



Bee School Application

Name of School

Small Hands Big Minds Childcare

Address

427 Lesabre Street
Oshawa, Ontario
L1K 1E3

Name of Applicant

Kirste York

Applicant's Job Title

Owner/Operator

Organization or Department

Home childcare

Applicant's Email

smallhandsbigminds@live.ca

Applicant's Phone

+12899285594

Are you the primary contact person?

Yes

Briefly summarize why your school should become a Bee City School.

Our small home daycare has a natural outdoor play space, which includes a combined sand pit/garden, a mud kitchen surrounded by wildflowers 2 solitary bee houses (which have been busy with leaf cutters), and a small vegetable garden. Our play space promotes interaction with various pollinators. The children are encouraged to observe the pollinators in our space with respect and without fear. We enjoy watching the small solitary bees, that make our space their home, move from flower to flower and observing the pollen which they have collected. We discuss the importance of pollinators and enjoy snacking on peas and tomatoes in our garden, which grew with the help of our pollinators. We are currently in the progress of registering as a certified Monarch Watch Waystation. We have 2 bird houses which are home to a family of sparrows and a family of wren.

In order to enhance the understanding of the students and staff about the vital role that pollinators play in a healthy ecosystem, the applicant agrees to meet the following commitments required of all Bee City Schools:

1. Adopt the Bee City Canada Resolution (see section G).
 2. Create a Bee City Pollinator Team.
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Pollinator Team Members

Planner/Lead - Myself - Kirste York
Labour/Grounds keeper - Corry York
Students- ages 1-3 - assisting with annual plantings and observations.

3. Develop a Pollinator Habitat Action Plan:

We will continue to plant and maintain a wild flower garden and maintain and add new bee houses as needed. Our current play space gardens includes Bee Balm, Purple Coneflower, Orange Coneflower, Evening Primrose, Wild Bergamot, Swamp Milkweed, Common Milkweed, Butterfly Weed and a Small Service Berry Tree. We do not use any pesticides or herbicides on the property. Our goal is to add more variety of wildflowers over the years.

4. Promote Education about Pollinators:

We regularly share our progress and observations privately with parents on social media as well as on a public facebook page.

5. Celebrate Pollinators:

We will plant new wildflowers, and leading up to the week have a unit on bees/flowers and monarch life cycle. We could send home wildflower packets with each of the children to plant at home. We will be participating in the Monarch Tagging Program in the fall and currently have several eggs, caterpillars, and chrysalis in our care.

I/we, the undersigned agree to:

1. Publicly acknowledge Bee City School designation through publicly displayed signage, city/region/community website and other means.
 2. Annually re-apply for Bee City School designation. A renewal application will be sent to you.
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Please submit a short 50-100 word write-up of why it's important to become a Bee City School.

I feel it is important to teach even the youngest of children about bees and pollinators. We do not need to be afraid of the wondrous insects that provide us good healthy food. Through public

acknowledgement we can encourage neighbours and families to manage pests without pesticides or herbicides, and keep some early flowering weeds as first foods for bees.

Attach your school logo (png format) with any usage guidelines.

 [logo_adobespark.png](#)

Signature of Principal/Official

Kirste York

Date

07/15/2021