

Discovery Playhouse Children's Society

12027 Harris Road, Pitt Meadows (Pitt Meadows Family Recreation Centre)

(604) 465-4428

www.discoveryplayhouse.ca

Not very many children's centres have provided early learning for different generations of the same family, but Discovery Playhouse has. Discovery Playhouse is a unique childcare facility with a huge history and a huge community base in Pitt Meadows. It has grown from a small one-teacher preschool started by parents in 1972 to a place that offers daycare, preschool and out of school care for 120 families. Two important things haven't changed. One is the family and community ownership and involvement. The other is the great fun that children have learning and developing in Discovery's safe, play-filled environment.

LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

Discovery Playhouse is a busy place inside and out. Inside, there are areas for all sorts of imaginative play, and for other activities such as reading and creating art. The Pitt Meadows Family Recreation Centre gym is a great place for more active play. Field trips introduce the children to the community and the world around them. Some favourite field trips include visiting the pumpkin patch, growing vegetables at the community garden and participating in the Museum program during the summer.



PARENT PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS



Parent participation is vital to Discovery's success. Discovery Playhouse Children's Society is a non-profit, registered charity operated by a parent board. All parents are members of the board and have a say in making decisions. They also participate in activities such as field trips and helping out with Discovery programs.

Pitt Meadows is a great community and Discovery Playhouse is an important part of it. The seniors, youth, post-secondary students and other community members who volunteer contribute a lot to Discovery Playhouse. They bring care and educational experiences for the children and gain much from the children in return. Seniors help the children with craft projects and sometimes read to them. The children sometimes perform a song for the seniors' events.



Other community members also pitch in. The children had a chance to sit in the back of an ambulance and the front of a police cruiser when those vehicles were brought by. A youth from the community painted a beautiful alphabet for the Discovery.

The community supports Discovery Playhouse children by welcoming them through the City Hall, the Community Police Office, the library and the Family Recreation Centre for Discovery's annual Halloween costume parade. The city also is generous in allowing Discovery to hold their meetings and perform their musical celebrations in the lobby, and in providing a great affordable space at the Pitt Meadows Family Recreation Centre.

DISCOVERY PLAYHOUSE AND GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Besides partnering with the seniors at many events, Discovery also cooperates with the Parks and Leisure Services on two fundraisers: the Christmas Craft Fair, and the Kid's Only Swapmeet. The funds raised at these events are used to update the gym equipment at the Family Recreation Centre. The equipment is there for all community preschool groups who visit the gym.

Discovery Playhouse parents and children are also regular participants at the Pitt Meadows Day parade, whether walking as a group or riding on a float. They always have fun and are proud that Discovery is a long-standing part of the community.



DISCOVERY PLAYHOUSE PROGRAMS

DAYCARE

- Daycare is available from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm for children ages 3 to 5.
- Provides a full preschool program with field trips and special days.
- Offers kindergarten drop-off and pick-up at Pitt Meadows Elementary School.
- Provides nutritious snacks.
- Offers a hot breakfast program.

PRESCHOOL

- Offers preschool for children age 3 to 5.
- Provides opportunities for parents to be with their children in the classroom.
- Has special program days and field trips.
- Requires parent involvement, committee work and attending meetings.
- Morning class for 3 year olds runs Tuesday & Thursday 8:45am to 11:15am
- Afternoon class for 3 and 4 year olds runs Tuesday & Thursday 12:00pm to 2:30pm
- Morning class for 4 year olds runs Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:45am to 11:15am

- Afternoon class for 4 year olds runs Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:00pm to 2:30pm

OUT OF SCHOOL CARE

- Offers before and after school care for children grade 1 to age 12.
- Provides a nutritious snack.
- Provides a theme-based recreational program.
- Is available 6:30 am to 8:30 am and 2:10 pm to 6:00 pm