

## **Why Chose a Licensed Facility?**

The Tottle Inn Children's Centres are licensed through the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services, Early Childhood Education Division. Licensing means all regulations set forth in the Nova Scotia Day Care Act must be followed.

Licensed centres are regularly inspected by several professionals who are very valuable resources to the centres. These professionals include: an Early Childhood Development Officer, the Fire Marshal, municipal building inspector and a food safety specialist from the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture.

Some of the regulations which must be adhered to include: staff training requirements, teacher to child ratios, safety regulations, safe food preparation, menu planning, curriculum planning, classroom size, learning materials and equipment, outdoor play areas, parent communication, insurance requirements and several other areas of focus which are monitored by the specialists listed above.

Adults providing care to children outside of a licensed facility do not have specialists visiting their locations to help ensure the safety and best interests of the children are being met. There are regulations in place regarding the number of children an unlicensed care provider may provide care for at any given time, however since these care providers are not registered with the Department of Community Services, they are not monitored as licensed facilities are.

Although licensing helps to ensure minimum requirements are being met on a consistent basis, The Tottle Inn Children's Centre strives to exceed the minimum requirements set forth in the day care act.

Additional information regarding the licensing process can be found at:

[http://www.gov.ns.ca/coms/families/early\\_childhood\\_license.html](http://www.gov.ns.ca/coms/families/early_childhood_license.html)