

Welcome to the EC&C

INFANT

Welcome to West Vancouver Schools!

The West Vancouver Schools Early Childhood Education Centre will offer 12 spaces for Infants. The centre includes a specifically designed room for our youngest children who are under the age of 18 months.

Hours: 7:30 am to 5:30 pm

Staff ratio of 1 caregiver to 4 infants

What is a Reggio-inspired infant child care program?

A Reggio-inspired infant child care program is based on the Reggio Emilia approach, which emphasizes a child-centered, play-based learning philosophy. It views infants as capable, curious, and full of potential, encouraging them to explore and learn through sensory experiences, interactions, and their environment.

Key features include:

- **Respectful Relationships:** Educators build trusting bonds with infants to support emotional security and confidence.
- **Environment as the “Third Teacher”:** Spaces are thoughtfully designed to be safe, stimulating, and inviting, with natural materials, light, and open-ended toys to foster exploration.
- **Emergent Curriculum:** Activities are guided by the children’s interests, allowing them to discover and learn at their own pace.
- **Documentation:** Educators observe and document children’s experiences through photos, notes, and portfolios, helping to reflect on their development and communicate progress with families.
- **Family Involvement:** Families are considered partners in the child’s care and learning, contributing their insights and participating in the program.

This approach nurtures infants’ creativity, autonomy, and foundational skills for lifelong learning.



What does a typical day look like?

A typical day is flexible and centered around the infants' rhythms and needs while incorporating opportunities for exploration, creativity, and connection

- **Arrival and Welcome:** Educators greet families warmly, easing the transition for infants with cuddles, songs, or favorite toys.
- **Free Play and Exploration:** Infants explore age-appropriate, open-ended materials like sensory bins, soft blocks, or natural objects, fostering curiosity and engagement.
- **Group Time:** A short session with songs, finger plays, or simple stories that encourage social interaction and language development.
- **Outdoor Play:** Weather permitting, infants experience nature through crawling, walking, or observing their surroundings, often engaging with natural materials like leaves or sand.
- **Mealtimes:** A calm, communal time where infants eat healthy meals or snacks, supported by Educators to encourage self-feeding and social interaction. All food is provided by families for their own child. Infants are able to eat and access their food as needed throughout the day.
- **Nap Time:** Each infant follows their individual sleep schedule in a quiet, soothing environment. Educators ensure comfort and security during rest.
- **Small Group Activities:** Guided by children's interests, activities like painting, water play, or exploring textures allow infants to experiment and express themselves.
- **One-on-One Bonding:** Educators provide personalized attention through cuddling, talking, or playing, fostering trust and emotional growth.
- **Reflection and Wrap-Up:** As the day winds down, infants engage in gentle activities like looking at picture books or playing with soft toys. Educators share observations and updates with families at pick-up time.

Throughout the day, Educators follow the infants' cues, adapting routines to meet individual needs while creating a nurturing and stimulating environment.