



Hummingbird Program Ethos

We would like to begin by acknowledging that we are uninvited guests residing on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish, belonging to the Lekwungen (Songhees, Esquimalt) and WSANEC communities. We would like to take a step in the direction of **reconciliation** by stating that our program believes in the importance of honoring every voice and the right to be heard and recognized. We strive to listen with compassion to everyone's story to understand and become more informed, empathetic people. We are making it our commitment to gain more knowledge regarding these lands in which we reside on and their histories. We want to have a better understanding and connect to those histories within our own lives.



We value **family's** contribution to this collective community. Within this community we want to create a space where everyone feels comfortable to support and collaborate with each other as it is significant in providing personalized care within a group setting. We want to honour family's perspectives, their requests of what the child and family need relative to their culture, traditions and desires in an effort to help their child(ren) grow deeper in their understanding of their identity. We want to work to create a shared space and respectful relationships as we all work towards the goal of providing quality care for child(ren). When we listen well to one another we can create a culture for ourselves and the child(ren) which accepts and values differences. We appreciate how the families continue to have confidence in collaborating with us during uncertain times.



In the Hummingbird program we value **children's** natural ability to learn, create and connect. We recognize all children, at every age, are important citizens in the collective community that participate in contributing to the relationships we make, conversations we have and experiences we share. Children have an eagerness to learn about who they are, discover the world, and connect with their living and nonliving surroundings in meaningful ways. We also believe in creating a foundation for children to learn how to take care of, respect, maintain and develop our surroundings. We recognize our program as a space for children to ground themselves, explore their capabilities; To build on what they know and practice what they don't quite know.



We support every child's right to participate fully in play and learning. We strive to create a classroom where every child has the emotional support to learn to their greatest potential. We recognize and advocate for each child's unique perspective of the world, we are inspired and driven to ensure their voices are being heard. We value honouring children's rights and dignity by finding a balance of respecting their needs, desires, and choices in routine and play, as well as our own, while respecting the environment on which we learn, live and play.





In our program we highly value the **environment** in which we learn, grow and play. We strive to provide a comfortable atmosphere in which children feel they can share and be proud of their cultural heritage. We also try to foster respect for every living thing, plant and creature, and the materials within their environment, while creating a safe space to explore and interact with. We understand that our surroundings can act as a tool to facilitate imagination, exploration and wonder. We invite reflection of our experiences through documentation, questions and conversations.

Furthermore, the environment may be adjusted through those reflections. We recognize we are privileged and are thankful to live in a city that offers so many diverse natural settings. We also embrace and cherish the stories and lessons the children, families and educators have collected from environments beyond the greater Victoria area. All learning is naturally influenced by the environment in which it takes place.





As **educators** we recognize the large contribution we make to this collective community. We strive to regard ourselves as professionals who understand our work is done well when being open to the ideas of everyone and everything. We are so thankful for the valuable partnerships we get to make with each other and students while actively learning alongside one another with the intention to gain a better understanding of others and grow in our practice together. We hope to be valued for our daily commitment to come, teach, partner and create together as co-learners alongside each other and the children we work with. We are so grateful that we can discover and learn so much from one another.



As a team of educators, we value the importance of understanding, professionalism, creativity while bringing a sense of care and comfort. We hope the role these characteristics have in our interactions with the children create a deeper connection, so they have the best experience possible while away from their families. We have faith that these core values can create an environment for learning in which children and adults are all educators.



Our final commitment to the families is the promise that we are trying to provide experiences that facilitate a child's sense of belonging to family, their culture, the community in which they reside, live and play on, and the world at large.

