



CHILD CARE Program Update

January 2026



CHILD CARE Program Overview

- ▶ Our program offers early learning and child care services to RODS LINC clients and the general community in an integrated learning environment. Approx 30% of our spaces are LINC and 70% community. LINC spaces are typically shared AM/PM to accommodate part time classes and allow access for as many students as possible
- ▶ We have had more spaces available for LINC consistently over the past several months but the waiting list is very small and not always options for filling the spaces we have available so they go to community clients
- ▶ Our program operates from 7:30 - 5:30 for community clients and 8:30 - 3:00 for LINC clients. We are licensed through the province of SK with 64 spaces: 9 infant, 15 toddler and 40 preschool spaces.
- ▶ In December 2025 we had a change in leadership with our long term Assistant Manager leaving. Our new Assistant Manager is Whitney Valera who was an educator in our program prior to this role. She comes with 10 years of combined experience as both an educator and in leadership roles.

Current Ministry Initiatives

- ▶ Parents still pay \$10 per day for care. This means a fee of \$217.50 per month, regardless of the age. The remaining portion of our fees comes from the Ministry which is reconciled on a monthly basis (one-month behind) through the use of an enrollment portal
- ▶ All ECE-certified staff are still receiving wage enhancements/top-ups through the Ministry with the exception of the Manager, and our cook and janitor who are not eligible as non-ECE staff. OCT 2025 was the latest increase. These enhancements are now reconciled on a monthly basis (one-month behind) through a new wage portion of the Ministry portal as of Dec 2025
- ▶ FREE ECE training initiatives/courses for educators through SK Poly are still being offered. There is now a licensing requirement for each staff to complete 6 hours per year of professional development which is also reported through the Ministry portal



Relocation/Expansion:

- ▶ We are currently waiting for answers from the architect regarding city/building code expectations before we can get started on the project.
- ▶ Funding from the Ministry for the expansion is contingent upon submission of architectural drawings and a construction budget
- ▶ Internal design plan has been developed with a preliminary discussion with the contractor



What's Next:

- ▶ The Ministry of Education is still leaving us in “limbo” at this point regarding a funding model and wage grid. The current 5 year agreement expires March 31, 2026 so we are really hoping to hear something soon about funding moving forward from April 1, 2026.
- ▶ Our hope with the funding is to be able to increase our fees/Ministry funding to equal what other new daycares are able to charge at April 1 to allow for more equitable funding for existing programs which will lead to more financial stability to maintain current operations at Smith St as well as for the expansion/relocation
- ▶ The only thing we know for sure about the new agreement/funding is that 6 yr olds will now be eligible for subsidized daycare fees starting April 1, 2026 which was not a part of the old agreement

