

Wee R Kids Provider News – August 2010

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August 2010
Provider Newsletter



Dear Providers:

The summer is slipping by so fast, and there are still so many things to do! I hope you are all having fun with your children in the many summer activities there is to do in Southern Alberta.

There are also so many fun and exciting things you can do in your day home during the summer too. Water and sand play are always a favourite as well, there are many books that talk about summer fun as well as songs and activities.

We have started Facebook and Twitter accounts and a Facebook Fan Page. These pages will be a great way to share ideas and get support from each other as well as a great way to meet potential parents. If you are on these sites we would love to have you as a friend. Check them out as theme ideas, articles and events are added regularly.

A reminder as well, please make sure that you are calling in each and every time you go out. Whether it be to the park or on a field trip, it is important that we at the office know where you are, especially if a parent comes early and you are not home, if they do call in to our office we need to be able to let the parent know where you are.

Thank you everyone, have a great August!

Upcoming Statutory Holidays

Heritage Day
August 2, 2010

Providers receive this day off and the office will be closed on this day.

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Joke Corner...

Q: What runs but never walks?

A: Water!



12 Simple but Effective Ways to be a Great Provider/Teacher

- 1) A Great Provider/Teacher Will Always Be There, wherever the children are, make sure that you are there too. If you need to do anything outside of the room, like visit the washroom, make sure you are quick and the children are safe.
- 2) A Great Provider/Teacher is Accessible-You need to help your children at all times, be there in free play observing them and helping them learn, remember a great deal of our job is to teach.
- 3) Great Provider/Teacher Know Their children on a Personal Basis- Talk to them throughout the day. What is their favourite music? Movies? Toys? Activity? Food? The more you know, the more you can adapt.
- 4) A Great Provider/Teacher Knows Your Parents. Parents can be your biggest ally. The children will perform and behave better if they know you are communicating with their parents.
- 5) A Great Provider/Teacher Knows What They are Teaching- If you do not know what you are doing, how can you teach? This involves complete preparation.
- 7) A Great Provider/Teacher Eats Lunch with the children, the best conversations and bonding time can be over a meal. Make lunch and snack times fun and engaging.
- 8) A Great Provider/Teacher is Always Fair- Expect the best, but be flexible, she does not discriminate between children or families.
- 9) A Great Provider/Teacher Never loses Their Cool-Bite your tongue. All things will pass. Never carry a grudge. Things in your Day Home will happen. This goes hand in hand with being professional.
- 10) A Great Provider/Teacher is on time, has all of her paperwork prepared and is organized.
- 11) A Great Provider/Teacher loves, has compassion and care for the children in their care and for the parents.
- 12) A Great Provider/Teacher LOVES to teach and to learn and to share with the children in her care, she gets excited about the day, the week or the season and that excitement is contagious to the children and families.

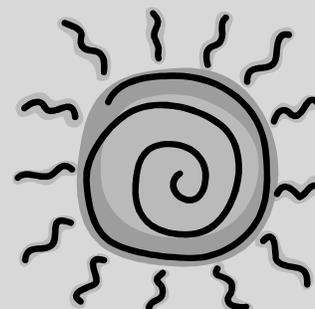
Check out
Wee R Kids
ON
FACEBOOK

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Did you know?

- The beach ball was created in 1938.
- Mosquitoes can detect a mammal 100 feet away.
- Watermelons are vegetables.
- In 1905 an 11 yr old boy created the popsicle.

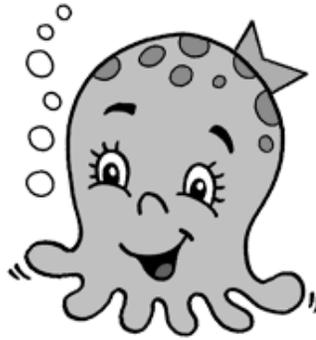


Arts & Craft Activity

Hand Octopus

Paper
Google eyes
Finger paints

This activity is fun and messy, the best combination! Have children choose a paper, this craft can be done with white paper or construction paper. Have the children paint with finger paint (any colours you may have) all over their hands. They can place one painted hand on the paper and then the other on top of the first print, but with the fingers pointing in different directions. The base of the hand makes the body of the octopus and the fingers make the legs. Eyes and anything else the child can dream up can be added when hands are clean.



*To MySelf I am
ONLY a CHILD
PLAYING ON THE
beach, WHILE
vast oceans OF
truth Lie
UNdiscovered
before Me.
- Isaac Newton*



Cooking Activity

Beach on a plate

Blue Jell-o
Graham Cracker Crumbs
Gummy fish, sharks, people
Paper Plates

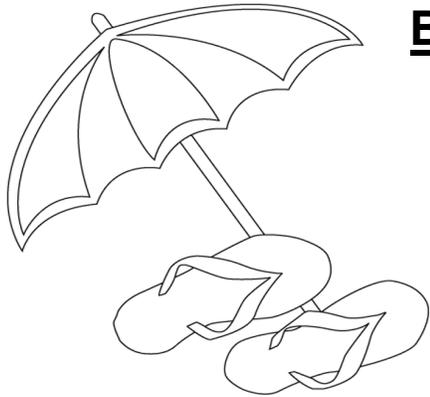
Place a scoop of blue Jell-o on each child's plate. Let children scoop graham cracker crumbs for the beach, then allow them to stick their sharks, fish etc in the ocean. When the scenes are created, they can be eaten!

Dramatic Play Activity

Just a day at the Beach

Kiddie pool
Sandbox
Beach towels
Sunscreen
Beach balls
Sandbox toys
Umbrellas
Beach Chairs

Ask the children's parents bring swimsuits in advance. Fill up the pool and sand box so that the children can swim in the ocean and play in the sand. Lay out the towels and set up the umbrellas to look like a beach scene. You can play with the beach balls and relax on the beach.



Beach Songs

Waves at the Beach

(To the tune of The Wheels on the Bus)

The waves on the beach go, up and down, up and down,
up and down. The waves at the beach go up and down all
day long.

The crabs at the beach go, back and forth, back and forth,
back and forth. The crabs at the beach go back and forth
all day long.

The lobsters at the beach go. Snap, snap, snap, snap,
snap, snap, snap, snap, snap, snap.

The lobsters at the beach go, snap, snap, snap, all day
long.

The clams at the beach go, open and shut, open and
shut, open and shut, open and shut.

The clams at the beach go, open and shut, all day long.

The jelly fish at the beach go, wiggle, wiggle, wiggle. wig-
gle, wiggle, wiggle. wiggle, wiggle, wiggle.

The jelly fish on the beach go wiggle, wiggle, wiggle, all
day long.

Fishy Pokey

(To the tune of The Hokey Pokey)

Put your right fin in, take your right
fin out, you do the fishy pokey and
you turn yourself around, and that's
what it's all about.

Put your left fin...
Put your right gill...
Put your left gill...
Put your back tail ...
Put your fishy face...



Gross Motor Activities

Fish, Fish, Shark!

(This is best done outside.)

Sit children in a circle and one child is chosen to begin.

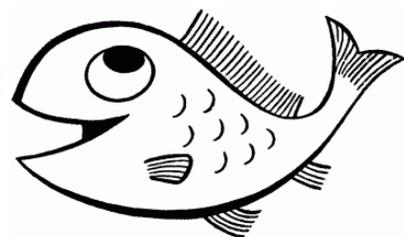
The child goes around the circle touching each child's
head lightly, saying, fish, fish, fish, each time he gets to a
child, then one child, he touches, he will say shark! Both
children run around the circle to get the spot left open by
the Shark. Whoever does not make it to the spot first is
the one who gets to say fish, fish, fish.



Dive Under the Ocean

Blue Sheet
Sea Creatures

Put several ocean creatures under a blue sheet
laying on the floor. Call out "(child's name,) dive
under the ocean." Then the child goes under the
sheet and retrieves an ocean creature. When
they have come back to "shore" ask them what
they have. Ask the child to act like the creature.



Math



Fish count

Cut 10 Fish out of paper/felt or foam. Cut out numbers 1-10 from the same material. Glue the numbers on each fish and glue a magnet to each fish. Make a stick out doweling with a string on the end, and on the end of the string, tie a paperclip. Lay a blue sheet on the floor and let each child taking turns "fishing" once they have caught their fish, ask them to identify the number on it, then when all of the fish are caught, you can count them 1-10.

Science Activities

Fish Pets

Have the children visit the local pet store (on a scheduled outing.) Learn how to take care of fish and where these fish and other water animals come from. Learn about what snails and other creatures do in our water.

Before you go on your outing, it is a great idea to show the children photos of each water animal they may see at the shop so they recognise some of them.

If it is possible you can even purchase a fish or two and have the children take care of the in a fish bowl.



Waves in a Bottle

Fill a plastic soda bottle half way with water coloured with blue food colouring.

Next fill the remainder of the bottle with oil. Replace cap tight (You may even wish to glue it shut).

Now your children can make waves by tilting the bottle.

Sensory Activities

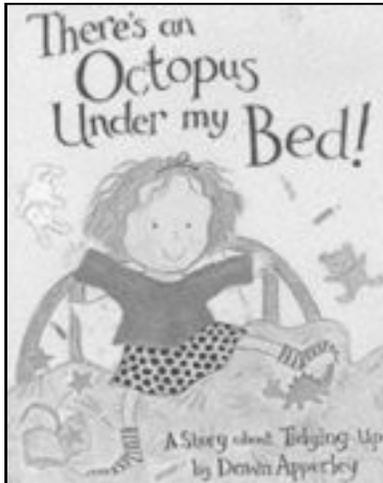
My Own Ocean!

Take a short clear Rubbermaid, lay some sand at the bottom and fill the rest of the bucket with water. Use some blue food colouring and then put small plastic fish and sea creatures in the water. The children will enjoy playing with the sea creatures, feeling the water and sand and experiencing the ocean.

Which Way to the Beach?

Put some sand in a short Rubbermaid bucket and fill it with shovels, buckets and other fun sand toys. Let the children take turns playing in the sand. Ask them what the sand feels like in their hands.

The Reading Corner



There's an Octopus Under my Bed!

By Dawn Apperley

Molly loves to play. Play at making perfume. Play at horse riding. Play at making a dinosaur. So when her mother says, 'Molly, tidy up' Molly never has time to finish the job. Instead she has to go for tea. But soon Molly realises that while she is NOT tidying up but something IS!

Just Grandma and Me

By Mercer Mayer

Critter and Grandma go to the beach. What fun the beach is with grandma, so much to do, and of course get into, a trip to the beach can really tucker a little critter out.

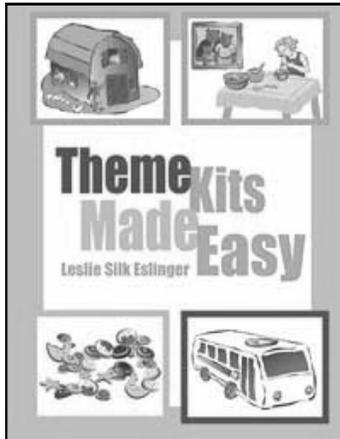


Wee R Kids Lending Library

All of these books are available to providers through our lending library. We have over 250 titles available. Come and take a look! If you are looking for a book on a specific title or by a specific author, let me know, we might just have it here in the office.

The Reading Corner

Staff Resources



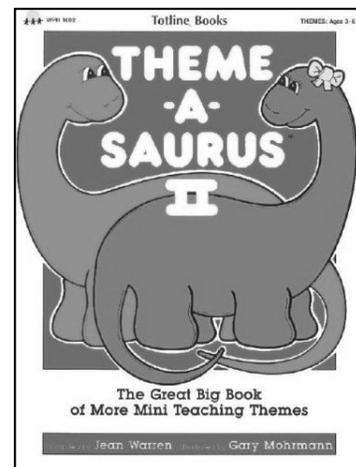
Theme Kits Made Easy By Leslie Silk Eslinger

Themes help young children develop language, numeracy and social skills—plus they're familiar and fun. *Theme Kits made easy* provides a tested method for putting together creative kits and dozens of child-centred theme suggestions.

Theme-A-Saurus II

By Jean Warren and Gary Mohrmaan

A great resource for anyone in childcare. This book offers themes from A-Z. Ideas for creative hands on learning for your children. Each idea is unique and exciting, a great resource to help you with your planning.



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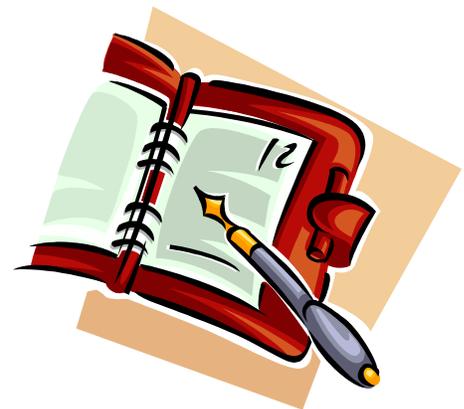
A Few Reminders

Here are a few tips and reminders for you so that all providers can provide the highest quality of care in their day home:

- ♥ Be up, dressed, and ready to go for the day before the first child arrives. It helps you to prepare for the day as well.
- ♥ Have your program planning sheets posted for each week, where parents can see them to be able to see what their children will be doing for the day.
- ♥ Have your menus planned and posted. It is important to parents to see what their child will be eating for the day.
- ♥ Ensure that your house is kept in a clean and orderly fashion.
- ♥ Don't make judgments on your families in your home, everyone comes from a different background with their own struggles
- ♥ Be sure to treat children with equal respect and consideration.
- ♥ Be sure to model appropriate language and behavior with children.
- ♥ Respond promptly to bullying by children or other adults in the home.
- ♥ Plan and prepare in advance for daily activities. Gather and make ready any materials or other items that may be needed for a planned activity prior to the children's arrival.
- ♥ Plan a mix of child initiated and adult initiated activities- active and quiet activities, solitary and group activities and free play, each day.

August Visits:

This month's visits will focus on planning and theme ideas. I will be bringing some information out to you, to assist you in planning activities, crafts and centres for the children. I am really excited to meet with you all this month. Please also make sure to have all of your menus, activities and other papers posted. Thank you so much.



Suggestions

This newsletter is for you, the providers so... we would like to hear from you. If there is anything that you would like to see in this newsletter that hasn't been added please let me know. I want you to want to read this newsletter and to use the information given in it to enhance your programs. Any suggestions you might have can be forwarded by email to weerkids2@telus.net, call the office or suggest it at a provider meeting whatever format you are most comfortable with.