



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	February 4, 2021
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Red Hill Family Centre Licensing Inspection and Program Update (HSC21003) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
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SUBMITTED BY:	Brenda Bax Acting Director, Children's Services and Neighbourhood Development Division Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

Not Applicable

INFORMATION

Annual Licensing Inspection:

The Red Hill Family Centre is the City of Hamilton's directly operated child care centre with a licensed capacity for 97 children.

In Ontario, all child care centres must be issued a licence by the Ministry of Education under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* (CCEYA). The Ministry of Education conducts a minimum of one unannounced inspection per year to determine if all licensing requirements have been met.

On January 7, 2021, the Ministry of Education conducted its annual licensing renewal inspection at the Red Hill Family Centre. During this visit, there were no non-compliances noted by the Ministry. The Summary of Child Care Centre Licensing

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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Requirements and Recommendations is attached as Appendix “A” to Report HSC21003).

The Ministry of Education Program Advisor, also indicated in the general comments and recommendations section that they observed examples of the Red Hill Educators demonstrating their commitment to the program’s goal to “incorporate indoor and outdoor play as well as active play, rest and quiet time, into the day and give consideration to the individual needs of the children receiving child care”.

COVID-19 Impacts:

On June 29, 2020, the Red Hill Family Centre reopened after being closed since March 17, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. When the centre re-opened, several enhanced health and safety measures were implemented including:

- Daily screening of children and staff
- Enhanced cleaning of toys, equipment and high touch surfaces
- Staffing training on the proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- An increased focus on hand washing, physical distancing and other health and safety measures

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the demand for child care has been lower than normal as some families have made the decision to keep their children at home. As a result, many child care centres across the City, including the Red Hill Family Centre, are operating at a lower capacity.

Currently two of the program rooms at Red Hill remain closed. There are 55 children enrolled and the centre is operating at a capacity for 69 children. The decision to temporarily close two program rooms is in response to the current demand and has also allowed for staff to be reallocated at the centre to meet the additional health and safety requirements (e.g. screening, enhanced cleaning, etc.). There are no impacts on the Red Hill budget as a result of these decisions.

The Red Hill Family Centre continues to monitor the demand for child care and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff remain committed and vigilant in ensuring that the centre continues to meet all licensing requirements, maintains a focus on health and safety, and provides a welcoming environment for all children.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A” to Report HSC21003: Summary of Child Care Centre Licensing Requirements and Recommendations