

little Blessings[†]



NURSERY SCHOOL

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Parent Manual

Little Blessings Nursery School is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing nursery school education for preschool children (2 – 5 years), and as such any parent whose child is enrolled in our program becomes a member of this organization for as long as the child is enrolled. We are licensed by the Ministry of Education and are regularly inspected by the Durham Region Health Department, Fire Department and as well Durham Region Children Services. These agencies provide us with information on the Operating Criteria for our program. They also provide training and support to help us make Little Blessings a safe nurturing environment for children.

LBNS was established in 1996 and operates out of Hebron Christian Reformed Church. While Little Blessings operates independently, we partner with the church in providing a Christian based school where children can learn and grow in a preschool setting.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Little Blessings Nursery School is to provide a safe and nurturing environment for children to learn through play and to support the children's family and Christian values.

PHILOSOPHY

We believe each child has the right to a safe, nurturing environment that provides positive growing experiences to enhance the child's individuality. We believe a positive healthy sense of self is needed for personal growth and learning to occur. Therefore, we strive to provide quality care in an environment which is:

- **Child-centered and fun**
- **Offering open exploration and discovery of nature and the environment**
- **Providing many opportunities for self-expression and self-discovery**
- **Fostering understanding & co-operation with a respect for diversity, equality & inclusion within a group setting**
- **Based on Christian Values**

It is our goal to meet the needs of each child through ongoing parent involvement and communication.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Little Blessings Nursery School is a non-for-profit organization that is governed by a volunteer Board of directors. The role of the Board of Directors is to oversee the school's affairs within the framework of applicable laws and standards. The Board of Directors oversees the organization's mission and strategic direction, its financial management, and long-term sustainability. Based on the organization's by-laws, it is essential to have enough board members for Little Blessings to remain in operation, as well as the positions of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

Board Members are periodically called upon to complete tasks or assignments during the school year (for example: assisting in fundraising activities); they are required to be available one evening per month to attend a board meeting and to support the Boards in its ongoing activities. We encourage you to consider joining our Board as we are always looking for new Board members who are passionate about keeping Little Blessings operating. Please speak with the Supervisor if you are interested in finding out more!

Little Blessings holds an Annual General Meeting each October. All parents with children enrolled in the program are all members of the Corporation, and as such are welcome to attend this meeting. This is a great opportunity for parents to learn more about our school.

OUR PROGRAM

Our **morning program** runs **Monday to Friday** from **9:00-11:30 a.m.** for children 2 – 5 years, *Limited spots available for children 2 - 2.5 years of age.

We have:

a 2-day morning program (Tuesday and Thursday)	OR	a 3-day morning program (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday)
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Children can enroll for all 5 mornings in both the 2- and 3-day program thereby creating a 5-day program (Monday through Friday) if the spot is available.

Our **afternoon program** runs from **1:15-3:45 p.m.** for children 2 – 5 years of age.

a 3-day afternoon program (Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday)

This program offers a smaller group environment and serves as a great preparation for kindergarten.

Little Blessings Nursery School adheres to the following teacher/child ratios in accordance with the Child Care and Early Years Act. **The ratio of eight children to one teacher or lower is always maintained.**

The morning and afternoon programs offer a variety of play experiences that assist each child through various stages of development (spiritual, intellectual, physical, social and emotional). We see children as being competent, capable, curious and rich in potential. We encourage child-initiated and adult supported experiences. Our bright rooms are arranged in learning centers to facilitate learning through play. Teachers will provide materials that are open-ended for children to explore and the rooms will be set up to allow space for group play as well as individual experiences. Play materials will be offered on shelves and tables that are easily accessible for children to access themselves. Program scheduling allows for children to have long periods of uninterrupted play that challenges active minds and bodies. Teachers allow each child to lead in play by listening to their cues and offering materials or suggestions for extending play. We enjoy a healthy snack together, and pray before we eat. Throughout the school year we plan our Christian curriculum into the various areas of play through art and cognitive activities, music, and Bible stories. Activities will be provided that allow all children to participate in both active and quiet play. When necessary, through observations, changes will be made to consider individual needs.

Teachers provide time in the program schedule for indoor and outdoor play in our large play yard when the weather permits. Children will have an alternative active play experience if it is raining, too windy, too icy, etc or the temperature is **below -15°C**.

Our teachers engage in positive and responsive interactions with the children, parents and other staff. They will be available for discussions and be respectful of other opinions. Teachers use **“How Does Learning Happen?” Ontario’s Pedagogy for the Early Years**, which is a resource about learning through relationships designed for those who work with young children and their families. This tool helps to strengthen the quality of our program ensuring our program is centered on the child and the family. All teachers in the program are required to read this document as set out by the Ministry of Education and it will be used as a training tool for team meetings and its principles used when we plan our program. Teachers evaluate the program and share ideas during team meetings, to ensure that all children, teachers, families, and educators have a sense of **belonging, engagement, expression and well-being**. Goals are developed for each child and are used to create the program plan.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

From time to time, we welcome volunteers and students into the program to learn and add additional help. These individuals are outside of the student/teacher ratio and children are always accompanied by a qualified teacher.

There are Special Needs Resourcing (SNR) agencies available to support licensed child care programs in Durham. These agencies are funded through the Regional Municipality of Durham and the Ministry of Education to assist in providing inclusive environments for children and families. LBNS has the opportunity to work in partnership with local agencies.

LBNS will contact outside agencies that support children and their families based on observations of children or requests made by parents. These agencies will be invited to visit our program, with a parent's consent, to observe and assess children in our program environment. These individuals must provide us with a Criminal Reference Check with Vulnerable Sector Check. During the visit we sit with them and the parents and share suggestions that will help create individual goals and a specific plan to meet the child's needs. Teachers will take additional training to assist a child with special needs. If specific aids are required, instructions to adapt the program or environment to meet the child's needs will be added to their individual plans and shared with all staff/volunteers.

Teachers will respond to parent's inquiries about their child's progress with factual information. If the teacher needs to acquire more information through observation or collaboration with other team members or even at a better time of the program, the teacher will set up a time with the parent to discuss such information.

TEACHER/CHILD INTERACTIONS & GROWTH

Teachers allow the children to lead in play by listening to their questions and offering materials or suggestions for extending play. Play is supported to encourage problem solving, learning to get along with others, coping with challenges, overcoming obstacles, and learning to focus their attention.

Teachers will encourage children to problem-solve by facilitating conversations to help the child figure out alternative strategies. Children will be supported to be responsible for their own actions and helping the children problem-solve will encourage them to grow and develop positive interactions and communication skills.

Teachers will encourage children to serve themselves snacks, dress for outdoor play, use the toilet independently and clean up items they have used during play by allowing time and giving direction when needed.

Children are encouraged to become valuable contributors to the program according to their stage of development. The ultimate goal is for the child to achieve self-regulation. They are encouraged to verbalize their feelings and respect the rights of others.

The following practices are prohibited as set out in the **Child Care Early Years Act**:

- Corporal Punishment of a child
- Physical restraint of the child, such as confining the child to a high chair, car seat, stroller or other device for the purposes of discipline or in lieu of supervision, unless the physical restraint is for the purpose of preventing a child from hurting himself, herself or someone else, and is used only as a last resort and only until the risk of injury is no longer imminent;
- Locking the exits for the purpose of confining the child or confining the child in an area or room without adult supervision, unless such confinement occurs during an emergency and is required as part of the licensee's emergency management policies and procedures.
- Use of harsh or degrading measures or threats or use of derogatory language directed at or used in the presence of a child that would humiliate, shame or frighten the child or undermine his or her self-respect, dignity or self-worth.
- Depriving the child of basic needs including food, drink, shelter, sleep, toilet use, clothing or bedding; or.
- Inflicting any bodily harm on children including making children eat or drink against their will.

Teachers are responsible for ensuring the health and safety of each child. Creating an atmosphere of love, caring and understanding is all part of the school's philosophy. The school will take every precaution to ensure the well-being of all children in attendance.

PARENTAL, VOLUNTEER & STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents are encouraged to share any special talents, professions, and ethnic customs to enhance our program. In addition, teachers are always needing help with responsibilities to run the program. If you would like to help, please speak to the supervisor. If you would like to volunteer directly in our program and work with the children, we would love that help too. Volunteers in the program do require a police background check including vulnerable sector screening, health assessment and completion of an orientation session, including reading our policies and procedure manual.

CONTINUOUS LEARNING FOR TEACHERS

Little Blessings Nursery School requires that teachers engage in continuous professional learning. As necessary, teachers will be allowed time away from the program to attend these sessions.

The Supervisor will review the goals set out bi-yearly. The Staff and Board of Directors are committed to reflect on the program and the successes and challenges. This Parent Manual and other policies will be reviewed and new goals set each year or as needed to constantly improve our school for families.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

- Step 1. Complete the [Registration Form](#) located on our website. Multiple children attending from the same family should be entered individually on separate forms. Read the Parent Manual and Sign on the Registration Forms that you have done so.
- Step 2. Prepare payment (Cheque or e-transfer) for the non-refundable registration fee dated at the time of registration.
- Step 3. Write post-dated cheques for program fees, dated for the first of each month from September to June at the time of registration. Or we can also accept e-transfers monthly for payments.
- Step 4. a) An **Immunization Information Form** and **a copy of the child's up to date immunization record is required** for the school to submit to the Health Department. Objections to immunization for Conscience or Religious Belief require an Affidavit signed by a Commissioner of Oaths (notary public, town clerk, Member of Parliament, lawyer, judge, or justice of the peace). A Statement of Medical Exemption must be completed by a doctor or Nurse Practitioner. A link to both forms can be found on our website.
*Please note that if you have chosen not to immunize your child Little Blessings will follow the direction of the Ministry of Health regarding the exclusion of students in the case of an outbreak.

Inform the Supervisor of any **allergies, special needs or health conditions** your child may have before they start so plans can be established with teachers, parents and doctors for the best procedures to follow. Also please provide your child's previous history of communicable diseases.

Please return the completed Registration Form, Immunization Record (or other) and the registration fee to the Supervisor as soon as you can to ensure registration is complete and a spot is secured for your child on your preferred days. All forms must be on file before your child starts in the program.

FEES

A **non-refundable registration fee of \$70** is required upon registration for **each** school year. This will secure a spot for your child starting in September and helps cover administration costs.

The Monthly Fee is due regardless of the number of days in the month. Fees are averaged over ten months of the year. Absenteeism due to illness, family holidays, inclement weather, school holidays and statutory holidays are not subtracted from monthly fees. Payments are due the first day of each month.

Payment must be received by the first day of the month that your child is participating in order for your child to attend.

<u>Morning & Afternoon Program Fees</u>	Per month	Per month (CWELCC 25% reduction) effective Sept 2022	Per month (CWELCC 52.75% reduction) effective Jan 2023
2-day Mornings	\$210/month	\$157.5/month	\$99.22/month
3-day Mornings	\$290/month	\$217.50/month	\$137.02/month
3-day Afternoons	\$290/month	\$217.50/month	\$137.02/month
*5-day Mornings	\$500/month	\$375/month	\$236.24/month

*5 days a week is available in the morning program by selecting both the 2-day and 3-day program.

CANADA-WIDE EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE SYSTEM (CWELCC)

LBNS has been successfully enrolled into the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System. (CWELCC). To ensure child care is more affordable for families, CWELCC will lower average fees for participating licensed child care programs through a phased approach. By September 2025, lower licensed child care fees to an average of \$10 per day.

Late fees: If a family has not paid their monthly fee for that month, the child will be withdrawn. A late payment fee of \$5 will be added onto the payment if it is not paid by the **15th** of the month. If families need other arrangements they must be communicated to the Supervisor by the 1st of the month and will also be discussed with the Board of Directors.

NSF cheques are subject to a \$25 administration fee.

A receipt is available for **income tax purposes upon request.**

HOLIDAYS

Our school runs from September to June. We are closed for Thanksgiving Monday, two weeks in December for Christmas & New Years break, Family Day, March break, Good Friday, Easter Monday and Victoria Day. We are not closed on elementary school professional days (PA days).

WITHDRAWAL

One month's notice in writing must be given to withdraw your child, or the next month's fees will be required. If your child is withdrawn for May and/or June, full fees are payable for the balance of the term unless a replacement is available.

ABSENCE

Please notify the school via email or call if your child is going to be absent and let us know the reason for the absence as we are required to keep attendance and ill health records of all our children.

ILLNESS

We request that you call or email the school before 9:00 am / 1:15 pm if you know your child will be absent from school for illness or otherwise. Let us know your child's symptoms if they are ill or if he/she has developed any contagious conditions.

If your child shows the following symptoms of ill health, please keep them home.

- elevated temperature
- vomiting
- diarrhea
- undiagnosed skin rash
- nasal discharge
- coughing
- red or discharging eyes or ears

For more information:

<https://www.durham.ca/en/health-and-wellness/resources/Documents/IllnessInfectionDisease/InfectiousDiseaseReportingGuidelines.pdf>

If during the program your child shows any of these symptoms you will be asked to pick them up immediately. He/she will be isolated from the other children and the parent or emergency contact will be called by a teacher. An "Ill Health" form will be filled out by a teacher and a parent/caregiver will be asked to sign the form. This form will be kept in the child's file. We ask that all children, teachers, volunteers, caregivers and guests remain at home until 24 hours after the last sign of these symptoms and consult a physician, or as otherwise stipulated by the health department, follow any requirements for the condition.

An assigned staff member will track children's illnesses on the "Child Care Center Routine Illness Surveillance Form". Any symptoms/illnesses that show an above normal occurrence will be brought to the Supervisor's attention and depending on the severity and according to the criteria as set by the Health Department will be reported to the Health Department. Illnesses of a severe and contagious nature will be posted on the wipe off board as you enter the school.

ARRIVAL & PICK-UP

A teacher **MUST MEET** each child at the time of arrival. Where a child does not arrive at the child care centre and the parent/guardian has not noticed the supervisor, the supervisor must commence contacting the child's parent/guardian no later than 9:45 am/ 2:00 pm. Staff shall contact the child's parent/guardian by sending email. If no response is received after the program time (11:30am / 3:45pm), the supervisor will send another email.

Additional steps for the supervisor should they not be able to reach to confirm the child's absence from care on the same day, the supervisor will call the child's parent/guardian on the following program day if the child does not come.

Once the child's absence has been confirmed, program staff shall document the child's absence on the attendance record and any additional information about the child's absence in the daily written record (log book at the foyer).

A written record will be kept of each child in attendance. The number of children will be counted and displayed on the white board in the room that your child attends and this number will be verified when transitions occur. Any special instructions for your child can be given to a teacher who will write the instructions in our log book.

When picking up your child, please be on time. A teacher will assist with opening the gate if we are in the play yard for dismissal. This way a teacher is aware of who is coming and going. Please do not leave infants or valuables unattended in your car.

LBNS will ensure that any child receiving child care at the child care centre is only released to the child's parent/guardian or an individual that the parent/guardian has provided written authorization (indicated on the registration form)the child care centre may release the child to.

Should the person who regularly picks up your child be unable to, please inform the supervisor as soon as possible as to whom the child is to be released to. Photo Identification is required and will be checked by teachers if this individual is unknown to the teachers.

Where the staff is unable to reach the parent/guardian or any other authorized individual listed on the child's file (e.g., the emergency contacts) by 12:15 pm/ 4:15 pm, the staff will follow the procedures regarding the safe arrival and dismissal of children policy that the obligations set out under Ontario Regulation 137/15. The staff will proceed with contacting the local Children's Aid Society (CAS). Staff shall follow the CAS's direction with respect to next steps.

If you are more than 5 minutes late picking up your child on more than two occasions an additional \$25 fee will be charged. Teachers must have enough time to clean and prepare activities for the next group of children, it is important that children be picked up on time.

CLEANING PRACTICES

Teachers will perform daily, weekly and monthly cleaning and disinfecting tasks and sign off that they have done so to prevent the spread of germs. Teachers will also practice safe hand washing requirements as set out by the Health Department and encourage children to use this method as well. These requirements will be reviewed at team meetings and documented. Staff will encourage children to use this method by observing hand washing during art activities and when toileting. Any toy that the staff witnesses entering the mouth of a child will be set aside to be washed daily.

CLOTHING AND POSSESSIONS

Please dress your child in comfortable, washable clothing that is appropriate for physical activity and appropriate for the current weather. Painting smocks are provided for our creative times but children will get dirty in the program. **Please label all pieces of clothing.** Please have an extra set of clothing in your child's backpack in case they need to be changed. Our center will provide your child with age-appropriate and safe toys. Please do not send toys with your child. A pair of indoor shoes, with your child's name in them, must be kept at school throughout the year. Please have labeled outdoor wear i.e., boots, hats, mittens, appropriate jacket/pants, as our program includes outdoor play. Hang all items that your child is to wear outside on their hook in the coat room, hat, and mittens in their sleeve, this makes it easier for getting ready to go outside.

NUTRITION

We offer the children snacks each morning and afternoon session, food will be served according to our posted snack schedule, if changes to the posted schedule are made these will be posted near the snack schedule on the board as you enter the school. Water will also be served and children will be encouraged to serve themselves and clean up their dishes. If you would like to

bring in a special treat for your child's birthday, please make sure it is from our Acceptable Snack List (peanut-free) posted in the entrance.

ALLERGY

Little Blessings takes children's allergies very seriously, we realize that it is difficult to keep on top of foods that are safe for these children so **we ask that no food except those on our Acceptable Snacks List be brought into our school for special occasions.** Please refrain from carrying any snacks in your child's backpack as children do have access to these when we are getting ready to go outside. Unfortunately, no "home" baked goods will be accepted as outlined by the Health Department.

Children in your child's nursery school may have a severe allergy which can cause an anaphylactic reaction. An anaphylactic reaction is an allergic reaction so severe that it can cause death. The allergy can be triggered by eating, touching, or inhaling even trace amounts of the allergic substance. Emergency treatment involves an immediate drug injection (Epi-pen) and an immediate emergency trip to the hospital in an ambulance. As these children are enrolled in the program, parents will be informed of the triggers. ***At all times we strive to be a NUT-FREE center. We are asking our whole nursery school community to do what we can to provide these children with a safe learning environment by making sure that all traces of the allergy trigger product is removed from hands, faces and clothing before coming to school and by not bringing anything to school that may be questionable.***

If your child has an allergy, special diet or other health requirements, please discuss these with the Supervisor before your child starts in the program or as soon as you are aware of them so plans can be developed and shared with all staff to handle these conditions. If your child has a dietary restriction, parents may bring in their own snacks for their children. It must be peanut-free and still in its original packaging so staff members know. Please discuss with the supervisor.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Special events may be offered throughout the year. Please watch our bulletin boards, read weekly reminder emails, newsletters and social media for details. From time to time, we may take the children to the garden behind the Church.

PARENT BULLETIN BOARDS & COMMUNICATIONS

Parent bulletin boards are located as you enter our school. Our daily schedule, upcoming activities, weekly curriculum, newsletters, monthly calendars, holidays, and snack menu will be posted.

Teachers will provide information about events and agencies in the community that support families by email or postings on the parent board. A newsletter will be emailed in September, January, and April. If you would like to post anything to share with other families on our bulletin boards, please let us know.

As you enter the school the boards display pictures of the children with descriptions of things we did in the program. Our Program Plan is also located here. Please take time to read these and enjoy the pictures. We also display pictures of the children within the program area to create a visual schedule for the children to assist in the transition and flow of activities and for the children's enjoyment (they love to see pictures of themselves).

If you take pictures of your children enjoying the program, we would appreciate that you not include other children in these photos unless you have consent from the parents.

Little Blessings produces a slideshow that is offered through Google Drive as a link. It includes the children in the program and is available to parents at Christmas and at Graduation time, please do not copy this onto any type of social media to respect the rights of others. Any Media/Music usage is documented in each of the classrooms, parents can ask at any time to see this.

Please follow us on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/littleblessingsns> and Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/littleblessingsns> where we will post pictures of activities the children have participated in, updates on special days, fundraising and pictures of our space. Pictures of children will not be posted to any social media without written consent from a parent/caregiver.

Our License is posted as you enter the school. If you wish to see the detailed copy, we have it for your review or it can be reviewed on the durham.ca website under the Early learning section. We are also required to post any serious occurrences that may affect the program on the licensing board to support increased transparency to parents as required. A serious occurrence may be an injury to a child, fire or disaster on site or a complaint about service standards. The Serious Occurrence Notification will protect personal information and privacy. It will be posted for 10 days and does not necessarily mean that the center is out of compliance or that a child is at risk. Longer term actions will be included to prevent similar incidents in the future.

MEDICATION

If medications are to be administered to a child during school hours a Medication Administration Form needs to be filled out. The medication must be prescribed with the child's name, times of administration and dosages affixed to the container. The expiry date, instruction for storage and administration must also be labeled on the container. The medication must be handed directly to the Supervisor and forms filled out and signed by the parent and the Supervisor that follow the prescribed time and dosage of the administration. This procedure takes time; please inform us ahead of time so we can allow time to do this. Arrival time is very busy and it makes it very difficult to do this during this time. For Allergy related medications a plan agreed upon by the teachers, parents and doctor of the child will need to be documented in full. Every situation is different, so please discuss the nature of your child's needs before they are left with teachers. All teachers will sign these plans and plans will be posted in each room. Plans relating to children with an anaphylactic allergy will be reviewed monthly and signed off by the parent/caregiver and supervisor. **Please do not store any medication in your child's backpack** in the coat room as children have access to these bags when we are getting ready to go outside.

INJURY

If a child is injured in the program, teachers will fill out an "Accident Report" and discuss the incident with the child's parent. This form will be signed by the teacher, the supervisor and the parent and a copy given to parents and a copy kept in the child's file. Parents assume responsibility; financial or otherwise for expenses incurred in the event of an emergency, illness, or accident.

SAFETY

The teachers will always follow the guidelines for supervision of children. The teachers will constantly inspect the areas and items the children are using for anything sharp or broken objects that could harm them. The inspection of any area the children will be using will be done according to the checklist in the policy for that area.

LBNS will only permit individuals in the program to interact with children that have had a full orientation, police check, health assessment and have read the policy and procedures manual. Pictures of these individuals are posted on the board as you enter the school. Qualified ratio staff will have current First Aid and Infant and Child CPR training and Occupational Health and Safety training. Other individuals with access to the program area will be asked to sign in in the log book (professionals from an outside agency, individuals doing repairs, community helpers, inspectors, etc) these individuals will not have any physical contact with the children, although they may speak to the children and be supervised by a team member. Professionals doing assessments on children must have written consent from the parent to do so.

Little Blessings entrance doors are locked at 9:30am & 1:45 PM. Interior classroom doors are kept closed and teachers are trained to always be aware of the door areas, children are taught to only go through the classroom doors with a teacher or parent/guardian. Stop signs are posted to remind the children of this rule and are used as a teaching tool.

Parents will be made aware of any serious occurrence that is reported to the Ministry of Education and will be posted for 10 days. Also, if the school is in an outbreak, families will be notified of any infectious disease.

IMMUNIZATION

The Supervisor will be responsible for checking children's immunization records and making sure they are up to date. Any child that is not fully immunized will not be permitted to start in the program unless parents provide a Statement of Medical Exemption signed by a regulated Health Professional or a Statement of Conscience or religious Belief signed by a Commissioner for Taking Affidavits. If an outbreak occurs, one of these diseases that a child is not immunized for the parent will be called and the child will be excluded from the program as recommended by the Health Department.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

During the winter months, the school will be closed if the weather is hazardous. LBNS Staff will do the best they can to determine if conditions are considered hazardous. LBNS Staff will consider possible weather conditions both at the beginning of school day and/or if they feel conditions could be hazardous at pick-up time.

- a) A closure will be considered based on local school bus cancellations, public school closures and local town facility closures as well as local weather reports. A message will be left on the school answering machine and it is the responsibility of the parent to call the school for this message. We will also post the closure on our social media pages. A message will be sent via emails to inform parents of the cancellation. It is the parent's responsibility to check the email to be advised of the status of the school for the day. This message will be left by 7:30 am on the day in question.
- b) If the local school and buses are not canceled, but the weather is inclement enough to warrant a closure, this decision will be made by the Board and Supervisor. This process may be initiated by the Supervisor contacting a Board member (preferably the president), or by a Board member contacting other members and then informing the

Supervisor. Then, the message will be sent via email to the parent or the Supervisor will inform parents by phone as soon as possible.

- c) Should the weather begin favourably, but turn inclement at some point during the school day, the school may be closed following the above delineated protocol. In this instance, the staff will contact parents by phone to inform them of the need to close the school. Parents are thus required to pick their children up or arrange for a previously approved delegate to do so on their behalf.

SUN PROTECTION

When possible, activities will be carried out in shaded areas so that children are not exposed to direct sunlight. Teachers will be aware of weather reports regarding humidity, high U.V. index or smog alerts. Sunscreen with SPF of 15 or higher that provides protection from both UVA and UVB rays **needs to be applied to children before coming to school, as Little Blessings does not apply sunscreen.** Sunscreen should be applied as per the manufacturer's instructions on all exposed areas. A hat and clothing that covers shoulders will help to lessen sun exposure. Do not leave sunscreen products in your child's backpack in the coat room.

WEST NILE/INSECT REPELLENT

West Nile virus is spread to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito and can cause illness ranging from mild flu-like symptoms to severe neurological problems. During the warmer months of the West Nile season, teachers will take precautions to minimize the risk. Teachers will limit the time that children spend outside when mosquitoes are present. Teachers will drain any standing pools of water that may form in the play yard daily to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. When risk of exposure is high, parents are asked to have children dress in clothes that cover areas of exposed skin, socks and a hat (no sandals or open shoes). Light-coloured clothing is best.

Parents are encouraged to apply personal insect repellent containing up to 10% concentration of DEET for children, before coming to school. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's directions for use on children. Little Blessings Nursery School does not apply Insect repellent to children. Do not leave insect repellent products in your child's backpack in the coat room.

FIRE DRILLS AND EMERGENCY EVACUATION

An emergency situation could be anything impending that could be a threat to life, health or property. LBNS has policies and procedures in place should an emergency situation take place within or in the area of our school. Teachers and volunteers have been trained to handle these situations. In accordance with the Fire and Safety Regulation, fire drills are held monthly and documented. The procedure for these drills is posted in the entrances. In the event of an **Emergency Evacuation the children will be relocated to Sinclair Secondary School located at 380 Taunton Rd E Phone # 905-666-5400.** If there is ever an emergency in the school or an evacuation, parents will be notified as soon as it is safe to do so. We also ask that parents follow the directions of the emergency personnel to make sure the proper procedure is carried out safely.

SMOKE FREE POLICY

In accordance with the Child Care and Early Years Act we ask that everyone (including teachers, volunteers and caregivers) refrain from smoking in any area of our school or church area. Further to that we ask that the Whitby city by-law be adhered to and that no one would smoke within 15 meters (50 feet) of the play yard or school entrance as this is a public place.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING CHILD ABUSE

The Child and Family Services Act states that every person in Ontario must call a Children's Aid Society (CAS) immediately to report his/her belief that a child may have been abused or is at risk of abuse. The governing act also clarifies that a person who works with children has an added legal responsibility to report immediately any suspicion of child abuse. A professional who works with children and does not report a suspicion of abuse can be charged and fined. All Teachers at LBNS will call the CAS should they suspect abuse. This is to protect the safety of all children. Individuals working with children are responsible for reporting any suspicions of a child abuse, not for proving whether or not the child abuse has occurred. It is the responsibility of the Children's Aid Society to investigate, with police where necessary, and decide on the best plan of action

PARENTS' ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Parents/guardians are encouraged to take an active role in our child care centre and regularly discuss what their child(ren) are experiencing within our program. As supported by our program statement, we support positive and responsive interactions among the children, parents/guardians, child care providers and staff, and foster the engagement of and ongoing communication with parents/guardians about the program and their children. Our staff are available to engage parents/guardians in conversations and support a positive experience during every interaction.

All issues and concerns raised by parents/guardians are taken seriously by the Staff, and the Supervisor and will act to address any concerns in a timely manner. Every effort will be made to address and resolve issues and concerns to the satisfaction of all parties and as quickly as possible.

Issues/concerns may be brought forward verbally or in writing. Responses and outcomes will be provided verbally, or in writing upon request. The level of detail provided to the parent/guardian will respect and maintain the confidentiality of all parties involved.

An initial response to an issue or concern will be provided to parents/guardians within 2 business day(s). The person who raised the issue/concern will be kept informed throughout the resolution process. Investigations of issues and concerns will be fair, impartial and respectful to parties involved.

Confidentiality

Every issue and concern will be treated confidentially and every effort will be made to protect the privacy of parents/guardians, children, staff, students and volunteers, except when information must be disclosed for legal reasons (e.g. to the Ministry of Education, College of Early Childhood Educators, law enforcement authorities or a Children's Aid Society).

Conduct

Our centre maintains high standards for positive interaction, communication, and role-modeling for children. Harassment and discrimination will therefore not be tolerated from any party.

If at any point a parent/guardian, provider or staff feels uncomfortable, threatened, abused or belittled, they may immediately end the conversation and report the situation to the supervisor and/or Board Chair.

Concerns about the Suspected Abuse or Neglect of a child

Everyone, including members of the public and professionals who work closely with children, is required by law to report suspected cases of child abuse or neglect. If a parent/guardian expresses concerns that a child is being abused or neglected, the parent will be advised to contact the [local Children's Aid Society](#) (CAS) directly.

Persons who become aware of such concerns are also responsible for reporting this information to CAS as per the "Duty to Report" requirement under the *Child and Family Services Act*.

For more information, visit

<http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/childrensaidd/reportingabuse/index.aspx>

All issues or concerns about the conduct of the program, staff, volunteers, students that puts a child's health, safety and well-being at risk should be reported to the supervisor as soon as parents/guardians become aware of the situation.

Procedures when Parental Concern is Raised

Nature of Issue or Concern	Steps for Parent and/or Guardian to Report Issue/Concern:	Steps for Staff and/or Licensee in responding to issue/concern:
General, Centre- or Operations-Related	Raise the issue or concern to - the supervisor or Board Chair	- Address the issue/concern at the time it is raised or - Arrange for a meeting with the parent/guardian within 2 business days.
Staff, Supervisor, and/or Licensee Related	Raise the issue or concern to - the individual directly or - the supervisor or Board Chair	Document the issues/concerns in detail. Documentation should include: - the date and time the issue/concern was received; - the name of the person who received the issue/concern; - the name of the person reporting the issue/concern; - the details of the issue/concern; and - any steps taken to resolve the issue/concern and/or information given to the parent/guardian regarding next steps or referral.
Student- / Volunteer-Related	Raise the issue or concern to - the supervisor and/or Board Chair	Provide contact information for the appropriate person if the person being notified is unable to address the matter. Ensure the investigation of the issue/concern is initiated by the appropriate party within 2 business days or as soon as reasonably possible thereafter. Document reasons for delays in writing. Provide a resolution or outcome to the parent(s)/guardian(s) who raised the issue/concern.

Escalation of Issues or Concerns: Where parents/guardians are not satisfied with the response or outcome of an issue or concern, they may escalate the issue or concern verbally or in writing to the Board of Directors.

Issues/concerns related to compliance with requirements set out in the *Child Care and Early Years Act., 2014* and Ontario Regulation 137/15 should be reported to the Ministry of Education's Child Care Quality Assurance and Licensing Branch.

Issues/concerns may also be reported to other relevant regulatory bodies (e.g. local public health department, police department, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Labour, fire department or College of Early Childhood Educators).

CONTACTS

Mandi Tang – RECE Supervisor email: littleblessingsns@live.ca 905-655-4534

Joan Emode- Chair Board of Directors email: lbnschair@gmail.com

RESOURCES

College of Early Childhood Educators: <https://www.college-ece.ca/en>

Ministry of Education, Licensed Child Care: Help Desk: 1-877-510-5333 or childcare_ontario@ontario.ca

[Children's Aid Society](#) (CAS)

[The Children's Services Division](#) (CSD)

Children's Developmental & Behavioral Supports: (provides behaviour supports to children and their educators in licensed child care and to parents of children with special needs.) 905-668-7711 Ext. 2829
behaviouralsupports@durham.ca

[Infant and Child Development Program:](#) (provides service for infants and young children who have developmental concerns or special needs.) 905-668-7711 Ext. 2971

[Grandview Children's Centre:](#) (offers general room and child specific consultation and services to support successful inclusion of children with special needs in licensed child care programs.) **Preschool Outreach Program, Grandview Children's Centre:** 905-728-1673 Ext. 2521

[Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth Durham Region:](#) (offers general programs and services to support children two to 12 years of age with an identified need.):905-427-8862 Ext. 357 info@rfecydurham.com

Through [Surrey Place](#), the **Blind-Low Vision Early Intervention Program** provides early intervention and support to children birth to six years with a diagnosed visual impairment. 1-888-703-5437

[Special Needs Resourcing package:](#) (Special Needs Resourcing (SNR) services are administered by the Regional Municipality of Durham, Children's services Division using provincial funding and guidelines. SNR services are provided by five agencies and support the inclusion of children with special needs in licensed child care programs at no cost to families).