

# Parent Handbook

Before and After School Program  
2023/2024



Parks and Recreation Department  
MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH BRUCE

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## **Program Fees**

**Before Care - \$11.50 per day After Care - \$12.00 per day**

**Before & After Care (same day) - \$23.00 per day**

**Late Fees- \$5.00 for every 5 minutes**

**Please note that the above rates are subject to change.**

### **Subsidy**

Child care fee assistance is available for all programs as they are registered through Grey- Bruce County. Please contact the County office in which you reside to inquire about the child care subsidy.

**Bruce County Social Services (519-881-0312) may be able to help if parents require financial assistance.**

## **Program Statement**

How Does Learning Happen?

South Bruce Before and After Care program view each child as competent, capable, curious and rich in potential. Each child's learning and development will be supported with planned positive learning environments. This document is a tool for developing the programs and services. Programs incorporate opportunities for indoor and outdoor play. We provide healthy snacks at both the before and after school programs. All snacks are planned and prepared according to The Child Care & Early Years Act, 2014 (section 42 of Ontario Regulations 137/15) to promote health and nutrition.

Developing relationships, spending time with children in their play and discovery is important. Staff are aware of children's curiosity and wonder. Indicators of this include allowing self-regulation (choices) for things like snacks and meals, creative opportunities, play styles and emotional expression. Opportunities to express all emotions and feelings in a safe, nurturing environment are not only allowed but encouraged. Children will be allowed to explore materials, toys and environments in meaningful ways to them. Intervention will happen if there is a danger to themselves, others or destruction of equipment.

Play based learning is the foundation for lifelong learning, including ensuring safety, health, nutrition and well-being. Our program will foster children's exploration, play and inquiry, by providing child-initiated and adult-supported experiences. Staff will reflect the style of learning which follows children's interests, allows problem solving and

explorations. This includes reflection, review and observations. As co-learners we can puzzle as to why children do certain things and provide opportunities for advancing their ideas. Individual portfolios will be kept for children. Finding opportunities to extend interests in a way that is meaningful to the children can be kept as a project documentation. This is building and encouraging engagement from parents and other agencies. Understanding child development includes building in rich language opportunities, cognitive and scientific understanding. Social skill building is vital in a child's successful learning environment. Learning through play staff support children's natural curiosity and exuberance lead by providing knowledgeable, responsive early childhood professionals.

Creative opportunities are offered daily. Learning about art and creation together is part of our co-learning environment. Clay, painting of all kinds, sketching, building of sculptures, using materials in unique ways, self-portraits are all common art experiences. Materials can include a wide variety of drawing tools, a range of scissors, tape, glue, paints, collage supplies, books related to art, papers of all kinds and sizes. Encouraging exploration of materials and supplies is ongoing!

South Bruce program develops partnerships with families and are committed to ongoing communication and engagement with them and their communities. Grey-Bruce County works ongoing with our program to ensure funding and parent subsidy needs have been met.

Communication with families is a big priority in the South Bruce Program. All parents enjoy, need and want to hear about their child's activities; this is part of our relationship building and collaboration with families. It demonstrates our involvement with their child and allows them to feel a part of their child's day.

Staff will take a few minutes at pick-up or drop-off times to share the positive activities during the program. This also promotes the educational experiences we have achieved throughout their time with us. Questions regarding children will be answered by staff or they will find out answers. Families are the focus of our Centre and as much as possible we want their needs or requests to be met. Strong communications with parents build confidence and trust in our programs.

Our programs respect diversity, equality and inclusion as important for optimal development and learning. Confidentiality is required and expected. This includes respecting parents right to privacy regarding their children's attendance at our program; privacy regarding children's behavior, family situations and confidentiality regarding co-workers.

Communication between staff is essential. If schedules or routines need adjusting staff will discuss these issues with their co-workers and problem solve (problem solving is a good example for the children). We encourage building a strong team that includes supporting one another. Conversations about plans, ideas and concerns regarding the children (reflect, review, do, reflect review, do, etc.) happen regularly. Teams are encouraged to support each other when they notice a positive learning situation that just occurred, use the language in How Does Learning Happen with one another. Asking questions? Wondering why they did something?

Continuous Professional Learning is valued and encouraged for all staff at the South Bruce Program (both trained and untrained staff). It is expected that all staff will participate in the High Five Principal of Healthy Child Development guidelines. All staff are encouraged and supported to participate in local and advertised staff training opportunities. Staff are expected to attend all scheduled staff meetings as posted.

### **Contraventions of our Program Statement:**

- The Manager would bring the concern regarding the implementation of the program statement to the attention of the staff member, volunteer or student.
- A meeting with regard to the concern would take place. Discussion would ensure that the program statement policies are clearly understood.
- A record of the meeting will be kept and signed by the parties involved. It then becomes a permanent part of the person's file and a copy would be placed in their file.
- Goals would be set to assist the person in following the Program Implementation Policy.
- A follow up schedule may be set to ensure appropriate expectations are maintained. Other team members may be consulted for input or clarification.

Staff may be suspended or terminated with consultation of upper management.

### **Parental Issues and Concerns**

Our program values your opinion and ideas. If for any reason you have a concern, question or issues we suggest you follow the following:

- Talk to your child's instructor. If this does not resolve the issue then move to step two.
- Please put your request or concern in writing on our parent information sheets. The staff will respond in writing on the form within 2 business days. Staff will have their response reviewed first by the Recreation Programmer.

- If your concern or request has not been addressed by the staff usually responsible for your child or you continue to have concerns please put your concern/issue in writing attention to the manager of the program. It will be addressed within 2 business days in writing to you.
- The Recreation and Facilities Manager will address the concern and provide you a written record of how it was addressed, to who it was addressed and the plan for a better outcome
- Investigations of issues and concerns will be fair, impartial and respectful to parties involved.
- Every issue and concern will be treated confidentially and every effort will be made to protect the privacy of the parents/guardians, child, staff, students and volunteers, except when information must be disclosed for legal reasons (e.g. to the Ministry of Education, law enforcement authorities or a Children's Aid Society)

## **Confidentiality**

All information contained in a child's records is considered privileged and confidential. The information required on records such as name, address, telephone number, immunization records, alternate pick-ups etc. will be kept confidential. Consents must be signed that authorize the release of information to other agencies and persons (as specified by the family); otherwise the family has the right to privacy that if full recognized and protected.

## **Approaches for Staff**

You will hear staff guiding the children using positive words and breaking this into small manageable tasks. When children appear done with items or equipment staff, students and volunteers will assist them in tidying them up. Students and volunteers are important in our program. Staff will assist them in following all program statement ideas. Staff will ensure they are not left alone with the children.

Attractive provocations will be provided regularly. There may be beautifully arranged art opportunities including a wide variety of materials and mediums. You might see a book and some items or objects from that book out to encourage more engagement. Blocks may have some new props or items included to build on a child's idea. A new item may be set up with some of our other items to see what the children will create or do with them. Staff will ensure they are providing variety and methods of provocation to encourage science, reading, building, exploring and creating. Creativity will be encouraged and supported by all. Children can be creative with their use of the toys.

Where and how they play with them will allow creative choice. Art and messy play will be allowed so they can explore materials in a wide variety of ways. Art activities will allow free exploration of materials.

To encourage and allow self-regulation you will hear staff offering choices, providing opportunities for independent serving of snacks, and encouraging independent play and dressing. You will observe staff letting children decide what they want on their plates and if they want to finish or try something new. You will hear staff encouraging and guiding dressing using positive words and assisting when children require it. If a child seems tired or upset you will see staff sit with them and try to find a solution that will help the child feel better. Some examples might be they want to rest or nap, play in a different spot or just have some cuddle time with the teacher, volunteer or student.

You will notice that staff do not leave children unattended or ignored. They are always available and responsive to the children. This means children will not be left in areas where staff cannot visually see them. To encourage independence and self-regulation staff will work hard at keeping transitions from one area to another smooth and seamless with little waiting and a calm environment. This will include smaller groups and staggered entries and exits whenever possible. Staff will maintain ratios. Staff will count at all times ensuring all children in their care are always present with them. They will ensure when they are leaving a room, leaving the building or re-entering the building and room that they read each child's name on their registration sheet and ensure they are physically with them.

Staff, students and volunteers will build relationships with the children. You will notice them having conversations with the children, joining the children in their play, providing comfort when they are sad and helping them with strategies for calming down and resolving issues. Children will be encouraged to express all types of feelings. Children will notice that they are important and respected by how we talk to them. We use encouraging words; we label feelings and show understanding when they are feeling overwhelmed or grumpy. Staff, students and volunteers are reminded that we always talk calmly and quietly to children. We always go directly to the children and get down at their level. We talk directly to them and problem solve with them if there is an issue. If children are feeling frustrated or expressing big body needs staff will assist them in finding appropriate ways through talking and problem solving. Staff may do this by encouraging a quiet conversation away from the issue. They may then assist the child in reentering the group situation.

Families will be greeted and information will be shared positively. Families are encouraged to leave written instructions to ensure staff understand their and their child's needs. Parents who have an issue are encouraged to place it in writing. They may



then follow further complaint procedures if it has not been corrected. Notes will be left for parents to help regarding wet or dirty clothes, if we need supplies or have a concern.

The outdoor environment is an important part of our daily activities. Staff will ensure they are providing opportunities for exploration and risk taking. They will add in props and equipment to assist children in building their physical skills and learning to play both independently and co-operatively. Staff will position themselves on the playground so that all children are visible at all times.

### **Staff are not permitted to use prohibited practices**

- Corporal punishment of the child
- Locking in exits of the building or room for the purpose of confining the child, or confining the child in an area without adult supervision, unless such confinement occurs during an emergency and is required as part of the program's emergency management policies and procedures (i.e. lockdown)
- 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 undermine his or her self-respect, dignity or self-worth
- Depriving the child of basic needs including food, drink, shelter, sleep, toilet use
- Inflicting any bodily harm on children including making children eat or drink against their will

### **Staff to Participant Ratios**

We are fortunate to offer a program staffed trained in High Five. The child to staff ratios is as follows:

- One Instructor for every 13 School Age Children (JK/SK age)
- One Instructor for every 15 School Age Children (6-12 years)

### **Student and Volunteers**

Students and volunteers in our programs do not have unsupervised access to children in our programs. All volunteers and students review and sign off on all policy and procedures in relation to working with the children in our programs. Students and Volunteers will be monitored at all times.

### **Registration**

Application forms for our Before and After Care Program may be picked up at the Municipal Administration Office located at 21 Gordon Street East, Teeswater or online at

the Municipality of South Bruce website. [www.southbruce.ca](http://www.southbruce.ca). School ages children up to 12 years old are eligible to enroll. At times, due to full enrolment, children may need to be placed on a waiting list in order to secure a space, when it becomes available. Spaces are prioritized by full time, then reserved.

A confirmation letter will be sent to parents that outlines the status of enrollment. This letter may include enrollment days, times, and start/end dates.

## **South Bruce Waitlist Policy**

South Bruce Before and After School Program will maintain a wait list if necessary. All persons who inquire will be asked to complete the application form and return it by fax (519-392-6266), email ([recreation@southbruce.ca](mailto:recreation@southbruce.ca)) or in person to the Recreation Programmer or their designate.

The family will receive an email to confirm we have received the registration. This email is not to be mistaken for confirmation of enrollment.

Spaces will be filled according to priority not necessarily date of submission or waitlist.

Priorities for filling spaces:

- Full time space required
- Family with more than one child
- Family with another child already enrolled
- Age of child (group availability)
- Working parents, then students, then socialization spaces
- Reserved regular days

The Program will try to provide the best information on when a space may be available but this information may not be possible.

Spaces can become available if a child drops out or moves age groups.

Limited days or booking by schedule is not available.

Anyone whose account is in arrears may lose their space.

No parent will be required to pay for their child's name to be on the waitlist.

## **Required Notification Period (Ending Care)**

If you will be leaving the program, we require two weeks written notice. You are billed for this period.

If your required days change, we require two weeks written notice to modify your reserve days. Changes must be required on an ongoing basis. Changes for appointments, vacation, and occasional days off are not permitted and are still billed.

A letter of unenrollment with the last day of program will be sent to parents/guardians.

## **Hours of Operation**

The Before and After School Program only operates from September to June, to coincide with the school year. The Before School Program operates from 6:30am to 8:50 am and immediately following school until 6pm Monday through Friday.

Before and After School Program observes PA Days and other holidays set by the Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board and Bluewater District School Board. In December, *all* programs are closed during the two-week Christmas break. Occasionally, the Before and After School Program will be closed due to professional learning events held by Bruce County. Parents will be advised well in advance of any changes.

## **Arrival and Departure**

All persons picking up a child from program must show government issued Photo ID at the time of pickup. Only persons listed on the application form will be permitted to pick up a child from program. If parents want to prevent certain persons from gaining access to their child, parents must provide such details in writing. If a Court Order is in place which limits access to your child, please provide a copy to be placed in your child's file.

Please inform the Staff in the morning or call during the day, to confirm any change in your normal pick-up arrangement. In the case of separated or divorced parents, where either one or the other has legal visiting rights, these rights may not be exercised on the premises.

### *Before School Program*

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to drop their child(ren) off for program. All children who are registered for Before School that attend Hillcrest must arrive the Before School Program by 8:00am to ensure adequate time to walk to school. Children who attend Hillcrest Public School will be walked to school from Sacred Heart School.

## *After School Program*

Children attending Hillcrest School will be walked to Sacred Heart School by program instructors. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to pick up their children from Sacred Heart School by 6pm.

### **Pick-up Times**

Any change from your normal pick-up schedule must be pre-arranged with the staff. Staff is scheduled according to the number of children at any given time, therefore coming earlier or staying later may compromise the child/staff ratio. Child/staff ratios are regulated by the Child Care and Early Learning Act and it is extremely important that we maintain them at all times. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated in adhering to your scheduled hours, for all children's safety.

If there is an occasion where you are unable to pick-up before the building closes, it would be expected that you would make arrangements for someone else to pick your child up, and phone program instructor to notify them of this.

### **Late Policy**

The South Bruce Before and After School Care Program close at 6:00 pm. Parents who pick up after this time are officially late. Late fees will apply.

**The late fee schedule is \$5.00 for every five minutes that the staff is kept in the program after closing.**

You will be asked to sign a late form and late fee will be added to your monthly bill. Parents who are subsidized are responsible for this fee it is not covered by subsidy. We thank you for using our services and ask that you consider this policy when arranging your child's pick up.

### **Emergencies / Accidents**

In case of an accident or illness the program will:

1. Provide first aid and obtain medical assistance if applicable
2. Document the incident in writing (a copy is given to the parents and a copy is put in the files)
3. Notify the parents if appropriate
4. Please keep all emergency information up to date for our files.

## **Attendance**

Children registered in the programs are expected to attend as scheduled or booked. If your child is going to be absent on one of his/her regularly booked days, it is important to inform the instructor in advance. If your child is sick and will not be attending please call as soon as possible to allow for appropriate staffing. Your child must be booked in advance with the staff, to ensure there is adequate space for him/her to attend. Contact information is found at the end of the manual.

## **Payment Policies**

When registering your child in the South Bruce Before and After Care Program, the application outlines the required days of care. When confirmed parents/guardians are responsible for making the payments for their child's registered days as outlined in the confirmation letter.

## **Reserved Spaces**

Payment for the Before and After School services is based on your reserved days. You must register your child for pre-determined set days.

## **Payments and Illness (Sick Days)**

You are required to pay for your child's space when they are ill. If you are a parent receiving fee assistance please be aware user fees apply to all days with no reduction in the rate set by the County.

Parents must notify the program instructor when their child is going to be absent. If your child is ill, the best place for them is at home. We will notify you, and ask that your child be picked up early if they exhibit any of the following indicators of ill health;

- A sudden fever over 100 degrees F.
- Vomiting repeatedly
- Two bouts of diarrhea
- Unusual rash/spots
- Discharge from the eyes

## **Centre Closures**

South Bruce Before and After School Care Program is closed annually over the Christmas period and will follow the school break schedule. You are not billed during this Christmas Shut Down and PA Days.

**Program is closed to observe the following statutory holidays:**

Family Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Victoria Day, Thanksgiving Day, Remembrance Day

Christmas Break (2 weeks)

**Payment Procedures**

When you enroll in the Before and/or After School Program you are expected to pay in advance of the start date. Payments are due two weeks prior to the confirmed start date when applicable. Future payments will follow the schedule outlined in the Payment Schedule.

The Before and After School Instructors are not able to accept payments at Program. If you plan to pay in person, please visit the Municipal Administration Office in Teeswater to complete payment. Cheques, cash, or e-transfer are accepted. Postdated bi monthly cheques are encouraged if this is helpful for families.

To make a payment via e-transfer, please follow the instructions below:

Send to: [finance@southbruce.ca](mailto:finance@southbruce.ca)

Comment/Description: Invoice Number and Customer Number

The Invoice Number and Customer Number can be found on the top of your Invoice. Please see the image below for reference.

MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH BRUCE  
P O BOX 540  
21 GORDON STREET E  
TEESWATER, ON NOG 2S0

SMITH, JOHN  
PO Box 123  
Teeswater, ON

**INVOICE**

Customer Number  
000012  
PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Invoice Number: 001234  
Billing Date: JUL 14, 2017  
Due Date: AUG 13, 2017

A receipt will be issued by email directly to the contact email that the primary adult provided on the application form.

Subsidy is available to families who feel they are unable to afford the full fee. Please see one of the staff, if you wish to apply for full or partial subsidy. Subsidy applications are completed by Bruce County.

Accounts not kept current will receive a written notice. Child Care may be terminated at any time if an account is past due. Accounts in arrears will be forwarded to the Municipality of South Bruce for collection.

### **Payment During Inclement Weather**

If your child was scheduled to attend the South Bruce Before and After School Care Program and they are officially open, you are billed for the scheduled day. If the Program officially closes, you will not be billed.

### **Clothing**

Clothes which are comfortable, easy to get on and off and are washable are most suitable for the children to wear. A separate pair of shoes must be worn indoors at all times. Indoor shoes must be closed toed and secured, flip-flops, slippers, etc will not be permitted in program. If your child attends Hillcrest School, please send an extra pair of indoor shoes on the first day to be kept at program. Children must be wearing closed toed-secured indoor shoes to run and play active games while indoors. Alternative programming will be provided such as crafts, reading, Lego etc will be provided to those who do not have the proper footwear.

Children play outside both summer and winter, so please send appropriate clothing. In the winter this would include: snow pants, hats, mitts and warm boots. Boots should be large enough to slide on and off easily. Do not use mitts with strings, as they can be dangerous on the play yard. We also ask that children do not bring scarves, as they can get caught in equipment, please send neck warmers instead. In the spring, please send rubber boots and splash pants for your child.

The Before and After School Program participants who attend Hillcrest must walk to/from Sacred Heart in any/all types of weather. Please pack an umbrella and extra outdoor clothing for those rainy days.

All clothing and personal belongings should be clearly labeled. Be sure to send an extra complete change of clothing.

### **Allergies**

We are a peanut/nut free environment where peanuts/nuts and peanut/nut products are not used or allowed in the building. Please do not bring any snacks or beverages into the room. If your child has peanuts or peanut butter at home, please change his/her clothing and make sure his/her hands and face are thoroughly washed before arriving at

the program. On occasion we have children enrolled, who have life threatening allergies to these products. Your adherence to this policy is essential.

### **Administration of Medication and Children's Safety:**

- If any staff of the South Bruce Before and After Care Program has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is or may be in need of protection, the staff must promptly report the suspicion and the information upon which it is based, to a Children's Aid Society.
- Before being admitted, each child, unless there is a stated medical reason, should be immunized against Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Measles, Mumps and Rubella.
- The program will require a photocopy of your child's yellow immunization card. Immunization Records are checked by our local Health Unit.
- If prescriptions are to be administered in the programs, parents must sign a medication consent form that is available from the program instructor. Over the counter medications are not encouraged. Please find medications that can be administered at home and have long lasting coverage. All medicines must be in their original container, with your child's name clearly labeled on it. In the event that the medicine form is not clearly filled out, giving specific instructions and signed, the medicine will not be given. Specific instructions must include either a specific time or specific symptom to be addressed ('as needed' is not specific enough). All medications are to be given directly to the instructor who will place them in a locked box. Refrigerated medicines will be kept in a locked container in the fridge. Please ask a staff to retrieve your medications at pick up time.
- Children arriving at the program with undiagnosed eye infections or rashes; fevers or flu-like symptoms, including diarrhea will not be permitted to stay in the program that day, until they have been examined by a doctor. Following flu-like symptoms, a child must be symptom free for a period of 48 hours before returning to the program, to ensure that they are no longer contagious. Please consider other children's health as an important factor!

### **Contacts**

BASP Instructors 519-531-0186 or [sbchildcare@southbruce.ca](mailto:sbchildcare@southbruce.ca)

Amanda Watson, Recreation Programmer 519-392-6623 or [recreation@southbruce.ca](mailto:recreation@southbruce.ca)

Shawnette Crouse, Recreation and Facilities Manager 519-392-6623 or [scrouse@southbruce.ca](mailto:scrouse@southbruce.ca)

Leanne Martin, Chief Administration Officer / Clerk 519-392-6623 or [lmartin@southbruce.ca](mailto:lmartin@southbruce.ca)