

Wee R Kids

Spring 2014 Newsletter

Early Learning becomes Lifelong Learning



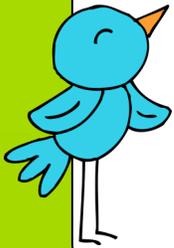
Statutory Holidays:

The agency office and all providers are closed **ALL** statutory holidays, parents are expected to find other care arrangements for all holidays including Christmas break. If the holiday falls on a weekend, we will be closed the following Monday in honour of that holiday.

Please be respectful of our staff and providers, they all have earned time off.

SPRING HOLIDAYS:

April 3 Good Friday April 6 Easter Monday May 18 Victoria Day



Good Spring Morning!

It seems as though our winter was more spring than anything else. I wore flip flops throughout the season. We definitely have little to complain about in our area, such beautiful weather compared to other parts of our continent. We sure are blessed here.

I hope you are all looking forward to some spring planting, cleaning, and fun. As for our agency, we have been re-accredited and re-licensed, so we have had a very busy winter. Thank you to all who helped us in the last few months.

Please remember to make your payments by your individual due dates, it important that we have money put into the bank so that we can pay your providers for the great care they offer.

Have a wonderful spring and a happy Easter! Next newsletter be in June.



angel

"Outdoors, children can run about and have a sense of freedom which otherwise they would not experience indoors."

~Unknown

Weekly At The Library:

Monday:

Babes in the Library 10am-10:30am

Tuesday:

Time for 2's 10am-10:30am

Wednesday:

Stories and Stuff 10am-10:30am

Babes in the Library 10:45am-11:15am

Thursday:

Stories and Stuff 10am-10:30am

Rhyme Time 10am-11am

Friday:

Rhyme Time 10am-11am

Saturday:

Small and Tall 10am-10:30am



Butterflies
By Jennifer Hurtig

Did you know that the monarch butterfly travels as far as 2,000 miles (3,200 km) south in the winter? It does this to find warmer weather. Learn more in Butterflies, an AV2 media enhanced book.

Saturday's at the Galt

Activities and Crafts from the past.
Every Saturday at the Galt Museum
1pm call 320-3954 for more details
www.galtmuseum.com



Eggstravaganza:

Create amazing Easter crafts, face painting, Easter bunny, and more!
April 4 10am-2pm
All Ages! \$4/adult & \$3/child 1year and up.
call 320-4219 for more details
www.galtmuseum.com

SAAG Kids Art Club

Art creations to be made in this creative and thought provoking program.
January 9 ~ June 19
Ages 6-9, \$425/child/semester
call 327-8770 ext 21 to register

SAAG Kids Coulees and Culture

Coulees and Culture Camp for Easter break. Discover the culture, historical and natural treasures Lethbridge has to offer.
April 7-10 Ages 6-10 \$100/week
call 320-3954 for more details
call 327-8770 ext 21 to register

Saturday Farmers Market

Come and purchase local produce and crafts
Begins May 10 through to October 8am-11am
Free admission at Exhibition Park

Happy spring all!!

I am sure your children care are enjoying their outside time more than in previous months! It has definitely been beautiful! Remember that we can get a sunburn in any month that the temps get up into the high teens! Maybe time to unpack that sunscreen!

As we get into spring, please communicate with your parents any holidays you are taking, remind them of the two stats in April, and any other extra days you may be taking, and it is not too early to chat about summer holidays if you have any special dates planned through those months! The earlier the better, so there is lots of time for all to make the proper arrangements.

On the topic of communication, please remember that texting is not always the best way to communicate with your parents/providers! **Taken from an online article "Texting—the Demise of Socialization" ~The problem with texting is that it often comes across as abrupt, rude or harsh. It is the most impersonal way to communicate that has ever been invented. Some people think it is quicker to text, but to be honest, the amount of time you spend typing out the letters on the phone, takes the same, if not more time as a simple phone call with clear communication. Often text messages are misinterpreted, and by picking up the phone, this can be avoided. I know there are some good things about texting, it is a fast, easy way to get a message to someone, as long as it is short! "running late. Be there in 15 minutes!" now THAT is what texting is good for! Not for a long, drawn out, emotionless conversation that depersonalizes the real message. Please remember texting is a tool for convenience... it is not a substitute for personal interaction~

I look forward to our visits each and every month with you! I can't wait to see all your spring art plastered on your walls! There is so much to plan for, don't forget there are tons of resources to help you in our lending library if you are stuck on what to do for your planning!

Gini



Pat French April 27
 Shirley Rempel May 4
 Christina Cardinal May 14
 Megan Soenen May 19

it's your birthday!

monthly provider spotlight:

March: Megan Soenen

April: Kelly Grisak

May: Shannon Cossette



Sing Along, You Have the Children's Permission!

By Karen Brayard

Music seems to be disappearing in classrooms across America, but there are just too many reasons not to let it slip away in yours. Incorporating music into the daily routine of preschool children provides far more positive development than a simple appreciation of music. Many teachers and parents are aware that an early exposure to music increases math and language skills, but many aren't aware that music structured throughout a preschooler's day also provides considerable social, emotional, and physical benefits. With just a little creativity and a willingness to have fun, music can enhance your children's learning environment.

Music Can Strengthen Children's Minds

Studies have shown time and again that music seems to involve the brain at almost every level. Peggy Senter, President of the Concord Community Music School in New Hampshire, says that young children routinely exposed to music have increased verbal, emotional, and spatial intelligence in addition to improving body movement and coordination. She stresses that musical literacy at the preschool level should be defined by nothing more complicated than the ability to sing in tune and carry a beat. The ability to play instruments and understand music theory, which comes later in life, is actually an added benefit of early exposure to music.

According to the National Association of Music Education, a music curriculum for preschool-age children should include many opportunities to explore sound through singing, moving, listening, and playing instruments. Music used in the classroom should have lasting value such as traditional children's songs; folk songs; classical music; and music from a variety of cultures, styles, and time periods.

"But I Can't Carry a Tune!"

Preschool children will forgive you if you sing off-key, if they even notice. Most likely, they'll be enthralled that an adult will celebrate music with them. The benefits that singing aloud provides to the children in your classroom will far outweigh your embarrassment. Heather Oberheim, a music and movement teacher at the Concord Community Music School in New Hampshire says that teacher/adult interaction is key. "Children love to mimic and will have a great time trying to copy their teacher, whether she's singing a silly song or beating on a drum. At this age they don't critique, they create."

By participating in the musical process teachers and caregivers help support healthy self-esteem in young children. "The message you send when singing with kids is that music is fun and being a part of music with others is fun," Oberheim says, adding that socially, music can help children interact with one another and with adults. Johnette Downing, an award-winning children's entertainer agrees. She says there are many ways to use music socially in the classroom. One suggestion is to appoint a different music helper during each structured music session. This child is in charge of passing out musical instruments and collecting them at the end of music time. If other children abuse the instruments, it's the helper's job to ask them to treat the instruments nicely. Downing says it gives children a sense of importance to take on this responsibility. Inherently, most of the children cooperate very well because they know soon it will be their turn to be "in charge."

Five Easy Ways to Incorporate Music into Your Classroom

1. Structured music time is great, but you don't have to stop there. Music can be worked into practically any activity. One of the best ways to bring music into your classroom is through opening and closing songs. Downing likes to have a friendship circle at the beginning and ending of every day. She feels this unites the class and starts and ends every day on a positive note. "Music is a great way to bring unity to a group," she says, "because it crosses all levels."

2. Having a music center available to children throughout the day promotes spontaneous musical appreciation. Teachers can add to their music centers by supplying a cassette player with headphones along with book sets that sing along with a picture story. If funding is an issue, most public libraries will loan out cassettes with sing-along books. A well-stocked music center can provide a wide variety of independent musical play for children.

3. Most preschool and kindergarten teachers are already familiar with transition songs and may not even realize they are using music to help young children learn about time, order, and routine. You can use transition songs throughout the day to signal to the children that it's time to move on to something else. If you don't know many transition songs, you can make them up. Yosi Levin, a performer for preschool-age children and workshop leader for preschool teachers, says that kids respond to familiar tunes. With this in mind, if you want your class to transition from snack time to outside time you can sing, "Let's all put our snacks away, snacks away, snacks away. Let's all put our snacks away so we can play outside" to the tune of "Mary Had A Little Lamb." The key with transition songs is to have specific songs for designated transitions. Children love repetition and knowing what comes next. That's why they usually respond so well when you sing the clean-up song towards the end of the day. You can share musical transitions with parents, which is a great reinforcement for positive behavior at home and in the classroom.

4. Musical games are another way to incorporate music into your classroom. Oberheim's students enjoy dressing up in costumes and changing the words to familiar songs. She selects songs that will allow each child, or several small groups of children, to sing or use a musical instrument on cue. First the kids dress up and then make up the song according to their costumes. Each verse gives a specific child or group a chance to make their own music. The result is usually a lot of silly musical fun.

5. There are a variety of ways teachers can incorporate music into their weekly theme. Whether you are exploring bugs, dinosaurs, food, or butterflies, songs and sounds can be used to further reinforce learning. Because children learn from a playful environment, involving them in songs about the selected theme makes learning even that much more fun for preschoolers. One suggestion from Oberheim is to use rain sticks when learning about the weather. Children love the sounds of rain sticks and the motions required to make those sounds. After letting the children "rain" for a few minutes, see if you can get them to come up with ideas about how other weather sounds. You can ask them what snow might sound like or the falling leaves.

