



## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DARRYL HALL

As we move towards September, and an anticipated return to full-day schooling for our children and families, it's important to reflect on the successes of our childcare program's reopening over the last number of weeks.

As you know, before any childcare program could open, a number of very important requirements needed to be met. These included: specific staff training regarding public health guidelines, screening of children and staff, enhanced cleaning, the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and changes to programs/curriculum to meet new requirements.

It's important for our families to know that there have been no positive COVID-19 cases at the Umbrella at any time during the summer.

We recognize the tremendous strain the last 10 months have placed on our children, families, and staff. In addition to the ongoing pandemic, families experienced a labour disruption with the provincial elementary schools.

We are grateful for the support of our staff and families as we continue to navigate these uncertain times. Our commitment to you remains the same: Quality, Safe, and Accessible childcare.

## DROPPING OFF AND PICKING UP CHILDREN

We know that the process of dropping off your children is taking a little longer with our new screening procedures. We wanted to remind everyone that children are not to be dropped off in the parking lot to wait for screening on their own. Clearly, this presents a number of challenges and dangers for children. Caregivers are required to be present at the screening process every time. Children will not be allowed into our programs without a caregiver present.



## CHILDREN WHO EXHIBIT SYMPTOMS DURING THE DAY

As outlined in our operational policies and procedures, if a child exhibits any symptom(s) which requires isolation and/or public health involvement, caregivers are expected to be available for immediate pickup of that child. We know unexpected illnesses can interrupt work schedules but we must adhere to this policy now more than ever. If you have any question regarding this, or any of our operating policies, please contact your site Supervisor.



## ONLINE PARENT PORTAL

During the closure, we realized that we needed to move our process for registration online. We are making good progress with the initial launch of our online

portals to indicate your child care requirements and hope to announce more improvements to this process in the upcoming year. Please visit <https://portal.umbrellafamily.com> to indicate your child care requirements for Fall 2020. If you have not been receiving our email updates regarding registration and other important info/updates, **please email [info@umbrellafamily.com](mailto:info@umbrellafamily.com)** so we can be sure we have you on our email list.

## FAMILIES WHO CHOOSE NOT TO IMMEDIATELY RE-ENROLL THEIR CHILD/CHILDREN

We appreciate that families may have concerns regarding a safe return to school and childcare programs.

All childcare programs are required to provide 14 days' notice prior to removing an active child from its programs. This notice was provided to all active/current families as part of the Fall Childcare Requirements online portal released August 6, 2020.

Families who choose not to enroll their children on the first eligible day of childcare may choose to place their child on our waitlist for service. If enrolment dictates, a call will be made to these families if a space becomes available.

UFCC is committed to maintaining a waitlist that ensures respect for each family and maintains their confidentiality. This is done in a fair, equitable and transparent manner.

## A LOOK AT OUR FIRST FEW WEEKS

The staff and children have been busy and have documented some of their first few weeks. Check out the fun and learning happening at Umbrella!

Discussions about world events turned into expressions through art for the "graffiti wall" by the school age group at Umbrella Templemead.



The school age group at Lawfield learned all about the '40s and did a cool, retro photoshoot.



The children at Sir Wilfrid Laurier decided that their cohort needed a name. They used teamwork and problem-solving to come up with the name "Roma".



The toddler/preschool group at Lincoln Alexander learned how to properly wash their hands and how to stay in their cohort.



The toddler group at Hillcrest made rainbows to show support for frontline workers and ECEs returning to work in the child care.

# Congrats!

Please join us in congratulating these Umbrella staff members on their retirement!

- Lynn McInnis, Program Manager (hired in 2003)
- Sue Kowch, Supervisor at Gatestone (hired in 1992)
- Claire Weagle, Office Manager (hired in 2014)

You will be missed! ♥