

West Point Grey Preschool Program at Aberthau Mansion

Information Package for 2022 – 2023

Registration is open for the 2022-2023 school year and limited spots are still available.
Contact Andrea Mah, Recreation Programmer, for more information at andrea.mah@vancouver.ca.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESCHOOL TEACHERS

West Point Grey Preschool at Aberthau

West Point Grey Community Centre
4397 West 2nd Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to all of the new and returning families. We may still be facing some changes this Fall with our classes. With the children's and our safety in mind, we will try to keep all safety measures in place with each of our activities.

We learn and play outside as much as possible, going on walks with the classes once they have settled in and are ready to venture out. The grounds of Aberthau are large and beautiful; so much of our outdoor play and exploring will take place around our school.

With outdoor play in mind, please dress your child for the weather. If you would like your child to wear sunscreen, please apply it before class time.

What you can do to help:

- Arrive on time for drop off and pick up
- Remain outside of the classroom to keep exposure to a minimum
- Take your child to the washroom and wash hands at home before arriving to class
- Label all of your child's items
- Teach your child self-dressing skills (identifying personal items, putting on coat, putting on shoes and boots)
- Please stay home if you and/or your child are not feeling well

What we still can do:

- Play and socialize safely
- Imagine and explore
- Go for walks
- Give smiles 😊
- Painting, drawing, cutting, gluing (each child will have a bin with their own scissors, felt pens, pencil and glue stick)
- Climb, run and jump
- Laugh and be together
- Be creative
- Engage and learn outdoors
- Baking and cooking

While it isn't mandatory for the children to wear a mask, your child is welcome to wear one during class.

We are looking forward to seeing you all again and meeting some new friends. Please be respectful of each other's comfort level and space during drop off and pick up time.

If you have any questions, please contact us at: miranda.tagliaferro@vancouver.ca, alissa.reder@vancouver.ca

Thank you and we will see you soon,

Mrs. Miranda and Mrs. Alissa
Your teachers at West Point Grey Preschool at Aberthau

WEST POINT GREY PRESCHOOL

Our philosophy at West Point Grey Preschool at Aberthau focuses on learning through play. The belief is that play is the cornerstone of Early Childhood Development and that it is through play that children learn about themselves and their world. In addition to the bright inside play space, WPG offers an outdoor classroom as part of the learning environment. Young children need unstructured outdoor play periods in a nature based setting to encourage their understanding and respect for nature and environment. The outdoor classroom can provide areas for hands-on exploration and discovery, physical activity, social bonding and dramatic play.

The location of the West Point Grey Preschool is unique from many other Preschools in the area. The West Point Grey Community Centre consists of six buildings including Aberthau Mansion. The Preschool is located in two rooms. Both rooms, the Conservatory and Dining Room, are located on the main floor and bright with windows surrounding them. The grounds of West Point Grey also allow for gym time, adventure walks to the beach, to the pond to see the ducks, the gardens and the playground. We are also able to intimately observe seasonal changes and day-to-day changes in the surrounding gardens as well as observe close-up some of the wildlife, i.e. birds, squirrels, insects, worms, etc. Walks that take place off grounds will only occur if the class is able to follow the directions of the teachers safely.

TEACHERS

The West Point Grey program has two licensed and certified Early Childhood Educators, Miranda Tagliaferro and Alissa Reder.

Miranda has been teaching early childhood education for 39 years, 13 of which have been at our West Point Grey Community Centre Preschool at Aberthau. Miranda has her ECE Diploma, current first aid, and takes courses to educate herself and keep her pedagogy current with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Children and Family Development. She believes you can never know too much about children's development and the early years. Miranda loves teaching Preschoolers and watching them explore, learn and develop into confident young children, as well as getting to know their families.

Alissa has been a preschool teacher with Miranda Tagliaferro at Aberthau since Fall 2015, has her ECE diploma and will continue her studies part-time pursuing her Bachelor Degree in ECE. Children's curiosity, energy, and complex ideas have always intrigued Alissa as an educator. With experience and extra pedagogical focus on inclusive early education, children's opportunities for diverse learning through indoor and outdoor play at Aberthau is an important part of our preschool. Alissa enjoys getting to know each student individually, and their families, throughout the school year and witnessing their learning and holistic development.

Together, Miranda and Alissa share a love for working with children and this makes for a caring, welcoming, positive and safe environment.

To connect with the teachers, you can contact Miranda at miranda.tagliaferro@vancouver.ca and Alissa at alissa.reder@vancouver.ca.



FEES AND STRUCTURE

Registration for the 2022-2023 School Year is open as of Monday March 7, 2022 for returning students and/or siblings. Registration for new students is open as of Monday, March 14, 2022.

**Please note that your child has to be the age of the Preschool age group that they are registered for by December 31st.*

30 Month Program

Tuesday and Thursday 9:15am-11:15am
\$170/month

3 Year Old Program

Monday, Wednesday and Fridays 9:00am-11:30am
\$190/month

4 Year Old Program

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays 12:15pm-3:15pm
\$296/month

Payment information – there is a registration fee of \$45 for new students that is due at time of registration including the first and last month's payments. These payments are non-refundable. The rest of the remaining 8 months will

be set up on a payment plan with a credit card on file. To reduce contact for health and safety reasons, post-dated cheques will not be accepted at this time.

****If COVID-19 cases increase, we will follow the direction from the City of Vancouver and Provincial Health Authority guidelines.**

CLOSURE POLICY

If the Vancouver School Board announces closures due to inclement weather, and/or public transit is not in operation, our programs will also close. Announcements can be heard on the local radio station CKNW AM 980 or access information on the Vancouver School Board website for closures. West Point Grey Community Centre staff will attempt to communicate any closures with families via phone call and/or email as soon as possible.

Other potential factors for closure, partial closure, changes to operating hours or capacity:

- Insufficient number of staff to safely operate the program.
- No available, appropriate substitutes to cover staff that are absent to maintain staff to child ratios as required under the Child Care Licensing Regulation.
- Severe weather forecast, current weather and road conditions which are dangerous or mean that staff are unable to get to/from the centre.
- Power outages
- Disease outbreak

There will be no refunds for closures of 3 days or less. For closures of more than 3 days, refunds will be provided based on the monthly fee and pro-rated per days closed.

West Point Grey Community Centre Association reserves the right to close the preschool programs at any time if deemed necessary. Programs may also temporarily be suspended due to lack of staff.

CALENDAR YEAR

The West Point Grey Preschool calendar year is similar to that of the Vancouver School Board schedule. Please note they are **subject to change**. Important dates are as follows:

September 6-9, 2022	Gradual Entry and Start of the WPG Preschool
September 30, 2022	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation closure
Monday October 10, 2022	Thanksgiving Day closure
Friday November 11, 2022	Remembrance Day closure
Monday December 19, 2022	Winter Break closure begins (last day of school – Friday December 16) Happy Holidays to everyone!
Tuesday January 3, 2023	Program resumes after Winter Break
Monday February 20, 2023	Family Day closure
March 13-17, 2023	Spring Break closure for one week
Friday April 7, 2023	Good Friday closure
Monday April 10, 2023	Easter Monday closure
Monday May 22, 2023	Victoria Day closure
Friday June 16, 2023	Last day until September 2023

DAILY SCHEDULE

A day in the WPG Preschool consists of free play, participating in activities to develop physical, social, emotional, and intellectual skills, which include the Family Fun phonics program specifically for the four-year-old program. Each day brings new experiences! The children will be introduced to new themes, songs and games.

The day begins off with the children arriving and putting away their jackets, backpacks and snack containers in their designated cubbies/bins. These cubbies/bins will be cleaned/sanitized prior to the each class. Children often rely on and look forward to these new steps to independence.

During free playtime, the children will participate in arts and crafts related to our current themes. Activities include painting, music, story time, and imaginative play including Magnatiles, blocks, and large art projects. Gross motor activity may consist of gym time, dancing, adventure walks to the beach, parks and playground or within our beautiful surroundings at Aberthau.

Circle time provides an opportunity for the children to become familiar with each other and learn how to focus together in a group. Circle time includes songs, stories, discussions, critical thinking activities, weather themes and calendar. The four-year-old class will have enhanced group discussions surrounding weekly themes and the letter of the week. Each child will have a special helper and show and tell day, which can be found in the monthly schedule that is added to the newsletter each month.

We end our day singing our Good-bye song in the Preschool room, waiting for the parents to arrive. Please arrive on time to pick up your child. **Regular late pick-ups will result in a fine.**

GRADUAL ENTRY

To help the children adjust to a new routine and adjust to their time away from their parents, the first week of classes involve a gradual entry. **With COVID-19 protocols in the preschool space, gradual entry will only be for the child.** If a parent must enter the space, we highly recommend wearing a mask. Due to COVID-19, this would be for emergency purposes only and not for an extended period of time.

Gradual entry will begin the week of September 6, 2022.

30 Month Class

- First week of class Gradual Entry (Tuesday, Thursday 9:15am-10:15am) ***no snack**
- Second week of class Full classes (Tuesday, Thursday 9:15am-11:15am) ***bring snack**

3 Year Old Class

- First week of class Gradual Entry (Wednesday, Friday 9:00am-10:00am) ***no snack**
- Second week of class Full classes (Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00am-11:30am) ***bring snack**

4 Year Old Class

- First week of class Gradual Entry (Tuesday, Wednesday 12:15pm-2:15pm) ***no snack**
- Second week of class Full class (Thursday 12:15pm-3:15pm) ***bring snack**
- Second week of class Full classes ***bring snack**

The gradual entry may be subject to changes. Please note that if your child is still crying after the first month, we may assess whether your child is ready for Preschool.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP & DECLARATION OF HEALTH

Drop Off

Drop off for children will occur outside the Preschool. For drop off by the classroom's main entrance stairs on the East side of the building, please wait until the classroom door opens (drop off will be at the main front door of Aberthau on **rainy days**). Upon arriving, a health declaration will be conducted each class by the teachers asking parents/guardians to confirm that their child does not have symptoms of the common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other respiratory disease. Children will sanitize their hands at the sign-in table before entering the preschool room. We kindly ask that parents/guardians please remain outside by the entrance stairs to drop off up their child.

Pick Up

Please wait outside the classroom's main entrance stairs on the East side of the building until the classroom door opens at the end of class. Children may also be picked up at the gym or on the playground and a notice will be posted on the classroom door to advise parents where to meet. Again, we kindly ask that parents/guardians remain outside by the entrance stairs to pick up their child.

Please pick up your child on time. Late pick-ups will result in a fine if they are frequent.

HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY

During the COVID-19 pandemic, West Point Grey Preschool will be following the BC Centre for Disease Control and BC Health Ministry's public health guidance for childcare settings.

COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings (as of February 2022):

It is important that:

- Parents/guardians who have travelled within Canada must isolate for 5 days.
- Parents/guardians who have travelled outside Canada must isolate for 14 days.
- Parents/guardians must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them for preschool.
- Children who are ill, including children of essential service providers, will not be permitted to attend preschool.
- Parents/guardians must pick up their child promptly once they have been notified that their child is ill.

Acknowledging that the nature of our program makes it challenging to remove all physical contact, we have considered the following to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.

1. We encourage that children attending West Point Grey Preschool do not attend multiple child care facilities.
2. Children will enter the facility, put their belongings away in their designated cubbie/bin and sanitize their hands immediately.
3. Outdoor or gym play will be a part of our every day activities.
4. **Children that express or present health issues related to the flu/cold symptoms, parents/guardians will be called for pick up immediately.**

If a child has any of the listed symptoms, they will be required to self-isolate for a minimum of 5 days from the onset of symptoms or they can be tested and if it is determined that they do NOT have COVID-19, they may return to Preschool once symptoms resolve (following the programs regular Health Policy).

Symptoms of COVID-19:

- Fever
- Cough
- Tiredness
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Loss of sense of smell
- Headache
- Aches and pains

If a parent, guardian or staff member is unsure if they or a child should self-isolate, they should use the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool, contact 8-1-1 or the local public health unit. They can also contact a family physician or nurse practitioner to be assessed for COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases.

It is imperative to keep your child at home if he/she is sick, if they are/have vomiting, diarrhea, chronic coughs, rash, lice, chickenpox, pink eye, lethargy, fever of 38 or higher, or showing signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Colds, coughs and flu spread rapidly in any early education setting. Requiring sick children to stay at home is a preventive measure. If your child is not able to participate in our outdoor time, please keep him/her at home. If your child does not appear well during the program, we will call you and ask that you come and pick up your child. Please let us know if your child has any allergies relating to food items, plants and/or animals.

Participant Sick Policy

- Parents/guardians must pick up their child promptly once notified that their child is ill.
- Parents/guardians must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to the program.
- A child may still receive care if another person in their home has symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease, but they remain asymptomatic.
- Children who are ill, including children of essential service providers, will not be permitted to attend the program.
- Daily checks for respiratory illness at drop-off by asking parents and guardians to confirm that the child does not have symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other respiratory disease.
- If a parent/guardian is unsure if they or a child should self-isolate, they should be directed to use the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool, contact 8-1-1 or the local public health unit. They can also contact a family physician or nurse practitioner to be assessed for COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases.



DAILY CLEANING & DISINFECTING MEASURES

Regular cleaning and disinfection are essential to preventing the transmission of COVID-19 from contaminated objects and surfaces. The preschool space, toys and equipment will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the BCCDC's Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings.

http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/CleaningDisinfecting_PublicSettings.pdf

- General cleaning and disinfecting of the area will occur at least twice a day.
- Frequently-touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected at least twice a day. These surfaces will include doorknobs, light switches, door locks, faucet handles, table counters, chairs, cabinet doors and drawers, shared equipment or surfaces, and toys.
- Cleaning and disinfecting of any surface that is visibly dirty.
- Use of common, commercially-available detergents and disinfectant products (Quat Plus).
- There is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus is transmitted via textbooks, paper or other paper-based products. As such, there is no need to limit the distribution of books or paper based educational resources to children because of COVID-19.

Child Belongings

Parent/guardians are kindly asked to supply appropriate clothing and accessories for all types of weather.

Suggested items that each child should have for comfort and depending on the weather, are:

- Water bottle
- Waterproof pants (optional)
- Appropriate footwear for the activities that allow for movement and provide protection. Preschoolers may not be barefoot at any time for their safety.
- A hat and sunscreen if you choose
- An entire change of clothes including socks and underwear in their backpack

HAND WASHING

Rigorous hand washing with soap and water is the single most effective way to reduce the spread of illness. Children and staff can pick up germs easily from anything they touch, and can spread those germs to objects, surfaces, food and people. Everyone will practice diligent hand hygiene. Children will wash their hands before and after activities and snack time. Where there is no washroom available to wash their hands, teachers will have hand sanitizer on hand.



TOILETRY

Children are to be toilet trained by the start of Preschool. Given the current situation with COVID-19, if an accident occurs, preschool teachers may be able to assist the child with changing out of their soiled clothes or the parent may be called to pick up or change their child. We will assess whether your child is ready for preschool if too many accidents occur (please have a change of clothes for your child).

SNACK TIME

We strive to give children the opportunity to grow and learn in the healthiest environment possible. The children need to bring a snack and some suggestions could include fruit, vegetables, cheese, yogurt, a sandwich, wraps, and any other food that you feel your child would enjoy. Snack time is also a social time. The children enjoy sitting together and conversing with their peers. Please make sure that your child has **enough** snack to allow them to do this (any food not eaten will be sent back home). There will be no sharing of food or snacks and each child will eat in their designated area, which will be disinfected upon completion. Hand washing will take place before and after eating lunch and snacks.

Our class is a **peanut free zone**. **We ask that you please send water with your child for each class**. Please put snacks in an easy to use container for your child with his/her name on it. Please let us know if your child has any allergies or special diets.

PRESCHOOL CLASS PHOTOS

We take many different photos during the school year in class and outdoors. If you do not want your, or your child's photo taken, please make sure to indicate this on the registration form. These photos can be found on the West Point Grey Community Centre website. In the Spring season, we also take class photos and individual head shots, that will be printed and provided to the families. The dates will be posted in upcoming newsletters.

SAFETY AND DISCIPLINE POLICY

Children will learn safety rules in the classroom through books, and discussions. We will practice these rules during walks, and outside play. We will practice "earthquake drills" and fire drills periodically, getting under the tables, head down, covering our heads with our hands.

Our teachers are trained in First Aid and carry a First Aid Kit when they take the children outside. Please note that children are asked to hold the handrail, outside of the Preschool for safety on the stairs.

The Preschool's philosophy and practices with regard to guidance and discipline are always based on a positive approach. Behavior management is a process by which children develop socially acceptable and appropriate behavior patterns. In cases where 'discipline' is needed, our Preschool teachers will acknowledge feelings, set limits, offer appropriate choices, and use natural and logical consequences. It will be a positive learning experience and reinforce safe and respectful behavior.

If behavior is more significant, the following management action will be taken:

- a) For acts of aggression and fighting (i.e. biting, hitting, etc.): the children will be immediately separated, personal protective equipment will be worn, and comfort and care/treatment will be provided immediately for the injured child.
- b) The child is removed from the situation to allow them time to calm down.
- c) The teacher will then discuss with the child as to why he/she was removed.
- d) A report will be written about the incident and will then be discussed with the parent.

INSIDE & OUTSIDE PLAY

Rain or shine, outside play is an integral part of our preschool program. It is important for enjoyment that your child has appropriate clothing for the weather. Children are encouraged to wear play clothes and comfortable footwear. Daily activities include active and messy play and the children should feel comfortable enough to enjoy themselves without worrying about their clothes, they should have the freedom to get messy. Your child's name should be placed in all outdoor clothing and other belongings to help ensure the return of all possessions and clothes. On rainy days, please bring rubber boots, a rain jacket and extra inside shoes. If the rain is light and warm we will still go for adventure walks to discover what sort of things come out in the rain. If it is pouring with rain, we will use the gym or another room at Aberthau for physical play.

We will have a First Aid Kit and a cell phone for any emergencies. The cell phone number will be posted on the classroom door. The Preschool does have a phone in their classroom, which is only to be used for emergencies or regarding absences or pick up. The number is 604.257.1431. If at any time you need to reach us, and can't get through on the classroom phone, please call the main office number 604.257.8140 and they will contact us immediately.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Your main source of information regarding programming and special events will be in our monthly newsletter that is distributed in class and available on the Vancouver Park Board website, https://ca.apm.activecommunities.com/vancouver/Activity_Search.

Please note that the Preschool section on the website is password protected and you will receive the password at the end of September. Pictures of the activities in and outside the classroom will also be posted here.

Monthly calendars will also be posted on our information board in the classroom and handed out each month.

If you would like to speak to the teachers about your child, please arrange a meeting by emailing them. Also, if your child will be absent, please contact both teachers.

Miranda Tagliafierro, West Point Grey Supervising Preschool Teacher at miranda.tagliafierro@vancouver.ca
Alissa Reder, West Point Grey Preschool Teacher at alissa.reder@vancouver.ca
Andrea Mah, West Point Grey Recreation Programmer II at andrea.mah@vancouver.ca, 604.257.8149