

Operating Information

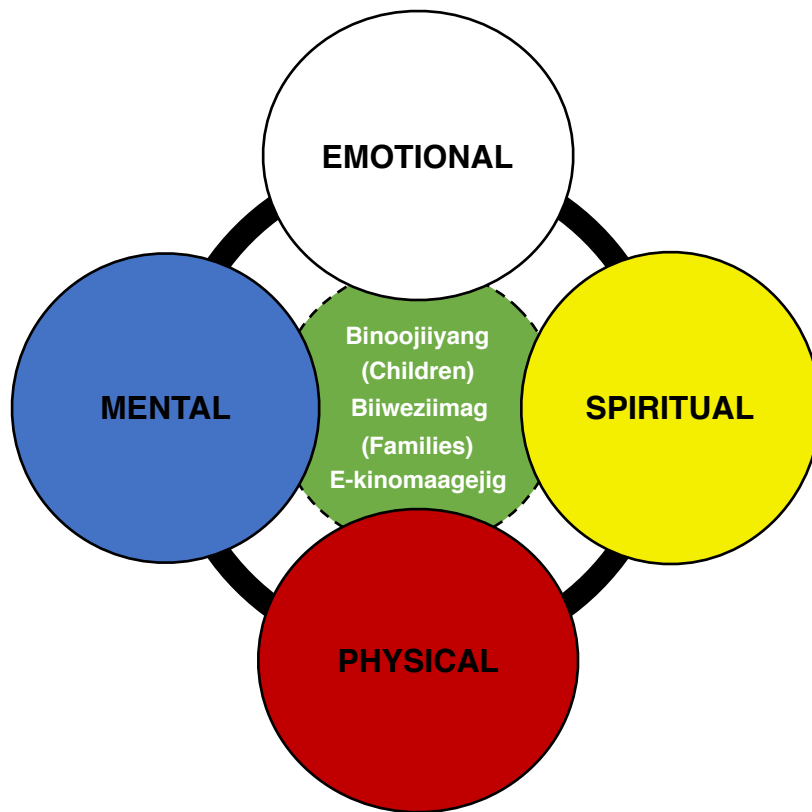
Our Centre will operate from Monday to Friday from 7:00am to 6:00pm.

Holidays Observed

- ❖ New Years Day
- ❖ Family Day
- ❖ Good Friday
- ❖ Easter Monday
- ❖ Victoria Day
- ❖ Canada Day
- ❖ Indigenous Peoples Day
- ❖ Civic Holiday
- ❖ Labour Day
- ❖ Thanksgiving Day
- ❖ Christmas Day
- ❖ Boxing Day

Program Statement [\(Include a link to open this as it can not be shortened\)](#)

The North Bay Indigenous Hub Child Care Centre offers quality child care for children ages 0 to 12 years of age. Our EarlyON program is geared towards families of children 0 to 6 years of age. We offer a unique program that follows the Ministry of Education's Pedagogical Approach of "*How Does Learning Happen?*" while offering children culturally enriched programming that follows the seven Grandfather teachings. In the traditions of our Indigenous culture, we embrace a holistic approach to working with children, focusing on their spiritual, mental, emotional and physical well-being.



Our programs offer positive learning environments where each child's learning and development will be supported. We strive for inclusion of all children by offering a safe and welcoming environment, trained and supportive Educators and a perspective that each child is competent, capable, curious and rich in potential. By creating this environment, we aim to meet the needs of the whole child.

For children who would benefit from additional supports our Educators will work with parents/guardians to initiate an Individual Support Plan with the assistance of our assigned Resource Consultant and the families health care team including Elders, Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Pathologists, Physiotherapists, Pediatricians and Behaviour Therapists.

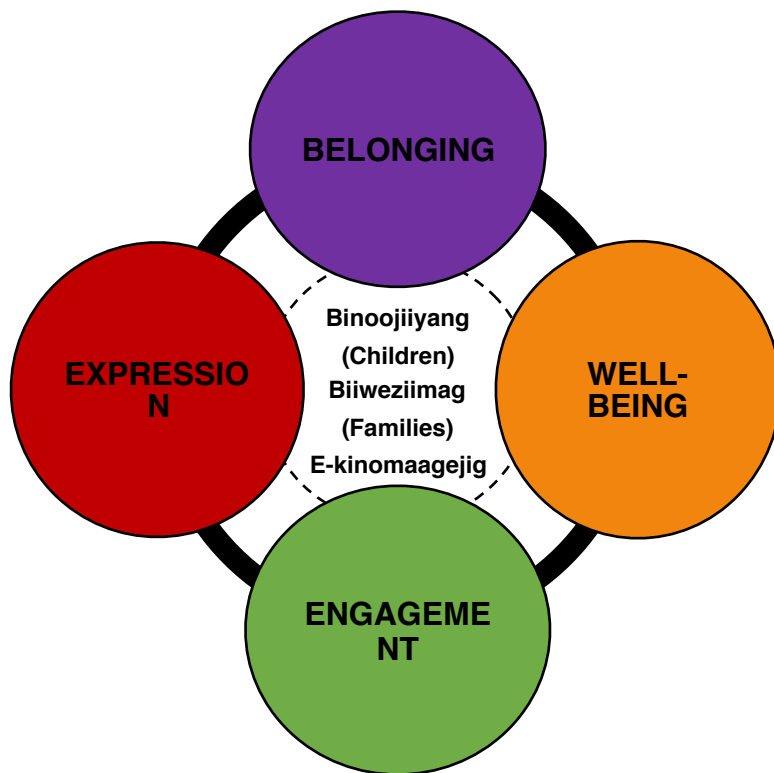
These plans will outline the additional assistance that we will provide based on the recommendations and resources supplied by the child's health care team and/or Resource Consultant. Individual Support Plans are a working document that will be updated at least twice a year to ensure that all goals and additional supports are meeting the current needs of the child.

The Centre will promote the health, safety, nutrition and well-being of all children. We will focus on children's social, emotional, physical, creative, cognitive and spiritual development in a holistic way. We will offer a wide variety of open ended play materials in loosely defined areas so that children can freely use the materials to support their

exploration, inquiry and play with bodies, minds and senses. This openness will promote child-led and active exploration opportunities. We will encourage children through both child initiated and Educator initiated interactions. Our Educators will encourage positive interaction and communication and support each child's ability to self-regulate.

Following the four foundations of *"How Does Learning Happen?"* Educators will:

- promote a child's sense of belonging by providing programs that cultivate authentic, caring relationships and connections to create a sense of belonging among and between children, adults and the world around them.;
- provide children with a sense of well-being by nurturing each child's healthy development and supporting their growing sense of self;
- engage each child by providing environments and experiences to engage children in active, creative, and meaningful exploration, play and inquiry; and
- encourage self-expression by fostering positive communication and expression in all forms.



These four foundations as well as, our Indigenous teachings will encourage each child to develop to their fullest potential. Our seven Grandfather teachings include bravery, honesty, humility, love, courage, wisdom and truth. Each program will incorporate these teachings in parallel with the four foundations of “*How Does Learning Happen?*” through different methods such as Elder visits, storytelling, traditional teachings and activities, ceremonies and language we will incorporate many cultural learning opportunities into our daily activities.

The Centre will foster positive relationships between children, families and Educators. We encourage ongoing open communication between families and Educators. Families are the experts on their children and we will look to them to be an active participant in their child’s success in our programs. We wish to have daily communication with families to exchange information about the program and their child. We will encourage community members and cultural advisors such as Elders to share their knowledge with our programs. This will provide continuous learning opportunities and build relationships within our community. By extending our program to include Indigenous teachings, we will be providing an opportunity of cultural enrichment and appreciation.

The Centre will document children’s play through pictures and short learning stories that documents the children’s experiences. Our Educators will participate in continuous professional development to ensure we are always evolving. Educators will document programming regularly to provide a source for self-reflection and Families are encouraged to give regular feedback on our programming so that we can continuously learn and grow as a Centre through our experiences. We will incorporate both indoor and outdoor play, as well as quiet rest time while keeping in mind the individual needs of the children receiving child care.

Indigenous Culture Implementation

(Very important, can be shortened but we want to keep the integrity)

The purpose of the implementation of culture and language component, is to support the child’s development of a positive self-image and sense of self and an Indigenous person. Language, cultural identity, and relationships are important to us. We believe that children who learn their traditional language will walk through this life with confidence, pride and strength. We believe that reclaiming culture together with our children is an important part of healing, thriving, and building a future for the next seven generations. We also believe that relationships with self, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, community members, Elders, and the land are vital to wellbeing. Families will also be able to access a number of support services and connect with local agencies to support physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being.

We recognize and believe it is a shared responsibility to live and teach the *Seven Grandfather Teachings*:

1. To cherish knowledge is to know WISDOM.
2. To know LOVE is to know peace.
3. To honour all of Creation is to have RESPECT.
4. BRAVEY is to face the foe with integrity.
5. HONESTY in facing a situation is to be brave.
6. HUMILITY is to know yourself as a sacred part of Creation.
7. TRUTH is to know all of these things.

The Centre's culture and language component instills awareness, pride and respect in the children for their own First Nations language, culture and identity. Throughout the year, culturally enriched programs, activities and teachings will be incorporated into everyday learning at the Centre. These include:

- ❖ Language – music, song, games, books, cultural props in both Ojibway and Cree dialects
- ❖ Smudging – Sage, Cedar, Sweetgrass, Tobacco
- ❖ Storytelling - Creation Stories, History
- ❖ Traditional Medicines – identifying, planting, harvesting, community garden
- ❖ Various Arts & Crafts – Beading, Pouches, Painting, Birch bark, Parfleche
- ❖ Rights of Passage – Walking Out, Snowshoe, Fasting
- ❖ Lodge Teachings in Tipi
- ❖ Clan Teachings
- ❖ Traditional Cooking – Moose, Deer, Fish, Goose, Rabbit, Beaver
- ❖ Ceremonies – Round Dance, Sweat Lodge, Full Moon
- ❖ Land-based – walks, snowshoeing,
- ❖ Indigenous Peoples Day

Children are enriched by relationships with family, Educators, other children and the community. We all must work together to ensure that our children feel like they belong, they are engaged in their community, their well-being is paramount and they have the freedom and confidence to express themselves.

NUTRITION (this is a shortened version with just the basics)

Children attending the child care centre will be very active throughout the day. The foods served are suitable and appropriate to meet the needs of children's nutrition and to support children's health, growth, development, and well-being. All meals, snacks and drinks meet the Canadian Food Guide and Ontario Dietitian requirements and recommendations for child care settings practical guide, 2017. Proper hydration is important and drinking water must always be available.

Menus are posted and show which meals and snacks are provided for the week and the following week. If any last-minute changes are made to the menu, these changes will be updated on the posted menus.

Two snacks are provided to the children throughout the day. Lunch is provided for full day programs. Menus specify that meals include no less than four food groups and snacks include no less than two food groups.

Promoting Good Eating Habits

Enjoying food and meal times depends to a great extent on the way food is offered and the models provided by adults. There is a variety of ways in which child care providers can impact children's health and well-being with regarding to eating and nutrition. Educators are expected to create positive create a positive eating environment with foods and portion sizes that are responsive to children's cues of hunger and fullness. Educators will model healthy eating habits and encourage children to practice self-care skills (e.g., feeding themselves) and help with food preparation, distribution etc. (e.g., filling their own glasses or cups, arranging crackers and fruit on plates etc.)

MISSION AND TEAM CHARTER

The Centre adheres to the Ministry of Education's pedagogical approach, "How Does Learning Happen" in parallel with our cultural programming. The Centre connects children with Indigenous identity and language through land-based activities and cultural teachings. We offer programming designed to meet the needs of the whole child and strive to meet the needs of each child as an individual. We ensure that each child is respected and treated as a unique individual who is competent, curious and capable of complex thinking and rich in potential.

Our knowledgeable Educators use play-based learning to optimize our opportunity to follow the interest of the children. Using our environment as a third teacher, we create spaces that promote experiences that are meaningful and thought provoking to encourage children to reach their full potential.

We value each child's strengths and abilities and will work to expand their knowledge by using their natural curiosity and ability of complex thinking to lead our discoveries. We value our families as the experts on their children and we encourage parent/caregiver involvement in our programming. Each family unit is unique, and we encourage open communication between the families and Educators to enhance the child's experience throughout our programs.

WAITLIST

The Centre makes every effort to accommodate all registration requests, though there may be times when space is unavailable in our programs and you may be offered to place your child on a waitlist. There is no fee to have your child placed on the waiting list. When space becomes available, the family at the top of the waitlist, and in

accordance with The Centre's policies will be contacted with an offer for a child care space.

All parents/guardians are required to register for the waitlist through the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB's) online waitlist. The web address is onehsn.com/Nipissing. If parents/guardians need assistance applying or managing their waitlist application the Child Care Supervisor would be happy to assist you either over the phone or in person at the Centre. If you wish to contact the DNSSAB directly their contact information is listed below:

Contact Name: Children's Services
Phone Number: (705) 474 – 2151
Fax: (705) 474 – 8985
Hours of Operation: 8:30AM – 4:30PM
E-mail: ChildrensServices@dnssab.on.ca
Main Website: <https://www.dnssab.ca>
Program Website: <https://dnssab.ca/childrens-services/>
Support Phone: 1 – 888 – 722 – 1540
Support E-mail: Support@OneHSN.com

When a space becomes available, the family at the top of the waitlist, with a child of the required age, will be contacted and invited to accept a child care spot. If the parent/guardian accepts the offer, we move to the next step. If the parent/guardian, for any reason, declines the spot then we will offer the spot to the next family on the list. Any parent/guardian that declines a spot will remain on the list in the same sequence unless they request to be removed from the waiting list.

Programs Offered

Infant Program: 0 – 18 months

Ratio: 10 Infants to 3 Educators

Our Infant Program is less structured and follows the routine of caregivers at home, including nap schedules and meals which are saved if a child is sleeping. We offer two nutritious snacks as well lunch for those infants eating solid foods. Our Infant Program offers a comfortable and nurturing environment focussing on healthy development, socialization, emotional security as well as learning life skills. Through meaningful interactions, our Educators will promote and empowering foundation the of self confidence and pride in each infant.

Toddler Program: 18mo- 2 ½ years Ratio: 5 Toddlers to 1 Educator

Our Toddler Program offers a comfortable and nurturing environment with a focus on healthy development, socialization, emotional security as well as learning of new life skills. We strive to offer a continuity of care with consistent and friendly Educators while offering a daily routine that balances Educator and child-initialized experiences. Our sensitive and responsive Educators along with a comfortable and cheerful environment will offer our toddlers a safe and engaging environment that supports their healthy development. Our program offers rich educational experiences that will engage your toddler as a whole with the focus of physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellness and development.

Preschool Program: 2 ½ - 5 years old Ratio: 8 Preschoolers to 1 Educator

Our Preschool Program offers a comfortable and nurturing environment with a focus on healthy development, socialization, emotional security and the learning of new life skills. We strive to offer a continuity of care with consistent and friendly Educators while offering a daily routine that balances Educator and child-initialized experiences. Our sensitive and responsive Educators along with a comfortable and cheerful environment will offer our preschoolers a safe and engaging environment that supports their healthy development. Our program offers rich educational experiences that will engage your child as a whole with the focus of physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellness and development.

School Age Program Ratio: Will vary based on age of children enrolled

- Kindergarten (3.7 -6 years): 1 Educator to 13 children
- Primary/Junior School Age (5.7 – 12 years): 1 Educator to 15 children
- Junior School Age (9 – 12 years): 1 Educator to 20 children

Our School Age Program will operate a before and after school program. Our before school program will operate from 7:00am – 9:00am and our after school program will operate from 3:00pm – 6:00pm. We will provide a nutritious morning and afternoon snack prepared each day on site. Our School Age Program will operate full days for PD Days, Summer and Winter breaks, other than statutory holidays. We will provide nutritious morning and afternoon snacks which will be prepared on site and served on PD Days and breaks.

Subsidy DNSSAB

For parents/guardians applying for child care subsidy, you may enrol your child(ren), attend the registration/orientation meeting and complete their enrollment paperwork while in the subsidy application process. The child's start date must be after the Child Care Supervisor receives a signed parent agreement from the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board Child Care Subsidy Office. For parents/guardians receiving child care subsidy, payments will be due on the 15th of every month. Parents/guardians receiving subsidy from the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB) will be responsible to pay any child care fees not covered by subsidy, including absent days as per their parent agreement with DNSSAB.

HiMama App

Our educators and families will have access to the App HiMama for daily and real time communications while your child is attending one of our programs. Educators can send messages on a child, classroom or centre level. Our educators will use HiMama to send personalized daily reports, which will include eating, toileting and sleep routine, to keep parents up to date on your child's daily schedule. We understand that milestones are important moments in your child's development and make for special memories, HiMama allows educators to send real time updates and give parents to option to communicate with educators when these wonderful moments happen at home.

Staff Qualifications

