



Muir Lake Playschool Association

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PARENT HANDBOOK

2026 – 2027

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WELCOME

Thank you for considering Muir Lake Playschool for your child. Included in this registration package is information about our Playschool philosophy, as well as a list of classes offered, tuition fees, important dates and other commitments required. Should you have any other questions, please feel free to contact us.

MISSION

Our mission is to inspire curiosity, develop independence, foster lifelong learning, and to encourage imagination through play.

PHILOSOPHY

Muir Lake Playschool strives to provide a safe, nurturing, and accepting environment where our unique students are encouraged to develop social, emotional, cognitive, and motor skills through play, at their own pace. We endeavour to add to the development of positive self esteem and independence, as well as encourage the desire to learn and explore through our play orientated program.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1) Building Social Skills

- learning appropriate behaviour for different situations;
- learning about conflict resolution using words (e.g. saying sorry, asking for help);
- sharing and taking turns;
- listening, joining in, being friends;
- participating in discussion and group activities.

2) Encouraging Independence

- can comfortably separate from parents;
- completing tasks with minimal intervention;
- putting on their own shoes and dressing themselves for outside;
- being responsible for their own actions.

3) Building Confidence

- numerous crafts and physical activities aimed at easy mastery to foster a sense of accomplishment, self-confidence, and self-esteem;
- Special Helper Day with Show and Tell and helping the teachers.

4) Having Fun

- getting along and enjoying themselves in a variety of settings.

5) Exposure

- learning to use and enjoy a wide variety of art and craft mediums, games, and activities;
- developing classroom skills such as sitting still, listening to direction, and completing an assigned task;
- introduce children to the ABC's, numbers, shapes, colours and nursery rhymes;
- learning themes throughout the year (e.g. Dinosaurs);
- field trips throughout the year;

- story time to assist with listening skills.

6) Physical Activity

- maintaining a moderate level of physical fitness acquired through activities in the community hall and outside (weather permitting).

MUIR LAKE PLAYSCHOOL

Muir Lake Playschool is a non-profit organization managed by a team of parent volunteers who form an Executive Committee. There are 2 teachers in each class. Volunteer opportunities and tuition fees are integral to the success of the Playschool, and a positive experience for our children.

The Playschool offers different themes throughout the year that expose our children to many mediums, while incorporating our goals and objectives. Field trips, outside activities, concerts, and visits by local organizations are also part of our Playschool experience.

The Playschool is part of the Muir Lake Community and has been operating for over 40 years. We offer 3-year-old, and 4-year-old classes. The maximum class size is 16 students. Under special circumstances, the Muir Lake Playschool Executive Committee may change the final class size as deemed necessary. If a class does not have a minimum of 12 children in September, that class may be cancelled at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

The Playschool operates from early September until mid-June. We follow all holidays on the Parkland School Division calendar, including Personal Development days. **Parents will be contacted if classes are cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.**

CLASSES OFFERED

3-year-old classes (4 hours per week)

- Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 am – 11:00 am

4-year-old classes (6 hours per week)

- Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 11:30 am – 2:30 pm
- Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

PLAYSCHOOL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A committee of **volunteer** parents function as the Executive for the Muir Lake Playschool Association. They are responsible for the overall operations of the Playschool. The elections for Executive Committee positions are held during the Annual General Meeting. The positions include;

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Community Liaison/Fundraising Coordinator

OUR TEACHERS

Our teachers are Miss Amanda Turvill and Mrs. Michelle Herman.

Miss Amanda has her Level 3 Certificate in Early Childhood Development, First Aid, and CPR Certificates. She has been an early childhood educator for over 25 years. She has spent time teaching in several provinces and overseas within a variety of early education settings. She loves working with preschool aged children and tries to incorporate the best of all her experiences into her teaching style. She is a firm believer in learning through play and empowering preschoolers to express their own feelings and make their own decisions. She has been a part of the teaching team at Muir Lake since 2018.

Mrs. Michelle has her Level 2 Early Childhood Development, First Aid, and CPR Certificates. She has been an early childhood educator for over 10 years. She thoroughly enjoys the various personalities and funny perspectives on life of children she works with. Watching her own children grow from playschool age to adulthood has given her a different viewpoint on early childhood development. Mrs. Michelle has been a part of the Muir Lake Playschool teaching team since 2012.

STUDENT INFORMATION

- We welcome 3-year-olds at any time into our program, provided they are 3 years old prior to attending.
- Children must be toilet trained. If an accident should occur during class, a courtesy call will be made to the parents. If an accident occurs during class, and an appropriate change of clothes has not been provided, a parent will be required to pick up their child. If ongoing accidents should occur, a plan will be discussed with the parents on an individual basis. If you have any concerns with this policy, please discuss with one of the teachers.
- The Playschool can administer medication, if necessary, when an Individual Record of Medical Administration is completed prior. This medication will be kept in an area away from children access.
- Dress your child appropriately for the weather, as outside play is encouraged.
- Please dress your child in play clothes, as we paint, use glue, and roll around on the floor!
- Please do not allow your child to bring toys or candy to school. They will be allowed to bring something on their Special Helper Day.

REQUIRED SUPPLIES

- Backpack (that your child can carry)
- Change of clothes (including season appropriate underwear, socks, pants and shirt)
- Indoor running shoes (to be left at the Playschool, please no slippers)
- Box of Kleenex (to be left at the Playschool)
- Approximately 5-10 family photos (including all family, grandparents, pets, etc.) for family tree project. These can be handed in or emailed to Teachers.MLP@outlook.com Note: The photos will be cropped and glued, thus not returned in their original form.

CHILD MANAGEMENT POLICY

We encourage students to problem solve independently with teacher supervision. Where a child's behaviour needs correction, our procedure is as follows:

- A discussion takes place with the child.

- Child may be removed from situation; a follow-up conversation takes place with the child before he or she is permitted to re-join the group/activity.
- Where the problem involves another child, apologies are encouraged to be made, and choices are given before re-joining the class.
- If the problem involves a toy or piece of equipment, distraction to another activity, or removal of the toy may be helpful.

Out of respect for the children in our program, we will not inflict any form of physical punishment, verbal or physical degradation, or emotional deprivation. We will not deny or threaten to deny any necessities. We will not use any form of physical restraint, confinement, or isolation.

ILLNESS POLICY

- Please keep sick children at home! Should your child fall ill during class the teachers will use your contact list beginning with parents to arrange for your child to be picked up from class. In the meantime, they will be kept as comfortable as possible by one of the teachers.
- If your child is not immunized, you will be asked to sign the “Conscientious observer” form at registration. Please be advised you will be asked to keep your child at home if there is an infectious disease outbreak and they will need to remain at home until the risk has passed. Regular fees will apply during this time, and a 30-day notice of withdrawal will still be required if you choose to remove them from the program.

Children should be kept home from school if ...

- They have had a fever (38.0 higher) or diarrhea in the past 24 hours.
- They have been given medication like Tylenol, Advil, Motrin, Gravol or Benadryl in the past 12 hours.
- They have a new unexplained rash or skin condition.
- They have green, yellow, or excessive mucus coming from nose, eyes or ears that is impeding their ability to play or follow the classroom routine.
- They have started a new antibiotic in the past 24 hours.
- They have a new or strong persistent cough that is impeding their ability to play and participate in the daily routine.
- Unusual behaviours for that child e.g., extreme lethargy, persistent crying, extreme irritability, difficulty breathing or wheezing.
- They have Lice, Scabies, or other infestation. They must remain at home until the proper treatment is fully completed.

We fully expect children to get colds or illness over the course of the year despite our best efforts following the Alberta health guidelines in disinfection, cleaning, and good hygiene practises. A slightly runny nose, a cough that just won't go away or a child that just a little “off” does not necessarily mean that child needs to remain home from school. If your child does not fall under the stipulations above and is able to fully participate in all the classrooms routines which include, snack, play and outdoor time they are probably fine to attend class. The teachers reserve the right to refuse entry to any child or parent who appears excessively ill or is exhibiting any of the symptoms listed above.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP POLICY

When dropping off

- The door will be opened 5 minutes prior to class.
- Parents are required to drop their children off at the Hall doors and ensure they are handed off to a teacher.
- Children will be asked to hang coats up and leave all outdoor footwear downstairs in the coatroom.

When picking up

- Due to the limited time between and after classes, please be at the school 5 minutes prior to the end of your child's class. The children will be brought downstairs at the end of class.
- The teachers will be available to speak with parents and answer any questions at that time.
- If you are more than 10 minutes late picking up your child, a \$25.00 fee will be applied.

Please do not drop your child off early or pick up your child late from class. Teachers are using the time before and between classes to prepare the lesson plan and crafts for the next class.

SPECIAL HELPER DAY

This is a very special day for your child, as they get to bring a snack and drink, set the table for snack time, and perform special helper duties all class. They can also bring one special item for "Show and Tell". A **Special Helper Calendar** will be emailed monthly to the parent contact, posted on Seesaw and handed out to parents. Please note your child's scheduled day. If your child cannot attend, it is your responsibility to switch days with another family.

Things to remember for your Child's Special Helper Day

- You are responsible for providing the snack for their specific class (food and drink)
- All food should be provided to the Playschool prepped and ready to go. Anything that is minimal prep for the Teachers, pre-packed and/or easily distributed is recommended.

Snack suggestions

- Individual drink boxes, yogurt drinks
- Cheese, veggies, dip, fruit, crackers, dry cereal, fruit bars, granola bars, yogurt tubes, etc.

If you forget your snack, the Playschool will charge a fee of \$20.00

On your child's birthday, you can bring in a special treat for the class if you wish.

For the safety of all children at the Playschool, we are nut free. If there are additional food allergies in your child's classroom, those will be communicated.

VOLUNTEERING

Muir Lake Playschool is a non-profit organization. School fees and funds raised from fundraising events pay for all the costs of running our Playschool program. Fundraising events that require a parent volunteer commitment are an important component of our program and necessary to retain our

eligibility to apply for and obtain government grants. The money is used for new initiatives and necessary items for the Playschool. **Parental volunteering is integral to making these events a success.**

Every year there are a variety of scheduled fundraising events, and every three years we have a casino. Parents are required to participate in two annual fundraising events on non-casino years and on casino years are required to participate in one annual fundraising event and one (1) casino shift.

These are critical fundraising events, and we must have all positions filled. Sign-up sheets will be available at the August Registration Night event as well as emailed out to parents.

The types of events may change based on the requirements of the Playschool and change at the discretion of the Executive. Any changes will be communicated to the Playschool families with plenty of notice.

Important – A \$300 volunteer deposit will be taken at the August Registration Night (or after with late registrations) and deposited. The deposit will be returned at the end of the school year in June 2027 if the volunteer shift requirements have been met.

POTENTIAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

1. Bingo

The Muir Lake Playschool Association is part of the Muir Lake Community League, and as such is required to work one Bingo each year in support of the Community League. Muir Lake Playschool is currently in the process of joining the Parkland Bingo Association and acquiring our own bingo fundraising dates. We may receive dates for 2026/27. These events are held at the Spruce Grove Bingo Hall throughout the school year and would be available after October 2026 to sign up for. Failure to attend the Bingo date you signed up for will result in your volunteer deposit being withheld.

- *Requires 11 or 14 people per bingo, depends on the date. There is no experience required to work this event. If someone has experience working in the cage please let us know.*

2. Pancake Breakfast with Santa

Our Annual Pancake Breakfast is held at Muir Lake Community Hall and usually occurs around the start of December. The date will be communicated to the Playschool family members once confirmed. We bring in a photographer and Santa visits.

- *Requires approximately 8 people.*

3. Ladies Night

Each year the Executive Committee and Teachers put on a Ladies Night Event. It is a very popular community event and all the funds received go back into the Playschool.

- *Requires 4 people for set-up the night before.*

4. Casino

Every 3 years, the Playschool will have a casino. One parent per child will need to work one shift at the Casino in St. Albert.

*Please note that for all volunteer opportunities, you can opt to have someone else complete the volunteer requirement in your place (i.e. a family member or friend). You can also decide to opt out of the volunteer requirement, and we will use your volunteer cheque to pay for someone to fill your bingo and/or casino volunteer spot(s).

GENERAL INFORMATION

Fire Drills

Fire drills will be held on a regular basis throughout the school year. It is imperative that your child has proper indoor shoes (no slippers). In addition to the main entrance, there is an emergency fire escape located to the right of the bathroom.

Licensing, Insurance and Health & Safety

The Muir Lake Playschool is licensed by Alberta Child Services, regularly inspected by Alberta Health Department, with an up-to-date Health Inspection Certificate located in the kitchen and is insured through Parkland County.

Please note that the Muir Lake Community Hall is a NON-SMOKING facility.

Inclement Weather Policy for Muir Lake Playschool

Muir Lake Playschool will follow the Parkland School Division for closings due to inclement weather.

- If the school district is closed for the day, the preschool will also be closed.
- If the school district has a late start, the preschool will not hold morning classes.
- If the school district decides to let students out early and the decision is made before 12:00 p.m., the preschool will not hold afternoon classes.
- If the preschool makes a decision that deviates from the school district, all parents to whom it pertains will be notified personally.
- Muir Lake Playschool will not make up any days missed due to inclement weather.

Weather Indicators for Amending and or Cancelling Playschool

The Playschool board shall consider **specific indicators** in amending or cancelling playschool activities

- For clarity, the indicators are used in the consideration of determining how a specific activity may be impacted by a specific type of weather. The Playschool board will send notification **prior to 6pm the day before via email and seesaw to advise.**

Provincial Weather Indicators:

- Any notification of severe weather, for any type of weather, received through Alberta Emergency Alert.

Cold Weather Indicators:

- Temperature, experienced with or without wind-chill, of -40°C or below;
- Outdoor activities, greater than 10 minutes, at any temperature at or below -20°C;
- Snowfall accumulation greater than 10 cm overnight; and
- Snowfall removal plans for primary and/or secondary roads.

Hot Weather Indicators:

- Temperatures that exceed 32°C;

- Humidex values that exceed 30; and/or
- Daily UV index exceeding 5.

WEEKLY EMAIL

An update will be emailed to the parent contacts on a weekly basis and will be sent on Sunday/Monday of that week. The new monthly calendar will also be sent out prior to the start of the new month. Please take the time to read these emails and calendar as they are designed to keep you informed of activities, events, and other related information, such as days off, scheduled field trips, special class days, etc.

PRE-REGISTRATION AND OPEN HOUSE

Priority will be given to returning families, provided the family is a member in good standing as per the Bylaws of the Muir Lake Playschool Association. To secure their spot, we strongly suggest you attend the Pre-registration and Annual General Meeting (AGM) to secure your spot as it is on a first come, first serve basis. This meeting is held in the Spring of each year.

SCHOOL FEES AND VOLUNTEER DEPOSITS

- School fees may be made in full at time of registration by cash, post-dated cheques, e-transfers and by credit card (user fee applies). Cheques MUST be made payable to Muir Lake Playschool Association.
- The \$300 volunteer deposit must be made at Registration. This amount will be taken at the beginning of the year and reimbursed at the end of the year if you have fulfilled your volunteer requirement.
- **Muir Lake Playschool is part of the Muir Lake Community League (MLCL), and each family must purchase a Community League membership to enrol your child in the Playschool.**

Total Fees for 2026/2027 School Year		
Classes	3-year-old Class Tuesday and Thursday AM	4-year-old Classes Tues/Thurs PM and Wed/Fri AM
Non-Refundable Deposit	\$150	\$150
Volunteer Deposit	\$300	\$300
Per Month Cost x 10 months	\$40/month (or \$400/annually) with the Alberta Affordability Grant in place	\$60/month (or \$600/annually) with the Alberta Affordability Grant in place
Total For the Year:	\$850 (\$300 will be reimbursed to you in June 2025 if your volunteer requirements are fulfilled)	\$1050 (\$300 will be reimbursed to you in June 2025 if your volunteer requirements are fulfilled)

NOTE: THERE WILL BE A \$35.00 FEE ON ALL NSF CHEQUES.

LATE PAYMENTS

Monthly fees are due on the 1st day of the month. If payment is late, you will be granted a grace period of 1 week. If payment has not been received by the 7th, you will be given written notice and expected to clear up the late fees prior to your child returning to the classroom.

If late fees are a continual concern, we may require you to pay for the remaining term of the school year.

If your personal circumstances prohibit you being able to do so, please contact our Treasurer and we will work with you to come up with a solution.

WITHDRAWALS

If you wish to withdraw your child from the Playschool, you must provide one month's written notice. All refunds will be assessed by the Executive Committee to determine if eligible. Volunteer obligations must be met, or the deposits will be forfeited; a withdrawal fee may be applied. The Executive Committee will determine the appropriate fee in these instances, and act according to a majority vote.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Volunteer Opportunities

- Bingo – TBD
- Pancake Breakfast with Santa – Dec. 5, 2026
- Ladies Night – March 6, 2027

Regular Event Dates

- September start date - Tuesday September 8th, 2026
- December end date - Friday December 11th, 2026
- Christmas Concert – December 11th, 2026
- January start date – Tuesday January 5th, 2027
- June end date / Year End Party - Friday June 11th, 2027

IMPORTANT CONTACT EMAILS

President – President.MLP@outlook.com

Treasurer – Treasurer.MLP@outlook.com

Teachers – Teachers.MLP@outlook.com