

# Welcome to the ECCEC

3-5

## Welcome to West Vancouver Schools!

The West Vancouver Schools Early Childhood Education Centre will offer 50 spaces for children 3 – 5 years old (30 months to entering kindergarten). The centre has two specially designed rooms geared to the ‘preschool’ age.

Hours: 7:30 am to 5:30 pm

### What is a Reggio-inspired 3-5 year old child care program?

A Reggio-inspired child care program for 3-5 year olds supports preschoolers’ natural curiosity, creativity, and readiness for more complex learning. The program emphasizes collaboration, critical thinking, and self-expression in an environment where children’s ideas and interests guide their learning journey.

Key features include:

1. **Child-Led Projects:** Long-term, inquiry-based projects allow children to explore topics they are passionate about, encouraging problem-solving and critical thinking.
2. **Collaboration and Community:** Preschoolers work together on group activities, fostering teamwork, empathy, and communication skills.
3. **Environment as the “Third Teacher”:** Classrooms are thoughtfully designed with natural materials, creative workspaces, and areas for play, exploration, and quiet reflection.
4. **Emergent Curriculum:** Educators observe children’s interests and build activities around them, integrating art, science, math, and literacy in meaningful ways.
5. **Documentation and Reflection:** Children’s work, conversations, and progress are documented through portfolios, photos, and displays, helping children reflect on their learning.
6. **Family Engagement:** Families are partners in the program, contributing ideas, participating in projects, and celebrating their child’s growth.



# *What does a typical day look like?*

## **A typical day for 3-5 year olds includes:**

- **Arrival and Welcome:** Children are greeted warmly, and Educators facilitate a smooth transition from home to the program.
- **Morning Meeting:** Children are welcomed and gather for a group meeting to discuss the day's plans, share ideas, or reflect on ongoing projects.
- **Exploration and Project Work:** Children work individually or in small groups on projects guided by their interests. Activities might include building structures, creating art, or investigating science concepts like plants or weather.
- **Snack Time:** Children are invited to enjoy snack time together, practicing self-help skills like setting up their food and cleaning up after themselves. All food is provided by families for their own child. Children are able to eat and access their food as needed/desired throughout the day.
- **Outdoor Play:** Time outside allows for running, climbing, gardening, and exploring nature, supporting physical development and curiosity about the world.
- **Learning Centers:** Children choose activities in areas like dramatic play, art, writing, or sensory exploration, encouraging independent and social learning.
- **Lunch and Rest:** A calm lunch followed by rest time or quiet activities helps children recharge. All food is provided by families for their own child. Again, children are invited to enjoy mealtime together but are able to access and enjoy their food as they wish throughout the day.
- **Group Activities:** Educators lead group discussions, music, or movement activities that build social and cognitive skills.
- **Afternoon Exploration:** More time for self-directed play or project work allows children to deepen their learning and creativity.
- **Reflection and Wrap-Up:** The day concludes with quiet activities and a review of the day's discoveries. Educators share observations and updates with families at pick-up time.