



Tiny Tots Co-operative Nursery School

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Tuesday, August 25, 2020

Dear West Elgin Council:

On Friday August 21st Tiny Tots received the news from Aldborough Public School that they no longer have space available for our programs and gave us notice to vacate the premises; this just two weeks before the beginning of our school year. After spending three and a half months acquiring and licensing that space as our temporary home until the proposed build was completed and having only been in the new location for five months, this was devastating news.

It is a very time consuming and laborious task to get a new location licensed but this is what we are faced with to continue to support our local families with young children. With a history of forty-two years in this community, nursery school is still a vital and relevant service that we cannot let lapse.

Our organization has incredible support from Children's Services St. Thomas Elgin, as well as the Ministry of Education. Currently we are asking for the support of the Municipality of West Elgin in securing a new location. The West Elgin Community Centre in Rodney seems to be the best viable location at present. Due to the pandemic and the centre currently being in use at this time only for municipal meetings we are hopeful that you would consider the possibility of Tiny Tots renting the meeting room at this location. It has previously been licensed by the Ministry for summer camp so it would likely be the best way for Tiny Tots programs to be running again with the shortest delay. We understand that due to Covid it is difficult to make decisions as things are changing daily and if you have any other suggestions for a new location, we are open to all ideas. Tiny Tots will be following the Ministry document – Operational Guidance During Covid-19 Outbreak – Child Care Re-Opening Version 3 – August 2020 to ensure all safety and health protocols are followed. We are currently asking our families to complete a survey and so far, the consensus is that they are ready to go back to school when we have secured a location.

Ideally, we would be looking for space where we could leave our classroom set up. We have thousands of dollars in new furniture, equipment and resources that creates our quality space. Due to Covid, sharing space is not advisable. Tiny Tots days and hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 9:00 to 11:30am. The three staff would need to be there at 8:30am and finish at 1pm for time for extensive cleaning and sanitizing. We are hopeful to also be able to resume EarlyON programs on Tuesday mornings, Wednesday afternoons and Friday mornings.

We appreciate your assistance in this matter and thank you for your years of support of our organization. If any other information is needed please reach out to the contact information at the top of this letter.

Sincerely,

Shelley Smith

Supervisor, RECE,
Tiny Tots Co-op Nursery School