

## **TEMPORARY PERMIT**

**2588 Queensway Street**

**Early Learning Preschool North**

I am writing a letter to support my application for a temporary use permit for our already licensed preschool program to allow A childcare facility to operate on the property 2588 Queensway Street after preschool classes. We are currently running two preschool programs from Monday-Friday 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM. Our hope is to add a childcare option from 1:00 PM-5:00 PM Monday-Friday for families needing all day care for children.

I own the Early Learning Preschool of the North that for the past six years has been operating out of this space. As the cost of living continues to rise families are actively looking for spaces that support both parents working. With our change in license, we can offer preschool class as well as full day childcare.

The center will allow families to have continued childcare during school closures (Christmas, Pro-D days, spring break, summer months) and allow our preschool families to not be without childcare.

I was saddened to hear that we were mistaken when I bought the preschool that zoning did not permit to a licensed childcare facility. So, to open, we need a temporary use permit to allow a community care facility to exist. I am asking for your support in being to be able to offer childcare in our licensed preschool. Nothing will be required of our structure as we are already set up as a functional preschool with ample parking.

I recently bought the Early Learning Preschool of the North and being in the field of early childhood education I know going into this purchase that my goal was to operate a childcare program in the afternoon. Being in this field for ten years I know that operating quality childcare spaces is a huge need here in the north. With the recent government funding for families' childcare fees are quite low for childcare and preschool options. We all know that childcare is an essential need for working families. The families that access our preschool would allow them to be able to work and have their children in preschool/childcare and alleviate some of our long wait lists in Prince George, B.C

Our facility has been operating for over six years as a preschool. We are nestled in the quiet community of South Fort George area with wonderful neighbors that look forward to our waves every day on our outings. We have access to two wonderful parks near our facility FRC and paddlewheel. Adding childcare to our license would benefit so many of our families:

- More funding for CCFRI childcare funds families \$575/monthly (lowering fees) costs remain a huge barrier for parents to access childcare because preschool follows the school district 57 calendar there are closures, and our parents are trying to find care during these times. Offering childcare during preschool closures would alleviate this stress for families. (Spring, break, Christmas break, Pro D days, Summer)
- More families would be able to access preschool and be able to still work because of the all-day care option
- Preschool is under four hours: Speaking with our families over 90% are two parent working households and are needing all day care without sacrificing preschool.

- Walking distance; most of our families live in this area and walk to preschool
- We have grandparents raising grandchildren and low-income families without vehicles and having this facility within walking distance has been a huge blessing for them.
- Community support with being close to the South Fort George Family Resource Center some of our families have been referred by FRC
- In our area we have been trying to find another suitable location for our long-standing preschool and unfortunately, we have not found anything to accommodate our program

Please Consider our request for a temporary permit for 2588 Queensway Early Learning Preschool of the North. Thank you very much!

Madelaine Aitken

Owner

[Preschoolnorth@outlook.com](mailto:Preschoolnorth@outlook.com)

250 – 565 -5262

Dear Mayor Simon Yu,

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