Welcome to **BIG SKY STUDIOS**!

Thank you for choosing **Big Sky Studios** Camp! We can't wait to have your child come to camp and to provide them with a safe, fun, creative experience. At **Big Sky Studios** we believe in facilitating the natural inclination of the child to flow in the process of art-making, and we strive to provide an environment where this is not only possible, but enthusiastically encouraged.

It is a core value of **Big Sky Studios** to be a safe, inclusive space for all to explore ideas, make messes, and be together. We collaborate and share ideas, as well as encourage (and expect!) kindness always. We focus on the process and exploration of art and creativity as opposed to the end result.

Our Goals and Outcomes

At **Big Sky Studios**, our goal is for each child to have a fun, creative, and supported time at camp. We plan our programs to align with our goals. You can expect your child to experience:

- Getting messy
- Being creative and using their imagination
- Learning new art skills and techniques
- Being challenged to learn or try something new
- Being encouraged to collaborate with peers
- Participating in group activities and games
- Feeling safe, heard, and included

Our Staff

At **Big Sky Studios**, our co-founders Maggie Spring and Annie Webber are at the helm! Maggie is a mom of two young kids and an artist and maker. She has experience running kids art workshops and holds a bachelor of arts in Studio Art. Annie is an artist and educator with over 20 years of experience creating beautiful moments to engage kids' hearts and minds. She holds a bachelor of arts in Animation. Both Maggie and Annie also work in childcare and love to provide creative, fun, and messy experiences for the kids they work with.

Both Maggie and Annie hold current certifications in First Aid and CPR-C and have completed a criminal record check with a Vulnerable Sector Check through the Hamilton Police Services.

We also welcome student volunteers for each camp day who are completing their high school volunteer hours. If an adult is interested in volunteering with us, they will have also completed a criminal record check with a Vulnerable Sector Check through the Hamilton Police Services.

Getting Ready for Camp

Please come prepared for mess! Though it isn't guaranteed, we don't shy away from making art that gets messy – so please don't come dressed in your favourite outfit! We recommend packing a change of clothes just in case.

Here's a handy dandy list of everything you should bring:

1. *A packed lunch (nut-free, please!).*
2. *A reusable water bottle filled with water.*
3. *A change of clothes in case of accidents or messes.*
4. *Weather-appropriate outerwear.*

We understand some of our campers may feel more comfortable bringing a toy or stuffy. We encourage any safe and noise-free items that will help our friends to feel their best at camp. Please note, if your child elects to bring a toy it is their responsibility. We cannot be held responsible for lost items.

Signing In & Out

Upon arrival, please check in with Maggie to sign your child in. If someone other than a parent or legal guardian will be picking up your child, please let us know. Only individuals listed as authorized pick ups or emergency contacts will be permitted to sign participants out. When your child is picked up, please ensure they are signed out with Annie or Maggie.

Medication & Allergies

While we will always take care to ensure prevention of allergic reactions, we cannot assume the responsibility to ensure an "allergen-free" environment. If your child has a life-threatening allergy, please notify us during the registration process and ensure they have their EpiPen with them at camp. If your child requires prescription medication during the time they are at camp, please ensure you have contacted us during the registration process to discuss. Parents/guardians will complete a medication form if needed. This also includes epi-pens.

Snacks & Lunches

At **Big Sky Studios**, we strive to be environmentally sensitive and encourage you to pack a litter-less lunch if you can. Please send enough food for a small morning and afternoon snack as well as a lunch. Snacks and lunches need to be 100% peanut and tree-nut free. Please note that packed food will not be refrigerated, so we recommend using ice packs to keep food cool.

Illness Policy & Prevention

It is a top priority at **Big Sky Studios** to provide a safe environment for our campers and staff. If your child is unwell, please do not send them to camp. If your child experiences symptoms of illness while at camp, you will be contacted and requested to promptly pick up your child. We are

committed to following all health and safety protocols identified by our local Public Health Unit to ensure your child's camp experience is as safe as possible. Children and staff may choose to wear masks at camp, though it is not required.

Inclusivity Policy

At **Big Sky Studios**, everyone is welcome. We create a space where everyone can create, learn, express themselves, and feel safe being who they are.

We are proudly 2SLGBTQIA+ affirming and committed to maintaining a studio environment where every person is treated with dignity, respect, and care, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or any other aspect of their identity.

Big Sky Studios has **zero tolerance for discrimination, harassment, bullying, hate speech, intimidation, or disrespect** directed toward any member of our studio community.

This includes, but is not limited to, conduct based on:

- Sexual orientation
- Gender identity or gender expression
- 2SLGBTQIA+ identity
- Race, ethnicity, or cultural background
- Indigenous identity
- Religion or belief
- Disability or neurodivergence
- Age
- Body size or appearance
- Socioeconomic background
- Immigration or citizenship status
- Or any other protected or personal characteristic

Everyone has the right to be addressed by their chosen name and pronouns. Misgendering, deadnaming, deliberately refusing to use someone's stated name or pronouns, or repeatedly challenging someone's gender identity or expression is not acceptable in our studio. We ask everyone to make a genuine effort to use the names and pronouns people provide and to respectfully correct themselves when mistakes happen.

The following behaviours are not permitted:

- Homophobic, transphobic, biphobic, or otherwise anti-2SLGBTQIA+ comments or slurs
- Harassment, bullying, intimidation, or threats
- Sexual harassment or unwanted sexualized behaviour

- Mocking, questioning, or invalidating someone's identity
- Any behaviour intended to make another person feel unsafe, unwelcome, or excluded

We are committed to continually learning, listening, and improving.

Our studio is a space for **creativity, community, self-expression, and belonging**. You should not have to hide who you are, defend your identity, or tolerate discrimination in order to participate here.

Parent/Guardian Support

There may be occasions when a camper's behaviour or circumstances are such that they cannot remain at camp. In any instance where a participant is being sent home from camp (for behaviour or health reasons), it is the sole responsibility of the parent/guardian to make arrangements for the participant to be picked up immediately.

In the event a camper's behaviour results in damages or harm to property, belongings, an individual, etc., the parent/guardian is responsible for covering any applicable financial expenses.

Cancellation Policy

We understand that circumstances can change. If you need to request a refund, please email us at bigskyhamilton@gmail.com. Please note that fees are non-refundable within 5 days of the camp. Refunds will not be issued if a camper is ill or sent home for any reason outlined above.