



FAIRFIELD GONZALES
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
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Fairfield Gonzales Community Association
Moss Rock Preschool

Parent/Guardian Handbook

Contact Information

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Welcome

Welcome to the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association (FGCA) Preschool Program. We are excited that you will be joining us and look forward to creating positive relationships with you and your child. Please familiarize yourself with the information contained in this handbook as it provides an introduction to our childcare programs and philosophies.

Executive Director's Note

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Preschool management, we warmly welcome your family to our Preschool program. We look forward to building healthy relationships, creating strong community and creating happy memories.

Moss Rock Preschool Philosophy

Moss Rock Preschool is primarily an outdoor preschool. The outdoor offers an abundance of sensory experiences, diverse gross motor skill challenges with natural open ended materials. We encourage children to participate in imaginative and mythic play, which is crucial for all areas of development. Our staff view children as individuals with their own ideas, cultural beliefs, abilities and interests, and strive to provide a safe and stimulating environment (physically, intellectually, mentally and emotionally). Our programming focuses on the group's interests and allows children to discover and learn at their own pace and develop their own individual and collective learning and curriculum. The educators value risk taking and encourage children to assess risk, challenge themselves and make discoveries. Our educators believe that children have a desire to grow, play and learn, as well as to explore and construct knowledge about the world around them through peer interactions and play based experiences. While recognizing family diversity and structure, our program encourages the development of positive relationships among peers, as well as, respectful communication between children, staff, and families. Children learn best and rise to their potential when they are permitted to explore subjects as they are ready. We follow the Early Learning Framework put out by the Ministry of Child and Family Development (MCFD): http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/DownloadAsset?assetId=245C9B82FFF94171BB61818A53F0674A&filename=early_learning_framework.pdf

Our Educators

Our dedicated staff members possess a wide range of skills, interest and education and are required to meet the following FGCA and VIHA licensing standards.

Appropriate certification and documentation (E.C.E license and/or assistant documentation)

Standard First Aid and CPR C
Criminal Record Check and 3 work specific references

Program Information

Your child must be 3 years old by December 31st of their registered year. Based on enrollment our Preschool is able to offer a minimum of two days and a maximum of five days and runs from September to June:
Moss Rock Preschool: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9:00am-1:00pm
We follow the School District 61 school calendar; Pro-D days, SJD specific Pro-D, and holiday: No Preschool

Program Expectations

Your child must be toilet trained
Children are excited about preschool
We are a nature-based program that embraces outdoor learning and experiences; therefore, weather appropriate clothing is necessary. Rain pants, boots and warm clothes in the fall and winter and hat and sunscreen in the spring.

What to bring?

Change of Clothes Please bring a change of clothes (top, pants, underwear, and socks) in a labeled large zip lock bag when your child starts Preschool.
Food: Lunch and a snack needs to be sent each day
Outside Wear: Items required throughout the year: rain and winter coat with a hood, rain and winter boots, (muddy buddies are optional but a good idea), hat and gloves. We recommend layers in the colder months, when children are dressed with base layers (long underwear) they enjoy their time more outside.

Food and Drink

It is expected that children will be sent with lunch each day they are in program. In addition, we will provide either a morning snack each day.
We promote healthy eating and nutritional habits . Safe drinking water is available for all children at all times and we encourage them to drink as much as they would like. If a child has specific nutritional requirements, we will ensure that all staff at the site understands and complies with these requirements. If your child has severe nutritional requirements, please ensure that you send extra food in your child's lunch kit to meet their need.

Outdoor active play

We go outside every day for approximately 2 -3 hours, so please dress your child appropriately for all kinds of weather (see below for details). If extreme weather is a factor, we will endeavor to be outside but time may be limited to 25-45minutes.

We believe in giving children freedom to engage in play that may be hard. This play looks different for every child. That may be climbing a tree, rolling down a hill, negotiating their own conflict or using play equipment in new ways. We support the children through these new challenges with support and coaching if needed. Our educators support children in exploring healthy risks. Risk gives children critical skills, including risk assessment,

dexterity, resilience and social confidence . When children are allowed to use their body in variety of ways they become safer as they gain body awareness and a knowledge of their limits.

Outdoor Play Spaces

Our program spends a large part of our day in Porter Park or out in community. The play ground and natural area we spend our days in is not fenced in . Children who participate in our program must respect boundaries given by the educators. If your child is prone to running, bolting and going out of boundaries this program may not be for them.

Screen Use

Unless there is an identified need, electronics from home are not permitted in program.
There is no screen time made available in preschool.

Parent involvement

During the school year, opportunities to support the program through accompaniment on field trips and extra help for special event days may arise. Parents will be assigned specific leader roles for such events. Please note, Siblings are welcome to join us but they are the responsibility of the parent attending.

Communication

We use e-mail communication and will contact you with the e-mail you have provided on the registration form. Important information is sent out via e-mail so please ensure the e-mail you have provided is accessible at all times, even during holiday breaks. If this is not possible, please provide your preferred method of communication.

We assume that you have received and read our e-mail unless it bounces back as undeliverable. If this occurs we will notify you by phone

E-mails include: monthly newsletters, billing notifications and relevant program information

It is the parent's responsibility to:

- o provide accurate contact information
- o read monthly newsletters
- o collect tax receipts
- o inform themselves of out-trips, registration and Pro-D/ED days
- o notify the FGCA if your personal contact information changes during the year

Fairfield Gonzales Community Association Code of Conduct

As an association dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in Fairfield and Gonzales, we have developed a code of conduct by which we hope to foster positive relations among all. It is understood that all board members, staff, volunteers, participants and users adhere to the following to guide all behaviour and activities related to the FGCA:

We will interact with respect, courtesy, objectivity, and inclusiveness

We will work towards the good of all community members, and not for personal benefit

We will promote collaboration, cooperation and partnership with each other and with other groups

We will promote health, wellness and safety for the entire community

Preschool and Centre Closures

The Moss Rock Preschool will be closed for all Sir James Douglas professional development days as well as winter closure and spring closure according to the School District 61 calendar. The FG CA will be closed the first week of Spring Break as well as the last week of August for facility maintenance. Other closures include but are not limited to:

New Year's Day
Good Friday
Easter Monday
Victoria Day

Canada Day
BC Day
Labour Day
Thanksgiving Day

Remembrance Day
Christmas Day
Boxing Day
Family Day

Preschool Fee Structure

Care Options	Cost
2 Days/Week	\$220
3 Days/Week	\$265
5 Days/Week	\$435
Pro D Days	No Care
Drop in fee - if space allows	\$25

NOTE: Fees are averaged over the school year, although some months have fewer days, fees do not vary and discounts are not applied. Fees reflect Monday through Friday closures.

Registration Requirements

Children who are turning 3 by December 31st of the registration year are eligible to register in preschool.

Each new family is required to pay a one-time administration fee of \$30.00

Upon registration a refundable deposit of \$50.00 is due. This will be applied to your last month of care.

Deposits are carried over year to year until your child exits program entirely.

Completed registration packages include:

- o Registration forms
- o PAD forms
- o Immunization records
- o Child's photo (colour)
- o Custody agreement and care plan; if applicable

Families who are returning to our program will have priority registration over external families.

Please refer to the Guide to Registration for more details.

Payment Requirements

Program financials are managed by the Co-Executive Director (Kristina Wilcox). We use e-mail communication and will use the e-mail you have provided on the registration form. Important information is sent out via e-mail; therefore, please ensure the e-mail provided is accessible at all times, even during holiday breaks. If this is not possible, please provide your preferred method of communication.

Fees are due on the **1st business day** of each month and are paid by direct withdrawal.

- o Withdrawals will appear on your statement as 'Fairfield Community Association or FCA'

Each new family is required to pay a one-time administration fee of \$30.00

Upon registration a refundable deposit of \$50.00 is due. This will be applied to your last month of care

- o Deposits must be paid by cheque and should be written out to *The Fairfield Gonzales Community Association*
- o On the memo line indicate your child's name
- o For families re-registering for program, deposits carry over

A completed Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) authorization form must be provided prior to your first day of care.

- o For families wishing to have more than one benefactor (payee) please complete two separate PAD forms.
- o A VOID cheque must be attached to the PAD agreement. If you are unable to attach a VOID cheque please ensure the financial information is entered correctly. Failure to provide correct information will result in a charge of \$10.00.
- o Those unable to pay using pre-authorization debit can speak to the Manager

Here at the FGCA we recognize that there are a number of situations that can cause financial strain, if you need to arrange alternate payment arrangements, please contact the Early Years Coordinator.

Affordable Child Care Benefit

As a licensed preschool, we are eligible to accept provincial childcare benefit for eligible enrolled children. The following are expectations that our program has for families utilizing childcare subsidy.

1. Parent/Guardians are ultimately responsible for all fees as registrants to our program.
2. Parent will be responsible for fee payments until benefit plan authorization has been received by our program. Please note that Affordable Child Care Benefit application processing can take 6 to 8 weeks.
3. Parents are responsible for paying any parent portion remaining after the deduction of subsidy from the program fees.
4. Parents are responsible for renewing the benefit authorization before it expires.
5. Parents are responsible for renewing the benefit authorization before it expires. For more information about this program visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/child-care-funding/child-care-benefit>

If you need assistance with the application process contact our Early Years Coordinator or the Child Care Resource and Referral Centre 250-382-7000 or MCFD at 1-888-338-6622, option 1. Please note, authorization from the MCFD (Ministry of Children and Family Development) may take several weeks to process.

Family's receiving the Affordable Child Care Benefit must pay the balance of their account by the 15th of the month. A separate, detailed Pre-Authorized Debit schedule will be provided once subsidy has been approved.

Late Fee Payment- Penalty Procedure

If your payment is not received by the 1st of the month, a late fee of \$5.00 per day will be charged. If payment is not received in full by the 5th of the month your child(ren) may not return until the account is paid in full.

Subsidy families must pay the balance of their account by the 15th of the month, after which a late fee of \$5.00 per day will be charged. If payment is not received in full by the 16th of the month your child(ren) may not return until the account is paid in full.

NSF Penalty Procedure

Should your direct debit payment or cheque be returned to our organization as NSF, we require re-payment. Charges will be applied to your account unless paying by cheque or cash is requested. Re-payment must be in the amount of the original fee as well as a \$15 NSF penalty charge. Upon the FGCA receiving notification from our financial institution regarding NSF we will send a notification to you via e-mail.

Withdrawal and Refund

Families must provide the FGCA's Moss Rock Preschool Manager or Early Years Coordinator with one month's written notice, received by the 1st day of the preceding month to de-register or decrease registered days without penalty. Alternatively, you will be charged one month's fee in lieu of notice and will forfeit your deposit.

Absentees (when your child will not be attending our program)

If your child will be absent from program, please phone the message line (250 -686-1867) and leave a detailed message stating your name, your child's name, your child's program space and the date of absence or e-mail the Moss Rock Preschool manager (mossrock@fairfieldcommunity.ca).

Health and Safety

Injury and accident procedures

Should your child sustain an injury that requires medical attention, we will contact you immediately. If we are unable to reach you we will call the emergency contact person for direction.

All injuries are documented. Minor injuries such as bumps, bruises, small scrapes or surface cuts will be tended to by staff, documented and brought to the parent's attention at pick-up time.

Injuries requiring medical attention will be reported to the parent, Manager, Co-Executive Director (Kristina Wilcox) and VIHA licensing.

If the injury requires immediate medical care we will call 9-1-1.

Outside

We carry first aid kits with us at all times, as well as attendance sheets and children's emergency forms. It is very important for parents to keep the emergency forms and their registration papers up to date throughout the school year. For additional safety, our playground areas are checked daily by staff as well as inspected monthly by our facility staff and routinely inspected by our Licensing Officer as part of their program review.

Out-trip Procedures

The FGCA will ensure that parents have reasonable access to their child at all times
Out trip information will be available in your program space (in the program binder and on the door) as well as sent via email prior to your child's out trip
Please send your child prepared for the out-trip (appropriate attire and possible parental donation)
If your child is unable or unwilling to attend the out -trip please make arrangements for alternate care
Speak to a manager in advance to arrange pick-up from the out-trip location

Emergency Situations

FGCA staffs are trained to follow the FGCA Emergency Procedures. Procedures are posted in program spaces. Programs are equipped with cell phones and staff will attempt to contact parents/guardians during/after an emergency.

Emergency Closure and Weather Closures

In the event of an emergency (including but not limited to, unforeseen weather, lack of human resources, natural disasters, health emergencies, power failure, renovations or teachers strike) the FGCA will close. If emergency closure is necessary during operating hours we will attempt to contact you by phone to promptly pick up your child. There will be no refunds issued for emergency closures. In the event of a closure lasting more than two weeks, fee credits will be calculated and applied to your next invoice. Should the region be experiencing dangerous weather and SD61 closes, the FGCA will close also. Follow the steps below to obtain the most up to date information:

Check the SD61 website at <http://sd61.bc.ca>

Check the FGCA website at www.fairfieldcommunity.ca

Call your on-site manager (refer to numbers provided at the beginning of manual)

Check your e-mail as your on-site manager will endeavor to provide written notification

Missing Child On or Off Site

If at any point during program a child is missing we will do a 5 minute area search. After 5 minutes, we will call 911

Authorized Pick-up

Children may only be released to persons named on the child's registration and emergency form. Authorized pick-up contacts must be responsible adults who are of the legal age of 19. Staff will ask for photo ID and a local phone number.

Unauthorized Pick-up

If you wish to have an unauthorized person pick up your child, we require advanced written authorization by completing the unauthorized pick -up section of the registration package or by sending a fax or letter. Pick up contacts must be responsible adults who are of the legal age 19. Staff will ask for photo ID and a local phone number.

Release of Care

Parents must sign their child in and out of program. Sign in must include the time and initials and must be done in pen. Your child must be signed out by a responsible adult from the authorized pick-up list. Your child may never sign themselves out, walk home or leave the premises without being signed out. At the managers' discretion the FGCA may facilitate play-dates for children; however, our staff will not provide contact information for children or call on behalf of children unless permission from all guardians is given.

Late Pick-up

If your child remains at the centre after preschool ends (1:00pm) and we have not heard from you, we will take the following steps:

1. We will call you
2. We will call the emergency contact and authorized pick-up persons
3. If we are unable to reach a contact within half an hour, we will call the Ministry of Children and Family Development Emergency (MCFD)
4. The MCFD will take the child into their custody until a parent is located
5. A note will be left at the centre stating where your child may be picked up

Staff will be required to treat every late pick up as if something serious may have happened. Please call ahead if you find yourself delayed. In the event of late pick-up you are required to pay the staff in attendance \$25 per quarter hour upon arrival. Staff onsite are not authorized to waive the fee. Three late pick ups will result in dismissal from the program.

Alleged Impaired Pick-up

The FGCA must take reasonable steps to prevent any person unable to provide care from gaining access to a child. If a staff member believes the child to be at risk, they will offer to call a taxi, relative, or friend to pick up the person and child. As required by law, the FGCA staff may call Child Protection Services and/or the police in the event that a child is taken off premises by an allegedly impaired person.

Custody

We require, with registration, all legal documentation regarding custody and custody orders. The FGCA cannot withhold a child from a parent and will not intervene in custody issues unless current court ordered documents have been provided. In the case that we have a copy of a custody order that is not being abided by we will contact all concerned parties. This may include phoning the police and/or The Ministry of Children and Family Development.

Please speak with the manager if you have specific questions relating to your situation.

FGCA Custody Arrangement Document

We require written paperwork indicating the agreement plan outlined by separated or split families. Both parents/guardians are required to fill out the documentation and paperwork to ensure that information is shared. If you have **joint custody** of your child, we expect payments, pick-up persons, and penalty fees to be provided from the parent who is listed first on the registration form; split payment information must be provided at the time of registration. If you have **sole custody** of your child we expect payments, pick up

persons, and penalty fees to be your sole responsibility. In the event that fees are accrued on your day of registered pick up you are responsible for paying fees before the child can attend your next registered day.

Discharge

The FGCA reserves the right to discharge based on:

Inability of the child or family to follow FGCA expectations and policies

Inability of the program to meet the needs of the child or family

Unwillingness to meet with educators and/or management regarding the care of your child

Three late pick-ups

Late payments, non-payments or NSF charges incurred but unpaid (i.e. an account that is in arrears)

In the case that your child is discharged from the program we will provide a pro-rated reimbursement with sufficient notice.

Conflict Resolution

The FGCA believes that a successful Preschool program intrinsically relies on the cooperation and cohesiveness of children, their families, the staff, management, the community and various integral outside resources. In the event of a conflict, the FGCA takes a problem solving and family-centered approach. We value open communication, mediation, and the FGCA encourages parents to discuss any concerns regarding their child and their child's experience in our programs. Managers have an open door policy and will address a parent's/guardian's concerns in a respectful environment. Whenever possible please make an appointment with the manager to assist in discussing the matter in a timely fashion.

In the event that an issue is unresolved between the manager and parent please make an appointment with the Executive Director. If, after meeting all of the above, concerns have not been remedied, parents may contact the Board of Directors.

Alleged Child Abuse

We are required by law to call the MCFD if we suspect any form of child abuse or if a child discloses information to a staff member. The FGCA staff members are not able to discuss details of legal investigations with families.

Medication and Administering Medication

Parents must fill out a permission to administer medication form as directed by the manager

Medication will be given to the child in the amount and at the time specified by the care plan

We will ensure that a child's medication is not accessible to any child, except for children who require access to their own medication (i.e. Epi-pens/insulin)

Our staff will assist/supervise and document the administration of a child's medication

Care Plan

If your child requires extra support, or has special medical or behavioural needs, a care plan outlining instructions for specialized care must be created. This will be created by the caregiver, parent, and possibly

outside resources will be updated yearly. Your manager may request a care plan and will guide you through the creation of a care plan.

Illness and Communicable Disease

FGCA endorses preventative health practices in order to decrease the incidences of illness and spread of disease. This includes the right to assess the health of the child upon entry or at any time throughout the program

When your child is too ill to attend preschool:

Children in preschool are grouped together at the ages when they are most susceptible to infections. To determine what is a significant illness in a child is difficult for both parents and staff. There are three important considerations when deciding if a child is too ill to attend a program.

1. The protection of 14 other children and staff from communicable disease.
2. The comfort and safety of the child who is ill.
3. The capacity of the preschool to look after an ill child.

Children with the following symptoms must be excluded from program (not attend preschool).

1. Any child unable to participate in normal activities in the preschool program.
2. Children with gastro-intestinal problems (vomiting/diarrhea) will be excluded for 24 hours
3. Children with generalized rash and fever where measles, rubella, mumps, or chicken pox are suspected, with be excluded pending diagnosis.
4. Children with acute cold symptoms, green or brown runny noses.
5. Children with frequent cough: 3-5 times an hour.
6. Children with a fever (38 degrees C or higher) may return to preschool after 24 hours when the fever has dissipated and no medication is needed to control the fever.
7. Children with a communicable disease.

It is the parents' responsibility to inform the caregiver if the child has been exposed or has contracted communicable disease (chickenpox, impetigo, scabies, etc.) within 24 hours. This will enable us to alert others as to the possible health risk. Your child will not be permitted to attend program during this time.

As a licensed program, we are required to report if a medically diagnosed communicable disease has been identified in the Preschool. We will ensure that all enrolled families will be notified in such scenario while protecting the privacy of the child and impacted family as much as feasible in a small program.

When a child returns to the program after having a communicable disease the FGCA reserves the right to ask for a 'physicians's note' stating the child is well and able to return. Please respect the health of other children and staff in our facility and honour our policy.

Immunizations

Enrolling parents are required to disclose their child's medical information. A child with anaphylactic allergy must be identified by the enrolling parent prior to enrollment or as soon as the allergy is diagnosed, and must follow our Anaphylaxis Care Plan. Parents must provide a copy of their child's immunization record prior to starting. Enrolling parents must disclose any immunization updates. If parents have not immunized, or chosen not to immunize their child, the parent must exclude their child from the program when a communicable disease is identified in the Centre.

Head Lice

If your child contracts head lice, please inform the childcare providers immediately. As a large childcare provider, with multiple childcare spaces, it is important that we control the spread of lice; therefore, we ask that you do not send your child back to the program until they have been lice free for a minimum of 24hrs and proper treatment has been given. This will also ensure we are able to disinfect all affected areas in a timely manner. For more information please visit Health Link BC at: www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthfiles/hfile06.stm

Sunscreen Policy

When necessary please drop your child off with sunscreen already applied. An e-mail will be sent to families informing them of this necessity. The FGCA will not supply sunscreen; families must provide their child sunscreen. We ask that if your child(ren) has allergies to sunscreen to provide a reasonable safety plan to ensure that your child(ren) will not be at risk of sunburn or sunstroke. This plan must be agreeable to the FGCA.

Injury and Accident

Should your child sustain an injury that requires medical attention, we will contact you immediately. If we are unable to reach you we will call the emergency contact person for direction

All injuries are documented. Minor injuries such as bumps, bruises, small scrapes or surface cuts etc., will be tended to by staff, documented, and brought to the parent's attention at pick-up time

Injuries requiring medical attention will be reported to the parent, Manager, Executive Director and VIHA licensing

If the injury requires immediate medical care, and we are unable to immediately reach you, we will call 911 or transport the child to a medical facility. You will be responsible for all fees associated emergency care. with

Guidance and Discipline

The FGCA will ensure that behavioural guidance is age -appropriate, applies logical consequences and will take into consideration the cultural and individual needs of the child. The FGCA views children as individuals deserving of respect. Our staff support and encourage children to express their feelings, make positive choices and work towards solving their own problems. Our guidance policy is based on the below:

1. Role Modeling
2. Discipline is based on safety, respect and cooperation.
3. A child is not allowed to hurt themselves or others.
4. Children will be given clear, simple and consistent limits regarding appropriate behaviour.
5. Choices will be offered whenever possible
6. Verbal direction and re-direction will be the main means of guidance and discipline.

If it is necessary for the child to have time away from the group, the child will be supervised. Under no circumstances will physical, emotional or verbal punishments be used. The FGCA does not tolerate inappropriate behaviour such as, but not limited to: rude and disrespectful behaviour towards staff, offensive and coarse language, bullying behaviour, verbal and physical aggression or abuse, emotional abuse, malicious behaviour, teasing, cliques, peer pressure, physical discrimination, inappropriate discussion and touching, sexual abuse, theft, unauthorized absence or departure from program, disrespect of others' belongings and FGCA property. Religious, racist or socio-economic discrimination will not be permitted.

Behaviour Management

If a child is having difficulty co-operating in a program the following steps will be taken:

1. Encourage the child to make a positive choice.
2. Using age appropriate language to explain the importance of appropriate behaviour and re-direct the child

3. If child is still non-compliant, offer the choice to (a) follow the expectation or (b) have time away until child is ready to problem solve.
4. If undesirable behaviour continues, the manager and educators will discuss and problem solve with the child.
5. If manager deems necessary, a phone call to parent/guardian will be made. The parent/guardian may be asked to pick-up the child immediately.
6. A meeting with manager will be scheduled to discuss concerns and solutions.
7. If the above steps are unsuccessful, a meeting with the Manager and/or Co-Executive Director will be scheduled and a care plan will be discussed.

All of our staff members are trained to document notable behaviour. The FGCA reserves the right to inform parents that alternate childcare arrangements will need to be made if we feel our safety and behaviour expectations are not being met.

We warmly welcome you to the FGCA and hope you and your family make long lasting connections here.

