



Prioritization Policy for Reopening Child Care

Discovery Early Learning & Care's Program Supervisors have been in contact with each family to review your child care needs during the pandemic. We have used this information and the following guidelines in choosing who would return first, and based on needs of the family, on the dynamics of the group of children and the staffing teams available. With the increased staffing requirements per cohort, we were not able to open all playroom environments.

These were very difficult decisions, and we understand that families want and need to return to our programs. Our goal is to try and support as many families as possible under the staffing restrictions required for each cohort. We look forward to the September 1, 2020 amended Operational Guidelines for the Re-Opening of Schools, the Before and After School programs and Child Care programs. As they are received and Public Health considers the health and safety measures for our region, we will keep you posted. We hope to have the newest set of guidelines from the Ministry of Education by mid-August.

In order to safely open during the Province's Phase 2 of the COVID Pandemic, Discovery Early Learning & Care is required to operate at a reduced capacity. Centres in Greater Sudbury will be operating with approximately 60% fewer spaces. Given increased staffing ratios and stringent safety requirements, these spaces will need to be highly subsidized by multiple levels of government, in order to keep fees reasonable for families. Re-opening licensed child care has been prioritized in Phase 2 as a necessary support as more people are now allowed to return to work. For these reasons, the City of Greater Sudbury, with their license child care partners in Greater Sudbury, has developed these guidelines to assist operators in prioritizing access to the spaces in their centres.

The City of Greater Sudbury and our partner license child care operators recognize that the licensed child care system will not be able to meet all of the child care needs of families in our community. We empathize with families who are still not able to return to their regular routines and supports and we look forward to being able to return to our full Early Learning system.

City of Greater Sudbury Licensed Child Care Prioritization Guidelines for Phase 2

The following should be used to guide decisions when placing children in licensed child care, in this order understanding that Program Supervisors are taking into consideration the best options for their programs at this time:

1. Returning children who were attending or waitlisted for Emergency Child Care Centres (with verification from CGS) and eligible children of the staff of the child care agency.
2. Returning children (aged 0-4) from families where both parents/guardians (and the single parent/guardian) are working or in school (including those working from home) and returning children aged (5-10) from families where both parents/guardians (and the single parent/guardian) are working or on student placements outside of the home. (11 and 12 year olds will also be accepted with verification of a special need).
3. Returning children who are in crisis with a verified need for child care from a partnering social agency. (By approval of the Manager of Children Services).
4. New/transferring children who were attending Emergency Child Care or waitlisted for Emergency Child Care (likely temporary for summer only).
5. Transferring children who meet the criteria to be prioritized but for whom there is no space at their regular child care program.
6. New/transferring children from the City of Greater Sudbury Child Care Waitlist who had been offered care before the closures and who are from families where both parent/guardians (and the single parent/guardian) are working outside of the home. If a transfer is from another centre, care could be temporary for the summer only.
7. New/transferring children who are in crisis with a verified need for child care from a partnering social agency. (By approval of the Manager of Children Services). If a transfer from another centre, care could be temporary for the summer only.