

INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency & Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	March 7, 2016
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Red Hill Family Centre - Summary of Child Care Licensing Requirements and Recommendations (CES16013) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Grace Mater (905) 546-2424 ext. 4979
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SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

Not applicable

Information:

On August 31, 2015, the Ministry of Education's Child Care and Early Years Act came into effect. This new legislation replaces the *Day Nurseries Act*, and modernizes and strengthens Ontario's child care system to better support parents and give children the best possible start in life.

Licensed child care centres must meet and maintain specific provincial standards set out in *Ontario Regulation 137/15 General*. These standards address items that affect quality in licensed child care centres such as staff/child ratios, physical environment, staff qualifications, and children's health and wellbeing.

Staff from the Ministry of Education perform unannounced yearly inspections of all licensed child care programs to:

- Make sure that provincial standards are being met;
- Issue and renew licences;
- Investigate complaints; and,
- Monitor licensees who are having difficulty meeting licensing standards.

With the new act, the role of the provincial inspector has changed from an advisory approach to an enforcement approach.

On January 25, 2016, a Ministry of Education representative conducted an unannounced inspection of the Red Hill Family Centre. The inspection was completed in one day.

Summary of 2016 Inspection Report

Upon completion of the inspection, staff at the Red Hill Family Centre received a copy of the Ministry of Education, Child Care Quality Assurance and Licensing, Summary of Requirements and Recommendations attached as Appendix A to Report CES16013.

A compliance order may be issued by the Ministry for any contravention of licensing standards. A compliance order is used to identify the failure of a licensee to comply with a particular provincial requirement and order that the non-compliance be corrected through either action or discontinuing a current practice. A protection order may be issued if Ministry staff identify an imminent threat to the health and safety of children. There were no protection orders issued and 12 non-compliance areas identified. Some of these included; improper storage of soothers, labelling of children's personal items, and enhancing supervision of children on stairs.

The Summary of the Requirements and Recommendations outlines the observed non-compliant areas that required follow up by February 8, 2016. The document includes the actions taken by Red Hill staff to address each item. Once reviewed by the Ministry's Child Care and Quality Assurance and Licensing Branch a new license will be issued for the centre.

In summary, the advisor indicated that Red Hill Family Centre staff are doing an excellent job working with vulnerable children, and that they are demonstrating and embracing the new provincial framework, *How Does Learning Happen*, which promotes a shared view of children, families, and educators.

Quality improvement has long been a focus for the Red Hill Family Centre and staff are committed to providing a high standard of quality care for children and families.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix A to CES16013: Summary of Child Care Centre Licensing Requirements and Recommendations