

## SRCE Pre-primary Programs

### Social Emotional Learning and Positive Behaviour Support

The development of social emotional skills helps children develop self-regulation and social competence. When children are supported to manage their emotions and make good decisions in the early years, they will be set on a successful path for learning and for life.

Educators promote a positive atmosphere that supports children in developing their sense of well-being for themselves and others around them. These are important skills that are identified as learning goals for children in the Nova Scotia Early Learning Curriculum Framework. Educators create environments where children:

- *feel safe, secure and supported*
- *become strong in their social and emotional well-being*
- *take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical well being*
- *develop knowledgeable and confident self-identities*

***Nova Scotia Early Learning Curriculum Framework***

Together, families and educators work to help children develop these skills. In Pre-primary programs, children have clear expectations for behaviour that are reinforced daily. Staff model respectful relationships, help children with problem-solving, and give children the opportunity to develop emotional literacy by identifying and talking about feelings.

Children learn to make good decisions when clear expectations are set. Our Pre-primary programs have developed program-wide expectations that align with the Positive Effective Behaviour Support (PEBS) program. These expectations provide familiar language for children as they move from Pre-primary to Primary. Our program-wide expectations are:

- Respect for Self
- Respect for Others
- Respect for the Environment

Educators use a variety of pro-social behaviour guidance strategies to help children develop the skills they need to successfully engage with peers and adults. These include providing positive language for what they want children to do; focusing on positive behaviour; responding with compassion and caring when children are upset; redirecting; and providing choices in challenging situations.

The health and safety of all children is a priority. Children will not be suspended or expelled from the Pre-primary program. When children are hurt, emotionally or physically, by a peer, reassurance is given to both children. Staff work to help children learn how to respond appropriately and to ensure their safety at all times.