

COVERALL

The scoop on family engagement in early year's settings from the Vancouver Island Cooperative Preschool Association (VICPA)



Preschools and the CCFRI

Through the new [Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative \(CCFRI\)](#), the government has reduced child care fees – this time by as much as \$550 more per child every month, for families accessing care at participating licensed child care centres.

VICPA has prepared and submitted advocacy letters to the Ministry of Education and Child Care, requesting the inclusion of preschools in the CCFRI.

In a [response letter](#) to VICPA Executive Director, Tori Escallier, regarding inclusion of Preschools in the CCFRI, Julie Adams, Acting Director of Child Care Policy, states that:

Government will expand the CCFRI savings to families accessing preschool and before- and after-school care by cutting average fees to less than \$20 a day starting in September 2023.

VICPA will continue to strongly advocate for the importance of preschool financial support from provincial and federal governments, and specifically for the unique and specialized importance of cooperative preschools.

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A Cooperative Preschool
learning through play, naturally

Universal Pre-K: Thoughts from a Co-op Perspective

Adapted from Parent Cooperative Preschools International

High quality early childhood education programs provide children social, cognitive and emotional skills that make a difference in their lives long-term. While universal Pre-K offers an equitable early years educational footing, for those involved in cooperative preschools the idea of publicly funded preschool programs can feel like a threat.

Child care co-ops often don't look like the full-day, year-round, academically focused ECE programs described in the universal pre-K sales pitches. The question looms large: how will co-ops continue to exist if funding from the federal government that is intended to make high-quality programs more accessible for families comes tied to regulations that could fundamentally change the way co-op preschools operate?

As with any large initiative, the success (or lack thereof) will be in the details. The federal governments in the US and in Canada have both professed support for advancing child care

through national programs, but neither has found the answer to how best to balance a national system with the differing legislation, regulations, and financial arrangements found in each individual state, province, and/or territory.

At the moment, the majority of preschool programs across the US and Canada are still funded by parent fees. Some program subsidies come through federal block grants, but the way funds are distributed is largely at the discretion of each local jurisdiction. Financial support for preschools varies wildly among states and provinces.

When it comes right down to it, parents are still paying out of pocket for preschool, and they want to have a choice that works for their child and their family. Co-ops need to be one of their options. To make sure preschool co-ops continue to thrive, VICPA will actively advocate for our family participation model and rally for a seat at the table. Together, we are stronger!

IDEAS FOR HOLIDAY PEACE & JOY

[A THOUGHTFUL NON-TOY GIFT GUIDE](#)

[10 WAYS TO HAVE A PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS](#)

[25 HOLIDAY TRADITIONS TO START THIS YEAR](#)

[FAMILY-FRIENDLY CHRISTMAS GAMES](#)





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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Hello friends and families of young children!

I'm happy to have made it one more time to the sweet (but chilly!) spot of winter holidays. I am so appreciative of the luxury of squirelling away with loved ones to enjoy a much needed respite from the work of living. Our family traditions include new pajamas on Christmas Eve, a little champagne and orange juice for mom and dad on Christmas morning, and a slow lazy day of games, books and indulgent snacks. I hope that you have some warm and joyful traditions that you share with your family, as well.

If you have questions about how your preschool fits in with the new CCFRI you are welcome to email me at tori@vicpa.org. We are here to support your preschool and our co-op families.

Please allow yourself deep breathing and calm, joyful moments over the winter holidays. We have all worked with so much heart and effort to manage the last couple of years, and this phase of recovery deserves thoughtful care as well.

All my best to you ~ happy holidays!

~ Tori

Gonzales Preschool is the home of learning through play, where children explore their world in a safe, happy, enriching environment in Victoria B.C. Gonzales is a nature-based preschool – they celebrate nature every day in the inviting indoor and outdoor classrooms. Natural playgrounds are invitational, not prescriptive. Children are more likely to use pro-social behaviour to cooperate and problem solve with each other here and act out the stories they create.

Angela, the lead ECE and manager of the Gonzales Preschool, has multiple degrees and decades of experience. She has been teaching at the school for over 12 years and has made a huge impression on many children and parents in the community. The preschool is rich in resources – monthly parent meetings inspire families and Angela shares her knowledge on a daily basis. They learn about topics like parenting strategies, the importance of outdoor play and how to approach social-emotional regulation.

Gonzales Preschool will be hosting its annual **Open House on Saturday, January 28th, 2022** from 9:00am - 12:00pm at 2928 Eastdowne Road in the lower level of St. Phillips church. This is an opportunity for parents and/or caregivers to visit our beautiful indoor and outdoor classrooms. By appointment.

