



New Families - Things to Bring List

We're excited that you will be joining us soon!

Prior to your first day, we require you to set up at least two, if not 3 or 4, visits at the daycare. This allows you the chance to talk with teachers, your child to get comfortable with the environment, and a chance to prepare and sign enrollment documents.

The Program Managers will be in touch with you shortly to set up visits. In the meantime, please feel free to contact them with any questions:

- Joana in the Pre-K Program is prek@nanaimoinnovation.org
- Vanessa in the IT Program is it@nanaimoinnovation.org
- Misty in the Forest School Program is forest@nanaimoinnovation.org

If your child is not accustomed to being away from you or has never been to daycare, you may want to consider a gradual entry. For younger children, we strongly suggest that the first day at the centre is a half day, as nap time is the hardest transition and we like the first day to be a positive one. If your child doesn't nap, a half-day/shorter time away from you is still good.

Registration Documents

We will need these documents before your child can start at the daycare, as it is a VIHA (Vancouver Island Health Authority) requirement and it ensures that we are prepared in case of emergency. You can either email the documents to the daycare manager or bring them in during one of your pre-enrollment visits.

- A recent photo of your child
- A photo of your family (two copies)
- A copy of their immunization record
- A copy of their birth certificate
- A copy of their care card
- An Emergency Preparedness Kits (see below for details)
- We will also send out our daycare resources link for you to review our daycare policies and a form to sign by both parents/guardians. You can either bring in the signed confirmation or we will have printed copies ready.

Daily Items to Bring

For the Pre-K and IT Programs, here is a list of items you should ensure your child has each day. We provide reminders on what to bring as the seasons change.

The Forest School Program has additional requirements. Please see the Forest School Handbook for more information on what to bring for this program.

But before we begin....we can't stress enough how helpful it is if you label all of your belongings.

Indoor Equipment:

- A pair of clean indoor shoes (please leave them in their cubby). These must not have been previously used as outdoor shoes (or have been washed and bleached on the bottoms).
- A couple of extra pair of socks.

- If your child is prone to having accidents, it is best to pack a couple of extra pairs of pants and underwear.
- We have some extra clothes at the daycare for children to use. We ask that if they go home, they come back washed. If you prefer to use your own, feel free to pack some from home.
- A water bottle (no juice, please). Please make sure you label your bottle. This must be left at the daycare. We wash these in our dishwasher every day. Metal is better, as the plastic sometimes melts in our commercial dishwasher. Please feel free to exchange them periodically.
- Please send an updated picture of your family with your child so we can add it to our family album. Each program has a family album so your child can show a picture of their family to their friends.
- In the IT program only, we have a fridge for milk, formula, and/or breast milk. We also provide a water bottle for IT kids each day so no need to bring one in.
- If your child naps or likes to have a rest, please feel free to bring a comfort item. We provide all bedding items for the children. Bedding will be secured separately and washed weekly.
- Diapers and wipes (if needed). Please label you wipes. Please provide enough for at least a week or more. Teacher will let you know when your supply is getting low.

Outdoor Equipment (weather dependant):

- outdoor shoes/ waterproof boots
- a sun hat or warm toque
- a waterproof jacket or warm sweater
- waterproof clothing (to be left at the daycare during the rainy season). Rain pants and a rain jacket are better than muddy buddies or one-pieces suits, as they allow your child the independence to go to the washroom more easily.
- waterproof gloves
- please note that the Forest Pre-K will have a more detailed list that will be sent out by email prior to your start

Other Things you May Need to Bring:

- any medication
- extra glasses

Please DO NOT Bring:

- Toys or other items from home (unless it is their 'show and tell' day...see the calendar). We request you leave home items at home, unless you feel the need to bring one item for napping or as a comfort item if your child is in the IT program.
- Any commercialized clothing, toys or products—such as Disney, Marvel, Paw Patrols, Spiderman, Thomas the Train...
- Any clothing that is fancy or special. Your child WILL get dirty.
- Any foods, as we have a food program where children can eat until their body tells them they are full. All snacks and lunches will be prepared by our Kitchen and Nutrition Manager,
- Blankets or bedding for napping. These will be provided and washed regularly.

Please remember to label all personal items

We have an ongoing fundraiser with Mabel's Labels. We are registered as a non-profit so that 20% of any purchases goes back to the daycare. You can also sign up for a newsletter and save 10% (then just cancel the newsletter afterwards). Here's what you do:

- Go here: https://mabelslabels.ca/en_CA/fundraising/support/
- Search for Nanaimo Innovation Academy
- Click on the newsletter to get 10% off
- Buy labels (add the 10% code)
- Cancel the newsletter :)

Emergency Preparation items

We have a general emergency kit for the daycare. Please provide a personalized medium-sized Ziploc bag containing:

- A non-perishable snack
- Lightstick (the ones you snap to make work). You can get these at a dollar store.
- Family photo (two in total needed, as we request one above too).
- A positive note
- Emergency contact information
- Anything else you think your child will need.

Your child's emergency kit must not exceed a medium-sized Ziploc bag. It will be returned to you, once your child no longer attends.

Please let us know if you have any questions and/or suggestions.

We look forward to welcoming your child to Nanaimo Innovation Academy.