

River East French Exposure Nursery School



Parent Handbook 2017-2018

You can teach children a lesson for a day;
but if you can teach them to learn by creating
curiosity, they will continue the learning
process as long as they live.

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River East French Exposure Nursery School Co-operative Incorporated (REFENS)

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the chair at chair@refens.com

This handbook is provided to all parents to get acquainted with REFENS. Please read it thoroughly to familiarize yourself with our policies and operating procedures.

INTRODUCTION

We are happy you have chosen to send your child to REFENS. We hope the information contained in this booklet will help you throughout the upcoming year.

At the beginning of each month, a calendar/newsletter containing specific classroom information (e.g. Show & Tell, birthdays, messy days...) will be posted on our website under the password protected Parent section. Every second month, a newsletter will be issued by the Board of Directors to keep all parents informed of upcoming events as well as fundraisers and any other important “news”. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions regarding our Nursery School, please contact any member of the REFENS Board of Directors. A list of the current REFENS Board of Directors is posted on the bulletin board in the classroom.

Our school website is refens.com. Please check this site for contact email addresses.

ADMINISTRATION

The River East French Exposure Nursery School Co-operative Incorporated (REFENS) is licensed under the Manitoba Government – Community Child Care Standards Act and is required to abide by the regulations set out in this legislation. REFENS is a private, parent-run program with one salaried employee.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

We require parent involvement in order to meet ration standards imposed by our licensing body. Here are the ways that you, as a parent, can and must be involved:

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is comprised of volunteer **members*** elected annually by its members at the Annual General Meeting. The Board is responsible for conducting the affairs of the co-operative (REFENS) in compliance with the Co-operatives Act, REFENS By-Laws and all

licensing requirements. The Board will implement and determine General Policies for the Nursery School while operating within the given finances.

We encourage anyone who is interested in being on the Board of Directors to read the following job descriptions and talk to a current board member. The Board meets monthly to ensure smooth operation of the school. (at certain times of the year more frequent meetings may be required)

**a member is someone who has paid the \$40.00 annual membership fee and is interested in helping our Nursery School function by volunteering their time and skills*

All parents/members are encouraged to attend the AGM in April. Nominations and voting for positions on the board will take place at this time. Please contact the co-chair at co-chair@refens.com for more details.

BOARD MEMBER JOB DESCRIPTIONS (general outline)

Chairperson

1. Responsible for the licensing and for the operation of the Nursery School
2. Functions as the Board coordinator
3. Prepares agenda and chairs the Board and General Meetings
4. Is a signing officer
5. Prepares bi-monthly newsletter
6. Hires teacher in conjunction with others on the Board of Directors
7. Negotiates teacher's salary
8. Takes care of registration if the co-chairperson position is vacant
9. Updates and maintains the Chairperson's binder
10. Attends monthly meetings
11. Comes to the class on a regular basis

Co-Chairperson

1. Responsible for program registration and ensuring that all necessary forms are completed for each child
2. Compiles a waiting list and informs these families when a space becomes available
3. Distributes parent survey and compiles results every second year
4. Chairs meetings in Chairperson's absence
5. Is a signing officer
6. Updates and maintains the Co-Chairperson's binder
7. Attends monthly meetings
8. Comes to the class on a regular basis

Secretary

1. Records minutes of the General Meeting and all Board meetings
2. Responsible for typing/writing of minutes
3. Responsible for archiving minutes in the classroom and on the Cloud
4. Responsible for distributing minutes to Board Members
5. Post highlights of Monthly meeting in the classroom
6. Writes letters and thank-you notes deemed necessary by the Board
7. Updates and maintains the Secretary's Binder, Minutes Binder and "In Camera" Binder
8. Attends monthly meetings

Treasurer

1. Responsible for teacher's payroll, Receiver General remittance and insurance payments
2. Keeps and maintains up to date records of all monies received or paid out by the Nursery
3. Submits and presents a monthly written financial report at each Executive Meeting, as well as an annual revenue and expense report to Parents/Guardians at the General Meeting
4. Is a signing officer
5. Writes an income tax receipt for each family for the period of September to December and then again for January to June
6. Responsible for submitting records to Worker's Compensation and Revenue Canada
7. Helps during registration with the writing of receipts, collecting postdated cheques, and collection of cash payments
8. Deposits cheques monthly, deals with any N.S.F. cheques and collects all cash payments
9. Collects money from Fundraiser or Class Coordinators for Nursery School events/outings
10. Works together with the accountant to ensure all audits and financial statements are accurate and on time
11. Updates and maintains the Treasurer's binder
12. Attends monthly meetings
13. Comes to the class on a regular basis
14. Archive all documents in the classroom and on the Cloud in June

Fundraiser

1. Presents Fundraising Suggestions/Ideas to the Board
2. Organizes Fundraising Activities
2. Arranges with Class Coordinators to collect money and orders at fundraising deadlines
3. Distributes products to Nursery School families
4. Updates and maintains the Fundraiser's binder
5. Attends monthly meetings

Class Coordinator

1. Ensures that each parent/family completes the required number of helper days for their class
2. Ensures that the Parent Helper calendar is filled out and posted in the classroom
3. Arranges extra volunteers for class when requested by the teacher
4. Compiles a list of parents who are available to do extra parent helper days and/or may be available as an emergency parent helper
5. Assists Fundraiser in arranging pick-up of money and forms from their class
6. Adjusts the Helper Calendar when a new student joins a class mid-way through the school year
7. Responsible for posting party sign-up sheet prior to class parties.
8. Responsible for distribution and collection of permission slips for each class outing in conjunction with the teacher
9. Compiles a list of all children attending a class outing and the name of adult responsible for the child (for the teacher)
10. Helps out parents with transportation issues (assists in arrangements, does not provide the ride)
11. Updates and maintains the Class Coordinator's binder
12. Attends monthly meetings
13. Comes to the class on a regular basis

Classroom Supply Coordinator

1. Responsible for purchase of supplies required by the teacher
2. Responsible for purchasing gifts/treats for parties when funds permit
3. Arranges to find an Elf for each class' Christmas Party
4. Arranges babysitters when needed during members meetings
5. Updates and maintains the Classroom Supply Coordinator binder
6. Attends monthly meetings
7. Comes to the class on a regular basis

Alumni Representative (must be an Alumni of REFENS)

1. Contacts REFENS Alumni with all pertinent information as determined by the Board
2. Organizes a Special Event for the enjoyment of all current students, alumni and their families
3. Responsible for organizing the Christmas Hamper
4. Responsible for organizing the Kindergarten parent information night (Held in January)
5. Updates and maintains the Alumni Rep. binder
6. Attends monthly meetings

Teacher (employee of REFENS)

1. Responsible for the Educational Curriculum and day to day operation of the Nursery School
2. Supplies a list for Classroom Supply Coordinator to replenish supplies required for crafts and activities
3. Establishes a permanent inventory of supplies
4. Notifies Chairperson/Board Members of any problems or situation that arises in the classroom regarding Health and Safety of any child
5. Arranges a list of duties for classroom cleaning
6. Prepares a Monthly planner and distributes to all Parents/Guardians
7. Discusses activities and program criteria with the Board Members
8. Acts as an advisor to the Board of Directors

Parent Helper (volunteer in the classroom)

In order to respect child/adult ratios as dictated by our licensing body, every family must provide a volunteer to be a helper in the classroom during their child's class. The number of days required by each family is determined by the number of children in the class and the number of classes in the school year. Parents are welcome to observe a session anytime. REFENS welcomes parent volunteers in order to expose the children to a parent's particular talent (e.g. storytelling, painting, singing, crafts, instrument playing, etc.). Please advise the teacher if you would like to be scheduled as a guest.

Parent Helper/Volunteer Approval

In order to be cleared to volunteer in the classroom, a completed **Background Check Package** must be submitted to the Co-Chair. This includes:

- **Criminal Record Background Check Including Vulnerable Sector Search (CRBC-VS),**
- **Child Abuse Registry Self Check (CARSC),**
- **Criminal History Disclosure Statement (CHDS) form**
- **Licensee Background Check Verification Declaration (LBCVD) form.**

Registrations made prior to July 1st

Within 30 days of the registration date, a receipt must be handed in to the Co-Chair indicating the CRBC-VS and the CARSC have been applied for from the proper authorities. Failure to begin the background check process and submit a receipt within this time will result in a written warning and a \$50.00 fine for late submission. If within 60 days of registration, no receipt is submitted to the Co-Chair proving the applications for the background checks have been made, automatic and immediate withdrawal of the child from REFENS will occur. There will be no refund of the current month's fees and all regular withdrawal

policies remain in place.

Completed original copies of the Background Check Package must be submitted to the Co-Chair **PRIOR to the registered child's first class**. Failure to submit a completed Background Check Package in this time will result in automatic and immediate withdrawal of the child from REFENS. There will be no refund of the current month's fees and all regular withdrawal policies remain in place.

Registrations made after July 1st

Within 30 days of the registration date, a receipt must be handed in to the Co-Chair indicating the CRBC - VS and the CARSC have been requested. Failure to begin the background check process and submit a receipt indicating such within this time will result in a written warning and a \$50.00 fine for late submission. If the background check process has not begun and a receipt for such has not been submitted to the Co-Chair within 60 days of registration, automatic and immediate withdrawal of the child from REFENS will occur. There will be no refund of the current month's fees and all regular withdrawal policies remain in place.

What do you do if Mom or Dad cannot volunteer?

Any adult deemed responsible and reliable can volunteer in the classroom provided he/she submits a complete and approved Background Check Package.

If the parent/guardian is unable to be in class on the assigned day, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to find another parent to cover that day. A class contact list will be provided to each family. When a change in the schedule is made, the class coordinator ***MUST BE NOTIFIED.***

NO PARENT HELPER MEANS NO CLASS
CLASSES WILL BE CANCELLED AND A FINE OF \$50 WILL BE
IMPOSED UPON THE ABSENT PARENT HELPER

Parent helpers are required to leave all siblings at home on their helper days. This is necessary to ensure that we respect the adult/child ratios determined by our licensing body. This way, the teacher and students can rely on the helper's complete and uninterrupted assistance.

Parent Helper Duties

Parent helpers are asked to arrive in the classroom 5 minutes prior to class time in order to confer with the teacher regarding the program for the day.

(This list is posted in the classroom):

1. Write your name and the juice you've chosen on the white board.
2. Write arrival time for each child in the attendance book.
3. Check painting easels for paper, brushes and water. Refill as needed.
4. Check Parent Helper "TO DO" box
5. Check BIG TOY cleaning list for toy to be cleaned today. (The toy can be cleaned at any time during or even after class.)
6. Join in with us and help the children with their task at the table.
7. While we clean up our toys, wash tables with disinfectant before we go to the bathroom. Ensure the juice has been mixed half and half with water in the jugs provided.
8. Upon our return from the bathroom, fill the low sink to half with hot soapy water for cup washing and the high sink to half with hot water for cup rinsing. Place a j-cloth into the washing sink and 2 towels for drying on the round table.
9. Help children settle at the table and pour the juice.
10. While we are reading, please clean up the table, placemats and counter area. Return the placemats to their box.
11. Check play areas and put away toys.
12. Wipe down painting easels, empty dirty water and put all art work in child's basket.
13. Write departure time for each child in attendance book.
14. Sweep all bare floors and vacuum carpets.
15. Familiarize yourself with emergency procedures
(See page 18)

Daily Routine

The day starts off by singing BONJOUR and O CANADA. Please join the class during our circle time (unless the teacher has you doing something very important!) When an activity is done on the carpet or at the table, please stay close and help any child who needs you. Assist the children by watching them, guiding their hand with yours or modeling the action...please do not do the work for them! Words of praise and encouragement always spur the kids on to greater things!

During playtime, please keep an eye on the painting easels, help the children with their names and replace the paper as needed. When assisting them to write their names, please ask the child to pick-up the writing instrument (that helps you determine their dominant hand) and put your hand on theirs to write, saying the names of the letters out loud. Clean-up time is next; this is your opportunity to wash the work tables then help clean-up the toys. We will head to the bathroom and wash our hands. Please be sure each child flushes the toilet and uses soap to wash. All the children use the girls' washroom with the teacher. When everyone is done we will return to class being as quiet as possible while in the hall. When we return to the classroom, it is "collation" time (juice-break). Fill the low sink to half with hot soapy water for cup washing and the high sink to half with hot water for cup rinsing. Place a j-cloth into the washing sink and 2 towels for drying on the round table.

The kids will get their placemats and sit at the table. Please pour the beverage you chose. As they are done, the children will wash and dry their cups and then find a quiet activity on the carpet. At this time, please clean the tables, placemats and counters, arrange the toys and check the painting easels. Place any artwork in the child's basket. After we sing AU REVOIR MES AMIS, "l'étoile de la journée" will announce the end of class to the parents. Please remember to sign each child out in the attendance book as their parent enters the classroom and when all children are accounted for we are free!

It is the parent helper's job to take a child to the bathroom during class time. Take only ONE child at a time to the bathroom closest to our class and please let the teacher know before you leave the classroom so she can keep track of everyone.

Some days work out better than others. Things may work out smoothly one day and be total chaos the next. Let's just work together and we'll have a wonderful time!

Toy cleaning

A toy cleaning schedule will be posted in the classroom. Each family will be required to sign up for a certain number of cleaning days determined each year by the number of families enrolled in our program.

Fundraising Events

REFENS is a non-profit organization therefore some of the money required to operate is acquired through fundraising events. Parents' involvement in this area is essential to keeping our fees reasonable and allows us to cover the costs related to class outings throughout the year. New ideas and suggestions are always welcome.

Donations

Donations are always welcome! If you have toys, books, software, costumes/dress-up clothes and craft items (e.g. yarn, felt, fabric paint, etc.) that you no longer need, please check with the teacher to see if REFENS could put them to use.

POLICIES

Enrollment criteria

- The child **MUST** be at least three years of age by December 31st of the registration year.
- The child **MUST** be toilet trained.
- An alternative phone number **MUST** be provided in case of an emergency. Anyone picking up the child **MUST** know the "password" chosen by the parents and marked on the application form. Children will not be allowed to leave with people claiming to have permission to pick them up if they do not know the "password". **THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN PROTECTION.**

- Complete Background Check Packages must be filled out by EVERY parent or guardian who will be participating in the classroom.
- **NON PAYMENT OF FEES OR EVASION OF DUTIES THAT ARE REASONABLY REQUIRED OF A MEMBER MAY BE GROUNDS FOR CANCELLATION OF MEMBERSHIP.** This decision is made at the discretion of the Board.

Inclusion Policy *(for children with additional support needs)*

ACCESS

- We accept and welcome children of all abilities.
- Indoor areas are arranged so all children can move freely and make choices based on their abilities, interests and needs.

PARTICIPATION

- Opportunities are provided for all children to participate in social free play and routines throughout the day.
- We believe that each child deserves an environment and experiences that promote growth in all areas of his or her development.
- We use program approaches that best meet the needs of each child and his or her family.

SUPPORT

- We respect and value input from parents and encourage them to be part of the decision making process for their child.
- We support families by consulting with early intervention professionals.
- We work with parents and professionals who have valuable knowledge and expertise to share with us and each other.
- The teaching and support staff receive training to learn about various disabilities.

Registration Policy

Those families that are currently enrolled in REFENS and those families that have previously attended REFENS are eligible for Alumni Registration, held in February. General Registration will be held in March. The registration dates will be chosen by the Board of Directors. It is the responsibility of the family to contact the Co-Chair at co-chair@refens.com for the necessary registration forms.

All registrations must be made in person. If you cannot attend the registration session, someone else may register your child (another family member, friend, etc.) All registrations during the registration period are on a first come, first served basis. **Spots are only reserved once the \$40 Membership Fee, Tuition Deposit and**

Registration Forms are completed and handed in.

All inquiries regarding enrollment must be directed to the Co-Chair. All inquiries regarding program content may be directed to the teacher.

Substitute Policy

In the event that the teacher is absent, the REFENS Board, in consultation with the teacher, will hire a parent substitute teacher. We feel that familiarity with the children and the program is in the best interest of the students. If a parent substitute teacher is not available, the Board will source a substitute teacher externally.

Withdrawal Policy

If you withdraw your child from the REFENS program the \$40 Membership Fee and 10% Tuition Deposit are **non-refundable**. **You are required to pay for the month of withdrawal.** If you withdraw your child before March 31st the post-dated cheques not yet due will be returned. If you withdraw your child after March 31st. Your April and May post-dated cheques are **non-refundable**. It is **mandatory** that you fill out a **Withdrawal Form** at the time of withdrawal.

Confidentiality

In accordance with our licensing body's regulations and REFENS Privacy Policy, any information, verbal or written, regarding the children or their families, will not be released to anybody other than the legal guardians of the child. In the case of emergency or injury to the child, information may be released to the police or medical staff attending to the child.

Days and Times of Operation

REFENS will operate from September to June inclusively.

We follow the school calendar established by the RETSD School Board and therefore will be closed for Christmas Break, Spring Break and all statutory holidays. On some divisional and provincial in-service days, we do not have access to the classroom by decree of the River East Transcona School Division Board.

Each session will be as follows:

9:15-11:35 a.m.	Tuesday & Thursday
1:00-3:20 p.m.	Tuesday & Thursday
9:15-11:35 a.m.	Monday, Wednesday, Friday
1:00-3:20 p.m.	Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Whether a session will be a 3 or 4 year old class is determined annually by the Board of Directors based on registration numbers. Parents will be informed of class composition by telephone as soon as possible.

Class sizes

Maximum enrollment will be 12 children per class for the 3 year old program and 15 children per class for the 4 year old program. (Classes may be cancelled, combined or re-organized if registration does not meet minimum or exceeds maximum requirements. This decision will be made by the Teacher and the Board.)

Arrival and Departure

All children are to be brought into and picked up from our classroom by their parent or designated escort at the appropriate times. **Please do not leave children unattended in the foyer, hallway or classroom at any time.** If you cannot pick up your child, please inform the teacher in advance as to who will be picking up your child. REFENS assumes responsibility for the child when the child is in the classroom and signed into the attendance log.

Parents are asked to wait in the Joseph Teres School rear foyer (back entrance) no more than 5 minutes before class starts and ends. Anyone arriving any earlier must wait outside the school.

Please take your child to the washroom before class. This prevents interruptions in our program. Remember that if one child mentions having to go, it creates quite a chain reaction...

Fees/Annual Tuition

Payment will be due on the first day of school in September, there are 3 payment options:

1. Nine Monthly Installments - September thru May, postdated to the 1st of each month
2. Three Equal Installments - September, December and March, postdated to the 1st of each month
3. One Lump Sum, dated September 1st of the registration year

The non-refundable membership fee of \$40.00 (one per family) and 10% tuition deposit are due and cashed at the time of initial registration.

A fee of \$15.00 will be charged for N.S.F. cheques. If payment is not received further actions will be taken in the form of a letter of warning, followed by the withdrawal of your child from REFENS.

Subsidy for children enrolled in REFENS is available from the Manitoba Provincial Government because we are a licensed Child Care Facility. However, the \$40 membership fee is NOT covered thru subsidy and is the responsibility of the parent and is due at the time of initial registration. Please contact the REFENS Treasurer at treasurer@refens.com for more details.

Health

If your child will be absent from class due to illness, you *may* call your class coordinator and he/she will advise the teacher. Because you bring your child to the classroom, the teacher will assume that if the child is not at school, then he/she must be with you – the parent.

If your child has an infectious disease, he/she should not be sent to school. Please advise the teacher as to the nature of the disease/infection so proper action can be taken. If your child arrives ill or becomes ill at school, the parent will be notified to pick up the child. No medication will be administered by the staff unless the required form is filled out and signed by the parent. In case of outbreak of a communicable disease, REFENS will notify the Public Health Office and the area Day Care Coordinator. If there is a known case of German measles, mothers in their first 3 months of pregnancy are advised to stay away from the Nursery School.

River East Transcona School Division has a **NO PEANUT** policy in all buildings. In accordance with the guidelines for life-threatening allergies, there are to be no peanut/nut products of any kind brought into the division's facilities.

Please note these specifications:

Chicken Pox

- Child is taken home as soon as possible.
- Cannot return to school until all sores are scabbed over.

Lice

- Child is taken home as soon as possible.
- Cannot return to school until he/she has received 2 treatments and all nits are removed.

Life-threatening allergies

A policy has been developed by REFENS to deal with life-threatening allergies. Parents of children with such allergies should contact the teacher to receive a copy of this document and establish an action plan.

Pandemic Plan

In order to maintain a level of good health among our student population, the REFENS Board of Directors has developed this action plan.

BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Maintain communication with the teacher about classroom activities (i.e. absenteeism, classroom cleanliness...etc)

- Maintain communication with the parents.
- Have a list of three substitute teachers who are not within our immediate school population therefore not affected by our “germs”.
- Have a list of extra parent helpers so as to maintain adult/child ratios in case of sickness.

TEACHER’S RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Ensure good hand washing practices with all children and parent volunteers.
- Ensure that the children and parent volunteers practice healthy living habits (i.e. sneezing/coughing into their elbow, using a tissue and washing hands)
- Ensure cleanliness of the toys the children are using.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- If your child is sick, fevered, has nausea, vomiting, or any other flu like symptom, please keep them at home.
- If your child’s sickness persists, please take them to the appropriate medical personnel and inform us as needed regarding their status
- Practice good hand washing technique at home with your family.
- Sign-up for toy cleaning duties in the classroom to ensure a safe and healthy environment for your child.

We believe that prevention is the key to keep infection and germs from spreading! We can assist in keeping the classroom clean and germ free for the safety of our children and their educator.

Behaviour Management

REFENS and our Teacher do not accept the use of physical punishment, verbal or emotional abuse, or any harassment of the children to promote acceptable behaviour. Children are treated as individuals, each with different personalities, needs and aptitudes. Behaviour is managed in a caring and accepting environment in which children are encouraged to participate fully in the program and enjoy their experience while learning new developmental skills. Positive behaviour is rewarded through positive reinforcement. Negative behaviour is discouraged through negative re-enforcement (i.e. discussion with the child, temporary withdrawal of some privileges, calming the child through discussion in a quieter area of the room) and finally, any behaviour problems of a more serious nature are discussed with the parents so that a mutual and consistent approach can be worked out. Children are encouraged to behave in an acceptable manner in order to develop both individual skills and positive peer relationships, but not in a way that promotes regimentation or stifles individuality. All behaviour strategies used are based on the child’s developmental capabilities.

If a child must be disciplined in class he/she will be spoken to and the teacher will notify the parent that same day. If the problem persists the teacher will seek parental assistance to overcome the problem. If, however, the child continues on a regular basis to disrupt the class, the Board of Directors may ask for the removal of the child from the program.

Any incident that occurs in the classroom or outside of the class, (e.g. to or from the washroom, playground, etc.) not witnessed by the teacher, **MUST** be reported by the parent helper to the teacher. This ideally should be reported at the site of incident whenever possible, or as soon as the parent helper returns to class.

All of the following situations must be reported to the teacher (regardless of whether the child seems “fine” or not):

- Any type of accident.
 - falling anywhere in the school, playground, gym or on school outings.
 - bumps, scratches (no matter how minor they seem)
 - wetting of clothing either due to accident or spills.
- Complaints made by child.
 - stomach aches, headaches, feeling hot or cold, not feeling well.
- Emotional upsets.
 - crying, tantrums, aggressiveness, running away, etc.

If the teacher is not present and the helper feels that disciplinary action is necessary, let it be known that REFENS does not condone ANY TYPE OF PHYSICAL OR EMOTIONAL PUNISHMENT. All disciplinary measures must be positively reinforced and reported to the teacher IMMEDIATELY so that the parents can be informed at the completion of class.

To date we have not had an incident with any helper overstepping their disciplinary boundaries.

Please be advised that if an incident were to arise and cause physical and/or emotional harm to child in our care, REFENS would file a complaint with Manitoba Child and Family Services. The helper in question would then be relieved of any future helper dates until an investigation was completed.

REFENS is responsible to account for any and every incident while your child is in our care.

We do sincerely appreciate all of our classroom helpers and we thank you all for ensuring the safety of our children and our program.

Travel Policy

- Permission slips must be signed by parents prior to field trips or outings.
- When traveling to or from outings or field trips, all children in

- the vehicle must be restrained properly with seat belts.
- REFENS is responsible for all children prior to leaving the classroom. Once directions and instructions have been given and the children have left the classroom, they become the driver's responsibility.
 - REFENS resumes responsibility of all children once they have gathered and have been accounted for at the destination.
 - All drivers should review their liability insurance prior to volunteering to drive children to outings or field trips.

Emergency Procedures

Fire Drills

Every month we will be practicing what to do in case of a fire in our school. We will also be learning about fire safety with PLAY SAFE! BE SAFE! a program designed especially for young children. On occasion, the fire bells will ring in the school and we must evacuate along with everyone else.

If you are the parent helper on a fire drill day, your duties are as follows:

- Get the children calmly to the big carpet. The teacher will open the door and lead us to the nearest fire exit.
- In winter, grab as many coats as possible and carry them outside with you.
- When we are all safely outside, we will dress the children.
- You are the last person to leave the classroom – leave the lights on and close the door.

Please check the map in the classroom designating the nearest fire exit. If you are waiting in the school when the fire bell rings, use the nearest exit to leave the building.

First Aid Kit - is in the class backpack we take to the bathroom

PA system (to reach the office) - the call button is below the chalkboard.

Evacuation

In the event of any school evacuation, we will be sent to Park City West Community Club (115 Sanford Fleming Road). In such an emergency, you will be contacted by telephone as soon as possible.

Lockdown

The River East Transcona School Division and the Province of Manitoba require that each school have procedures in place to use in situations where students need to be kept in a safe location within the school. This is referred to as a *lockdown procedure*. This procedure might be used in a variety of circumstances: a medical situation in

which the hallways must be kept clear, a situation outside the building such as a fire in the neighborhood, an unknown person in the school or any other situation the administration feels would warrant keeping the students safe in their classrooms. Students must practice this procedure a minimum of twice per year so that if there ever is a need to use the lockdown procedure, it will happen quickly and effectively. Procedures are practiced similar to fire drills. Before such a procedure practice takes place, teachers will explain the rationale and procedures to students at a developmentally appropriate level.

What does this mean for REFENS? As a private program within the walls of Joseph Teres School, we must follow along with the plan. In our class, the safe and secure spot is the back storage room. The children, the helper and the teacher would head into the back room and sit on the floor until we get the all clear from the office. This room is a safe place because the door is locked from the inside and because we are short, we cannot be seen from the windows - they are too high! We believe that our students are too young to understand what will be happening, so other than telling them that we are going to a safe spot, we will not go into details about why we are staying safe. In such an emergency, you will be contacted as soon as possible.

Child Abuse

Our first responsibility is to your child. If we suspect any form of child abuse, it will be reported immediately to the proper authorities.

Insurance

REFENS has adequate liability insurance.

OPERATING PROCEDURES

Daily timetable

All activities are inclusive and based on the developmental capabilities of the child.

15 mins: Arrival and free play

20 mins: Circle time (O Canada, attendance, daily helpers, calendar, weather)

30 mins: Directed activity to develop motor skills

30 mins: Center time (stories and language arts, math and manipulative, housekeeping, creative art, science and discovery, music and movement, blocks and building, sand table, water table or bead table)

15 mins: Classroom clean-up and washroom break

10 mins: Juice break and clean-up

10 mins: Story time

10 mins: Game (outdoors or indoors)

NOTE: Order of events may differ on some days

School Supplies

Your child will need the following items at school:

- *indoor shoes*
- *backpack* – please provide a bag large enough to carry a good sized craft and other paraphernalia. Please check your child's basket after every class to find out what your child created and for any notices.
- *clothing* – please provide a change of clothing including underwear and socks, in the event of spills or accidents.
- *a plastic cup* – (no straw or lid) please provide a plastic cup for our “beverage break” that will be washed by your child and left in their basket. PLEASE DO NOT SEND FOOD, this is just a short break before we continue our day.
- *4-1L of juice* – please provide 4-1L of juice for our “beverage break” throughout the year.

Label ALL items with your Child's Name

School pictures

Individual and class pictures will be taken in the fall by a professional photographer. Parents are not obligated to purchase any of the photographs.

Parties/Concerts

To celebrate special occasions and to offer a chance to show off what we have learned, each class will host several parties throughout the school year. At Halloween, Christmas and at the end of the year, we invite Mom, Dad, brothers, sisters, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends...to visit our classroom and enjoy a concert prepared for the occasion. In January, we invite Grandparents to come and spend a class with us. In April, it's time for Mom and Dad to be spoiled on Parent's Day. These gatherings offer you the opportunity to get to know your child's friends and their families. For all these special occasions, the class coordinators will post a food sign-up sheet in the classroom next to the helper calendar. All of our parties are pot-luck thus giving you a chance to show off your culinary talents! If you do not come to the classroom on a regular basis, please call your class coordinator 2 weeks before the party and arrange for your contribution. Please ask if there are any food allergies in your child's class.

Birthdays

As it is not always possible to be at school on your child's birthday, we

designate ONE day and celebrate with all the children having a birthday that month. It would be greatly appreciated if, on this day, ONE parent could provide cupcakes or other birthday treat for us to share. If you have any special birthday requests, please let the teacher know during the month that precedes your child's birthday. Please ask if there are any food allergies in your child's class.

Outings

Outings are organized periodically throughout the year. These trips are integrated into the school curriculum and are geared specifically for young children to enhance the learning experience. Outings such as *Le village du Père Noël* (Santa's Village) and the *Children's Festival* are designed to show the children that they can use French in places other than school. Parents will be notified well in advance of an outing and are required to sign a permission form allowing their child to participate.

CODE OF CONDUCT

At River East French Exposure Nursery School, we strive to provide a safe and caring, learning environment for the children, staff and families. We believe in equality and respect diversity.

The following people are expected to behave in a respectful manner and comply with this code of conduct:

- Board of Directors
- Director/Teacher (referred to as "staff" in this document)
- Children
- Parents/guardians of children enrolled
- All others involved with our centre

Guiding Principles for Appropriate Behaviour

Be Respectful

We are respectful of ourselves and other people. We are respectful of the ideas and feelings of others. We are respectful of the environment, equipment and materials.

Be Safe

We work and play safely to help keep ourselves and others from getting hurt.

Be Cooperative

We solve our problems by talking and listening to each other respectfully to find a solution. When we cannot solve a problem ourselves, we ask for help.

Be Supportive of Learning

We learn to the best of our abilities and support the learning of others.

Developmental Capabilities of Children

We understand that it is normal for children to display inappropriate behaviour at times for a variety of reasons. The developmental capabilities of each child will always be considered when determining both expectations for behaviour and consequences of inappropriate behaviour.

Appropriate Use of Technology

All children, parents, staff and others involved in our centre must use e-mail, electronic devices and the Internet according to our policies. This protects people's privacy and the confidentiality of information.

Unacceptable Behaviours

The following behaviours by children, staff, parents and others involved in our centre are unacceptable:

- All forms of bullying (physical, verbal, emotional, social or cyber bullying), including comments, actions or visual displays that are intentional, hurtful and repetitive
- Harassment, including behaviour that degrades, demeans, humiliates or embarrasses someone that a reasonable person would know is unwelcome
- All forms of abuse (sexual, physical or psychological), including verbally, in writing or otherwise
- Discrimination against any person or group because of their race, colour, ancestry, nationality or place of origin, ethnic background, religion, age, sex, gender-determined characteristics, sexual orientation, marital and family status, source of income, political belief and physical or mental disability
- Actions that put another person at risk of harm, including violent physical acts (with or without a weapon) and threatening someone

Proactive Strategies

We actively strive to create an environment that supports the health, safety and well-being of the children by:

- Having realistic and developmentally appropriate expectations for behaviour
- Setting up the environment and materials to encourage appropriate behaviour and reduce potential for inappropriate behaviour
- Planning a program based on children's interests and developmental needs
- Establishing consistent yet flexible schedules and routines that help children gain trust, security and self-control

We create a positive environment for children, parents, staff and others involved in our centre by:

- Developing positive relationships, including making time to talk and listen

- Establishing clear, consistent, simple limits
- Stating limits in a positive way and periodically reminding people
- Providing explanations for limits
- Working together to solve problems
- Modelling and encouraging appropriate behaviour

Consequences for Inappropriate Behaviour

We will consistently respond to inappropriate behaviour by children, parents, staff and others involved in our centre by:

- reminding people of expectations and limits
- using a respectful approach to explain why a behaviour is inappropriate and what behaviour is expected
- talking only about the behaviour, not labelling the person
- responding sympathetically and acknowledging feelings
- establishing natural, logical consequences depending on the severity and frequency of the behaviour, we will consider further steps such as:
 - using behavioural analysis to learn what may be contributing to a child's inappropriate behaviour and how to help reduce or eliminate the behaviour
 - having a formal or informal meeting to discuss concerns and to develop an action plan to encourage appropriate behaviour in the future
 - developing a written contract with an adult or older child that outlines specific expectations and consequences
 - giving a written warning that outlines specific concerns and consequences if the behaviour continues
 - accessing outside resources for help, such as:
 - a behaviour specialist or other professionals to help staff understand and reduce a child's inappropriate behaviour
 - child and family services to access parenting supports
 - mediation services to resolve conflicts between adults
 - the Manitoba Human Rights Commission for information and advice to resolve an issue informally or to make a formal complaint if the behaviour involves discrimination or harassment
 - the police to assist with threatening behaviour

In extreme cases, we will take additional steps such as:

- suspending or dismissing a staff member
- suspending or withdrawing child care services because of a child's or family member's inappropriate behaviour
- in the case of a visitor not allowing the person to return to the centre
- contacting the police and/or child and family services (CFS), if the behaviour is illegal such as abuse, assault or threatening another person

Curriculum Statement

River East French Exposure Nursery School
Created by Michelline Lamontagne

Interaction and Relationships

A child's day starts the moment he/she walks through the door to our classroom. Children and their families are always greeted by the teacher by name and with a smile. Communication is encouraged by asking open ended questions about their evening or week-end, how they did with their "home-work", did they enjoy a certain activity with their family and other such topics. As children arrive at school, it is free play time thus allowing them some time to ease into the environment, seek out their friends or share with the teacher.

Our daily schedule gives the children a sense of stability as they know what activities are to come and what is expected from them. This being said, a schedule for children must also be flexible because it is important to follow the wave when an exciting activity or discovery enthalls the group.

We start our class with free play to make the most of learning opportunities. Play time makes up approximately 60 minutes of our 2 hour and 20 minute class time since preschool children learn best while they play. During this time the children have access to a wide variety of play materials and optional activities.

We have circle time which gives us all an opportunity to talk or to listen as someone usually has something they want to share with us! This leads us to our structured learning time where the children have the opportunity to practice a new fine motor skill, do a science experiment or try out a new art technique under the direction of the teacher. All the children have the time that is needed to complete their activity and then move on to free play in areas of choice. When play time is over, we clean up our toys, tidy the room. We also have a juice break when everyone has the chance to sit at the table for some conversation with friends. The library is set out along with some comfortable pillows so everyone can sit and read either alone or with a buddy and before we know it, we must say "Au revoir" as our class is over.

Our routine allows us to learn and play in a school space. We use our classroom, we walk through the halls to the bathroom, attend assemblies in the meeting area, interact with the secretaries and principal in the office and always are happy to see our friendly custodian!

We also get to experience the outside world by going on outings to the local fire hall, attending the Children's Festival to name but two. We

have access to a great outdoor play space which is used in all seasons. In class learning is our primary focus, but every year our Board of Directors also organizes an evening event for all our REFENS families.

Environments

Our main learning environment is our classroom. The play space and materials are planned in advance by staff. It is arranged to meet a variety of needs for children's play. Staff use themes to determine which materials to put on shelves, but may modify this plan to include what children are showing an interest in. We have a house area - where the children can play with dolls or dress-up or the play kitchen; there is the science station - with magnifying glasses and magnets to help maintain our curiosity; there is the small toy area where children can play with cars and people and animals; we have a craft station where masterpieces can be created with recyclables and buttons and bows and imagination; our computer is a great place to sit with a friend to learn and play. Books and puzzles are renewed every month to keep the children interested but the great variety of toys in our class are available to all during the school year, whenever they are ready to be discovered!

We have a large carpeted area, great for building castles with wooden blocks where children learn to balance and solve problems or having a picnic with the food from the play kitchen where children learn to negotiate and get along with others. We have a variety of tables, some large enough for kids to do a puzzle at one end or diaper a doll at the other! In both examples, children develop their fine motor skills like dexterity and coordination.

We have small tables that work well for serving a delicious meal from the kitchen. There is a small curtained area which serves as a quiet sharing spot where 2 or 3 friends can sit and giggle while they build relationships with each other! The big comfy chair is a great place for one or two children to curl up with a good book from the library and a teddy bear to share an adventure!

Children are allowed to move freely about the room, using the space as they see fit from day to day. Some days will see our tables used for brilliant creativity with glue, tape, card board and buttons whereas on another day, it will be the framework for a really great tent!

In our class everyone works together. Children are encouraged to help each other out at work or at play by lifting a heavy toy as a team or helping a friend put on some dress-up clothes. When a child wishes to play alone, this is respected by the others too!

Our students are well represented and proud of their classroom. Their class photo is framed and hanging on the wall. Their individual picture is

hanging on the magnet board and the bulletin boards are always displaying something that was created by our students during our class to show children's development and learning to families. We run a slide show on our computer showing pictures of the fun we had in class. At pick-up time, the teacher takes the opportunity to talk to parents about their child's accomplishments that day - whether it is writing their name for the first time or the way their child offered comfort to a sad friend it is important to communicate these classroom events.

The multi-cultural nature of our society is reflected in our program. Our books feature all types of people and places; our dolls represent many different races of our planet; our play food is very international – the children can make chicken fingers or sushi depending on the mood of the day! The dress-up clothes are made for either boys or girls and represent a variety of occupations and styles. This way, children feel they belong, but are also exposed to differences.

Because our Nursery School is a co-operative with only one salaried employee – the teacher – each family is required to co-teach during 6-8 classes throughout the year. We get to know each child's Mom, Dad, grandparent or aunt/uncle and each person brings something unique to our classroom environment. We also have a relationship with the other students in our school. The grade 4 students give up their recess time to come and help out in our class. This is a wonderful way to get to know some big kids and to bring different play ideas to our students.

The children are encouraged to treat our classroom with respect. Brooms and dust pans are available to the children if they make a mess, we have sinks with cloths, soap and towels at kid level to clean up accidents so they learn self help skills! When it is clean-up time, a count-down of a few minutes is given and then the clean-up music starts! Each person is responsible for the toys and tools that they play with but if they are done before the others each child is encouraged to help his/her friends!

Planned and spontaneous experiences

During class time there is a mixture of child-led and teacher led activities. Child-led activities occur spontaneously because of a discovery a child has made. Sometimes they lead to discoveries for the whole class. One day we clipped all of our pegs together and discovered that our class was not big enough for all of them. We took our toys into the hall and laid all the pegs end to end. This led to us counting not only the pegs we used, but also the floor tiles we covered and how many children laid head to toe it took to reach the end of our peg line! This experience led to many measuring activities and discovery of measuring tools.

During circle time, children take turns being the “*étoile de la journée*”, the designated teacher's helper, by taking attendance, discovering the captains of the day and completing the calendar Even though one child is

the leader for all these jobs, all the children have the opportunity to contribute. When taking attendance, each child has the opportunity to predict how many children are actually at school. When discovering the names of our captains, all children read the letters of the names. When looking for the correct number on the calendar, all children offer help to the “étoile” because good friends help each other out!

Teacher-led activities are planned in advance by staff. Staff use themes to determine a starting point for an activity but may modify it to include what children are showing an interest in. This gives children hands on opportunities to learn about their interests. As an example, when we learn about the exciting properties of combining vinegar and baking soda, extra supplies are available to the children in containers they can reach for them to try the experiment again or to explore different combinations of the elements.

Our nursery school curriculum is always evolving! The planned activities are interpreted in different ways by different groups of children and influenced by what they know from other education adventures. This makes River East French Exposure Nursery School an exciting and dynamic place to learn and grow!

REFENS Goals and Objectives

- To create a safe and stimulating environment where a child may participate in group play and develop independence and self-confidence.
- To offer a setting that will encourage natural curiosity and stimulate the creativity of each child.
- To provide a happy and fruitful environment for a child.
- To provide varied forms of development for a child.
- To teach the child how to play with others.
- To teach the child how to relate to other children and to a teacher.
- To bring about a child that will be balanced emotionally and physically in a suitable environment.
- For a child to have fun while developing self-awareness and self-esteem.
- To provide a child with exposure to all exercise, play, etc. to promote and ensure the complete development of fine and gross motor skills.
- To develop an appreciation for music and rhythm.
- To vary the child's interests through a variety of arts and crafts.
- To encourage expression through songs, dance and games.
- To expose the child to the French language.
- To give a child a positive and loving approach towards school and teacher.
- To increase a child's knowledge.
- To awaken in a child the sense of taking responsibility and the joy of being a responsible person.
- To encourage an interest in books and reading.
- To accept and love others and to be loved and accepted in return.
- To respect and value nature and environment.

ABOVE ALL ELSE OUR GOAL IS TO PROVIDE AN ENVIRONMENT THAT WILL HELP YOUR CHILD TO DEVELOP INTO A HAPPY, SUCCESSFUL AND WELL-ROUNDED PERSON.

RIVER EAST FRENCH EXPOSURE NURSERY SCHOOL CO-OP



Located in
Joseph Teres School
131 Sanford Fleming Rd

WE OFFER:

- An introduction to the French language for 3 and 4 year olds.
- Qualified teacher with a Bachelor of Education.
- Development of motor skills.
- Self-expression through games, art and songs.
- A safe and stimulating environment to develop independence & self-confidence.
- The opportunity to establish leadership and to accept responsibilities.

For information regarding REFENS
please see our website at refens.com