



We are well into the New Year! With February just around the corner hopefully we get lots of snow for the children to play in! The little bits of snow we have had, has been a hoot! We've been sledding with and without sleds. Our regular walk to Dead Bear Mountain has shown some new challenges for the kids as the hill becomes harder to climb and faster to slide down with all the ice. It has been nothing short of a good time!

Our little Munchkins have been creating master pieces in the art center, practising problem solving skills, helping others, mastering getting on their outside gear themselves, experiencing messy sensory activities and sharing laughter with friends among many other things. Our days have been full of smiles and inquisitive children and we wouldn't have it any other way. We are so thankful for all our sweet little ones.

We have quite a few children entering Kindergarten this September and part of our regular programming for all the children in our care is supporting them socially, emotionally and physically in order to have a successful and happy transition into school. We work on many skills that prepare your child for this transition. In the next month or so I will be handing out some sheets for parents of children heading into Kindergarten this September so that we can work together to prepare your child both at school and home.

By now you have all gotten to meet Jenessa, we are so happy to have her join us and pursue her career in Early Childhood Education. Jenessa has been a gymnastics coach for the last few years and has now decided to pursue a career with children. She will be with us at Munchkins for the next two years (hopefully longer☺) while we support her learning and career in Early Childhood Education.

We also have a new Educator joining us in February; Rebecca comes to us from Chase. She recently moved to the area and is a licensed early childhood educator. She has worked as an educator in a variety of programs and I look forward to us all getting to know her and welcoming her to our program.

I (Sam) will be floating from each program to make sure that everyone is adjusting well, provide support and ensure transitions are happening smoothly ☺

So hopefully, I can say this will be our Munchkins Crew for a while now! Please help me in making our new Munchkin care givers feel welcome, I am very grateful to have found them. I think they will be a great fit for our program!

We have prepared for this for almost a year now; we are starting to see some cases show up in our schools and closer to home. Now more than ever please keep your children home if they have any symptoms. If you have a child isolating at home due to a classroom exposure please keep all your children home. We have a few families that rely on grandma & grandpa to help out and we would like to keep us all safe.

It can be frustrating when your child cannot attend when they have a cold or any symptoms but we ask you to please have back up care arranged and to keep your child home if they are showing any symptoms. **Children must be symptom free for 24hours before returning.**

Please be patient as we try and make it through the rest of this flu season in the current pandemic. We need our educators to stay healthy in order to provide care for your children. WE ARE SO LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING, WARM WEATHER AND NO MORE COVID LOCKDOWN!!!

On another note, please be sure to send your children with appropriate outside wear, along with LABELING ALL ITEMS! I find mittens on a regular basis. I've been laying them out on the deck railing at the end of the day for collection, please take a browse ☺ I swear by sticker labels. I have outside gear, washed dozens of times with the same sticker still on it!! We have a fundraiser through <https://www.emilypress.com/> they work on everything from containers, gloves, t shirts etc...

Please make sure your child has plenty of food and healthy choices daily! Our little guys are busy exploring and need healthy foods to fuel their busy bodies!

We THANK YOU for keeping us all healthy as a community as we stay strong and healthy together.

*Our bubble is your bubble, we do not social distance from your children- we hug them and love them. *Be Mindful**