

## First Day of School

# Checklist

Please label  
your child's  
belongings!

- A water bottle (will be sent home every night to be cleaned and please bring it back the following morning)
- Two complete sets of extra clothes (pants/short, shirts, socks, underwear) in a large Ziplock bag
- Pull ups and wipes, if necessary
- Winter jacket, snow pants, hats, mittens, and boots for the winter
- A summer hat and sunscreen for the summer
- 1 family photo and two individual photos of your child

**Note:** Blankets and cot sheets will be provided and laundered by the centre. However, if your child soils their bedding, Public Health requires us to send it home with the child for laundering. Please return the clean bedding to us ASAP.

## We use Lillio!



**Lillio** (formerly HiMama) is an online communication tool where a child's milestones and activities are recorded by our educators to document activities and updates of your child's day. Everything from naps to snacks, it will provide you with a complete history of your child's experience in our program with photos stored safely and securely in a journal format. You will receive updates on your child's activities to your email and smartphone **at the end of each day.**



## Meeting your Child's Teachers

Your child's ECE teachers will rotate between three different shifts and their names are:

**Miss Gail**

**Miss Gemma**

**Miss Linda**



## McNicoll Avenue Child Care Program

Located in the former  
McNicoll Avenue Public School  
155 McNicoll Avenue  
North York, ON  
M2H 2C1

**Phone: 416-499-9743**

Fax: 416-913-9743

**Preschool classroom email:**

[preschoolroom@mcnicollchildcare.com](mailto:preschoolroom@mcnicollchildcare.com)

While staff make every effort to respond to your email concerns, please recognize that their classrooms and routines are not set up for frequent email check-ins and that email responses are limited. If you have an urgent concern, please call or email Lynn directly at

**Director's email:**

[lynnlewis@mcnicollchildcare.com](mailto:lynnlewis@mcnicollchildcare.com)

## Preparing your Preschooler for Child Care

~ Learning to Play, Playing to Learn ~



Welcome to McNicoll Avenue Child Care Program!  
We are excited that you have decided to become a part of our growing family.

At McNicoll, we use a play-based, child-directed curriculum to promote a love of learning in all its forms!

Please feel free to contact us at:

**416-499-9743**

## Ages & Ratios

Preschoolers in this class, range from 2 ½ to 4 years of age with a class size of 24 children. Senior Preschoolers must graduate out of the centre once they are eligible for Junior Kindergarten. Staff-to-child ratios are 1:8 during regular programming hours, and reduced ratios of 1:12 are in effect during the arrival and departure of children and during the rest period in accordance with the CCEYA legislation.

There are three Registered Early Childhood Educators (RCEs) teaching in our preschool program. All our staff engage in continuous professional development as stipulated by the College of ECE by attending courses and workshops to remain in good standing with the College. All staff are required to have their current Standard First Aid Level C (Infant and Child CPR) and undergo an annual refresher course.

## Keeping Track of Your Child's Development

In the Preschool room, you can expect to see:

- Daily notifications through Lillio, with meaningful documentation of classroom activities to show your child's abilities, interests, and emerging skills through weekly observations, photographs, and examples of your child's work.
- Regularly updated developmental assessment tools that record your child's progress.
- Bi-annual Progress Reports



## Welcome to the Preschool Program!

McNicoll Avenue Child Care Program follows emergent curriculum, meaning that our planned activities are crafted around the interests and emerging skills of our learners. We believe that play is the foundation of learning in the early years, and we make sure to provide a rich, stimulating learning environment with a wide variety of materials, art media, and literacy opportunities to support and extend children's exploration. Play is an active form of learning that unites the mind, body, and spirit; through it, children learn to express themselves, use their creativity, work together, as well as develop their imagination, dexterity, physical capability, cognition, and self-regulation. Play is an integral component to healthy brain development as it relieves stress, increases happiness, builds problem-solving and social skills, competencies, and supports a positive learning disposition. A solid foundation in the early years sets our children up for success, both in Kindergarten and as lifelong learners.

Our Pre-Kindergarten program helps to ready your child for their eventual move to Junior Kindergarten by providing a varied program that includes opportunities to practice Language, Pre-writing skills, Mathematics, Science, Arts and Crafts, Music, Drama and Physical Education.



## Self-Help and Toileting

At McNicoll, we foster self-help skills by encouraging independence through daily routines such as dressing, eating, and toileting. Your child should be toilet trained or in the process of training as they enter the Preschool room.

Signs that indicate your child is ready to be toilet-trained are:

- Pulling at a wet or dirty diaper
- Hiding to pee or poop
- Showing Interest in others' use of the toilet, or copying their behaviour
- Having a dry diaper for a longer-than-usual time
- Waking up dry from a nap
- Telling you that they are about to go, are going, or have just gone in their diaper



Once your child can communicate with teachers when he/she must go to the washroom, your child is ready for the next steps! We ask that parents encourage their child to communicate when they have to go to the washroom at home so that they are comfortable using the toilet at day care. It is through consistency at both home and school that your child will make a smooth transition to underwear.

## Drop-Off Tips

Please ensure that your child has eaten breakfast and has had an opportunity to use the toilet before they come to school. This way, your child will be comfortable and have the energy to explore! While the children are excited to come to school most days, occasionally there may be times where your child has a tough time saying goodbye - and that is okay! Preschoolers are learning to self-regulate and it is perfectly normal. On these days, reassure your child that you will be here to pick them up, and say a warm but short goodbye. Don't worry - your child's teachers are there to offer comfort and support to your child.