

AURORA CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Supervision of Students and Volunteers Policy

Date Policy and Procedures Established: August 2016

Date Policy and Procedures Updated: June 7, 2021

Purpose

Aurora Children's Centre (herein after referred to as "ACC" or the "Centre") welcomes both placement students and volunteers into the various programs offered in our childcare program. We believe it is a valuable part in gaining experience in a childcare environment. Volunteers and students also play an important role in supporting staff in the daily operation of childcare programs.

This policy will provide supervising staff, students, and volunteers with a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities.

This policy is intended to fulfill the obligations set out under Ontario Regulation 137/15 for policies and procedures regarding volunteers and students for childcare centres.

Policy

General

- Students and volunteers will always be supervised by an employee and never permitted to be alone with any child or group of children who receive childcare.
- Students and volunteers will not be counted in staff to child ratios.
- No volunteer or student will be under the age of 18.
- Every child who is in attendance is always supervised by a Staff member.
- Students and Volunteers are required to show proof of immunization and provide the Corporation with a clear Vulnerable Sector Screening.
- Students and Volunteers will be trained in Anaphylaxis and ISP's will be reviewed with the Supervisor prior to commencing with the Centre.

Student and Volunteer Supervision Procedures: Roles and Responsibilities

The Director and Supervisor must:

- Ensure that all applicable policies, procedures, and individual plans are reviewed with students and/or volunteers before they start their educational placement or begin volunteering, annually thereafter and when changes occur to the policies, procedures and individualized plans to support appropriate implementation.
- Ensure that all students and/or volunteers have been trained on each child's individualized plan.
- Ensure that a vulnerable sector check (VSC) and annual offence declarations are on file for all students and/or volunteers in accordance with the childcare centre's criminal reference check policy and procedures and Ontario Regulation 137/15.
- Ensure that expectations are reviewed with students and/or volunteers including, but not limited to
 - how to report their absence.
 - how to report concerns about the program.
- Inform students and/or volunteers that they are never to be included in staff to child ratios or left alone with children.
- Appoint supervising staff to the students and/or volunteers and inform them of their supervisory responsibilities.
- Inform students and/or volunteers of their duty to report suspected child abuse or neglect under the Child and Family Services Act.

The supervising staff must:

- Ensure that students/volunteers are never included in staff to child ratios.
- Ensure that students/volunteers are always supervised and never left alone with children.
- Introduce students and/or volunteers to parents/guardians.
- Provide an environment that facilitates and supports students' and/or volunteers' learning and professional development.
- Provide students and/or volunteers with clear expectations of the program in accordance with the established program statement and program statement implementation policy.
- Provide students and/or volunteers with feedback on their performance.
- Work collaboratively with the student's practicum supervising teacher.

- Monitor and notify the centre supervisor/director of any student and or volunteer misconduct or contraventions with the centre's policies, procedures, prohibited practices or individual plans (where applicable) in accordance with the childcare centre's written process for monitoring compliance and contraventions.

Students and/or volunteers must:

- Always maintain professionalism and confidentiality, unless otherwise required to implement a policy, procedure or individualized plan.
- Notify the supervisor or designate if they have been left alone with children or have any other concerns about the childcare program (e.g. regarding staff conduct, program statement implementation, the safety and well-being of children, etc.).
- Submit all required information and documentation to the licensee, supervisor or designate prior to commencing placement or volunteering, such as a valid VSC.
- Review and implement all required policies, procedures and individualized plans, and sign and date a record of review, where required.
- Review allergy lists and dietary restrictions and ensure they are implemented.
- Respond and act on the feedback and recommendations of supervising staff, as appropriate.
- Report any allegations/concerns as per the "Duty to Report" under the *Child and Family Services Act*
- Complete offence declarations annually, no later than 15 days after the anniversary date of the last VSC or offence declaration (whichever is most recent) in accordance with the childcare centre's criminal reference check policy.
- Provide an offence declaration to the supervisor/designate as soon as possible any time they have been convicted of a Criminal Code (Canada) offence.

Additional Procedures

- The Director and Supervisor will review this policy annually.
- The Supervisor will ensure that staff, volunteers, and students sign and date the review.
- Only a Registered Early Childhood Educator (RECE) will provide supervision and mentoring to the student/volunteer.
- The Supervisor will ensure through written communication that the RECE is clear of their responsibility in regard to a student's field placement.
- The Supervisor will designate the RECE who will be directly responsible for the supervision and mentoring of the student/volunteer.

Glossary

Licensee: The individual or corporation named on the licence issued by the Ministry of Education responsible for the operation and management of the childcare centre.

Staff (Employee): Individual employed by the licensee (e.g. program room staff).

Student: Individual who is enrolled in an education program/school and is completing a placement.

Volunteer: An individual who participates in the childcare program and interacts with children in care but is not paid by the licensee (e.g. parents assisting on an occasional or recurring basis with childcare programming, such as excursions, field trips, etc.).

Regulatory Requirements: Ontario Regulation 137/15

Supervision of volunteers and students

11.1 (1) Every licensee shall ensure that every volunteer or student at a childcare centre it operates or at a premises where it oversees the provision of home childcare is supervised by an employee or home childcare provider at all times and is not permitted to be alone with any child who receives child care at the child care centre or home child care premises.

(2) Every licensee shall ensure that there are written policies and procedures regarding volunteers and students that set out, at a minimum,

(a) the requirement described in subsection (1).

(b) the roles and responsibilities of the licensee and supervising employees; and

(c) the roles and responsibilities of volunteers and students.