



After months of looking for a location, renovations, permits, inspections PLAY-Positive Learning at Youngstown (Reggio Emilia Inspired) officially opened its doors on July 8, 2008 at 15807-102 Ave.

We run five class sessions per term. Our program provides family grouping for ages 3-5 years. A maximum of 20 children will be in each class.

We offer:

Mornings 9:00—11:15am

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Afternoons 1:00—3:15pm

Tuesday and Thursday

The program runs year round with classes in the morning and afternoon Tuesday to Friday September to June and we run three week half day camps morning and afternoon in July and August.

P.L.A.Y. has been inspired by the Reggio Emilia philosophy, which is based upon the following set of principles: children are self-motivated learners actively seeking to understand the complex world in which they live. Children learn best by construction rather than instruction. Children need many opportunities for hands-on, multi-sensory experiences and children must have endless ways and opportunities to express themselves. Learning should make sense from the child's point of view. Reggio philosophy states: "Nothing without Joy." We hope to create an environment where learning is ongoing and a joyous experience. Parents are a vital component of the Reggio Philosophy. Parents are viewed as partners, collaborators and advocates for their children. We respect parents as children's first teachers and involve parents in every aspect of the program.

We believe that children's programs should provide *experiences* that foster each child's growth and development as a total human being. We address enhancement of skills in all areas of development - social, physical, intellectual, creative and emotional. Programs should create an environment that helps a child establish wholesome patterns for feeling and behaving.

Children learn best by doing, seeing, hearing, touching, tasting, and smelling the objects, people and events in their environment. Children learn first hand about the world they live in. We believe that each child learns a positive sense of him/her and others by supporting the development of friendships, problem solving skills and opportunities for self-awareness and self-expression.

Our teachers are learners alongside the children. We provide materials and time for the children to explore, while documenting the children's learning for them to revisit and for parents to see. Our teachers will spend a great deal of time observing the children and recording their conversations and interactions. We will use this information to plan small group projects with the children and continue documenting the process as ongoing learning takes place.

The environment is the third teacher, therefore we spend a great deal of time and put a lot of thought into setting up our room. As the year passes we will be making changes as the needs of the children change.

P.L.A.Y. also follows the Community Options inclusive philosophy, which allows the opportunity for all children to participate to their full potential in the program, regardless of race, religion, ethnic origin, family status, or physical or developmental ability.

We've had positive feedback from our attending families and look forward to increased enrolment in the coming year.

Submitted by Angela Boucher- Program Coordinator