

2. Overview of the Proposal

We explained the following:

- Licensed Montessori preschool program
- Age groups served
- Maximum number of children
- Staff-to-child ratios following provincial licensing rules
- Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Closed on weekends
- Drop-off and pick-up procedures
- Use of the existing church parking lot

We made it clear that this is a small preschool, open only during the day, and meant to serve local families.

3. Main Questions and Concerns

Zoning and Development

One person shared concerns about new construction and more commercial zoning in residential areas.

We explained that this preschool is not a large commercial project. It is a small childcare program for local families.

There will be:

- No large new building
- No increase in housing density
- No evening or weekend business hours

The preschool will operate only during weekday daytime hours and is designed to fit into the neighborhood without changing its residential character.

Church Affiliation

Someone asked if the preschool is run by the church.

We clarified that the preschool is an independent business and is not operated by the church.

Parking and Traffic

Some concerns were raised about parking and possible traffic.

We explained that:

- We will use the existing church parking lot.

- Parking is only for short drop-off and pick-up.
- Parents will stay about 5–10 minutes.
- No long-term or overnight parking.
- Open only Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Closed on weekends.

This system is designed to reduce traffic and avoid disruption to nearby streets.

Community Safety

One concern was raised about homeless individuals sometimes camping in the church parking lot.

We explained that this issue is separate from the preschool and not connected to our program.

We also shared that having regular daytime activity at the site may help reduce this issue. When a place is actively used during the day, it often improves safety and awareness.

Licensed childcare programs must follow strict safety rules and government regulations. The presence of a preschool would likely increase supervision and attention to the site during daytime hours.

We believe the preschool will bring positive daytime activity to the area.

4. Written Feedback

No written submissions were received.

5. Overall Summary

We clearly presented the preschool plan and answered all questions.

While two attendees expressed concerns, these were related to broader development issues in Esquimalt and the presence of homeless individuals in the church parking area, rather than the proposed preschool operation.

Other attendees were interested in when the preschool will open and how enrollment will work.

The preschool was presented as:

- Small project
- For local families
- Open during the day only
- Low impact
- Respectful of the residential neighborhood
- Designed to minimize traffic and parking issues
- Expected to bring positive daytime activity to the site

All questions were answered, and the meeting ended respectfully.