents and guardians are documented in ILM parent meeting record forms. Additionally, ILM parent meeting record forms are also used to record any concerns for children brought forward by staff. A manager will schedule a meeting with parents or guardians to address all matters. If any issue is not immediately resolved, the manager will either contact the Regional Director, or contact Licensing to address the concern. Licensing is an intermediary for conducting investigations regarding all complaints other than payment. If changes are needed, Licensing will recommend edits to ILM policies. Alternatively, parents or guardians can request a meeting to document concerns with the ILM centre manager. Information brought forward by parents and guardians will be used to guide ILM staff learning and can factor in termination of employment.

Screen Time Policy

Digital Entertainment:

Digital devices, such as desktops, laptops, and tablet computers, as well as e-readers and mobile phones, are not accessible for use by children at ILM Out of School Care. Cable television and digital streaming services are excluded from ILM daily curriculum. As a special occurrence, twice per year ILM's out of school care activities may feature a movie.

Digital Learning:

Screens have a limited presence in ILM curriculum, and more often, will not be used during out of school care. However, educational videos accessed from online video-sharing platforms can be used to introduce new learning and/or explore curriculum which cannot otherwise be accessed within a classroom (example, exploring the daily lives of young animals in nature).

Activity Policy

ILM staff understand the importance of planning, encouraging, and promoting daily activity for children at all developmental levels. Activities are scheduled for prioritizing use of gross and fine motor skills, both inside and outside the child care centre. Licensed child care centres are required by activity regulations to document the following:

- Type of activity planned.
- Play space location where the activity has taken place.
- Time the activity occurred.

Each type of activity is documented in the classroom's curriculum planning book. The time and location of activities are recorded within the daily attendance record.