

Cedar Room Newsletter & Programing Update - March 2019



Children's Interests

Why is this important?

A key part of an emergent curriculum is anchoring our developmental milestones and challenges in the children's own interests. *How Does Learning Happen*, our pedagogical programing tool, tells us that children learn best when they are, Engaged, able to Express themselves, have a sense of Belonging, and have met their physical and mental Well-Being. Emergent curriculum, meets these needs by it's very nature.

Trajectory

With the coming of the new year, the children's interest have begun to blossom into more complex forms of play. Because of this, distinguishing individual interests amongst the maelstrom of experimentation, exploration and discovery is a monumental task. So lets. Get back to basics.

Schemas, otherwise known as the fundamental building blocks of play, are a solid baseline for interpreting children's decisions and interests across a wide variety of experiences. Trajectory has been a hot topic this last month - the children have been exploring throwing balls, ice, and themselves in order to scratch this particular neurological itch.

To support this interest, we have been implementing a wide variety of trajectory focused play experiences. The children and us worked together to build a big ramp the cars could roll down, and we noticed how things like the incline, size of car, and car orientation affected the speed and direction it went. We also took the kids out to explore some self-trajectory on the hill with the toboggans. The children spun, flipped, slipped, and slid to their hears content. Some where even so engrossed they chose to forgo the toboggans and rolled down the hill instead.



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Show And Share

Show and tell* is one of the stereotypical keystone experiences of early years learning. Many of us can easily remember rushing to school, favourite toy in hand, ready to show it to all their friends. The experience is so universal it seems almost ubiquitous. But why?

- Contributing to group activites naturally give a sense of **belonging**
- Gives opportunities for **expression** through the child's chosen item
 - Fosters storytelling skills through explanations and question answering
 - Taking turns to listen to others - being listened to supports self esteem and **well-being**
- Novel play experiences and pride in their own item naturally support **engagement**
 - Gives children the opportunity to be responsible for their own belongings - ensuring they're taken care of and make it home.
 - Helps develop questioning skills - Children learn what makes a question (ei, that it needs to be answered), and become comfortable responding.
 - Scaffolds sharing skills - children hone their patience as they practice taking turns while the toy's owner shows them how to use it
 - Teaches respect of other's belongings

Enrichment

Spanish Language Exploration

Every other week, we are very lucky to have Ms. Lorena come visit and teach us some Spanish. We are learning how to greet each other, the names of our family members, our colours, and numbers through songs and fun activities.

Learning a new language gives them the foundation for learning new words and building the skills for learning more complex vocabulary in either language.

Further more, new languages help children see and hear the world from a different perspective. The understanding that something can have a different name in a different language opens the flood gates for cultural sharing across language lines.

<https://www.thistleoaks.ca/blog>

Check out the Thistleoaks blog for more information

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Beanie Buddy Scorch the Dragon

As per last month's newsletter, this month we have implemented our "Beanie Buddy" project, and initiative to help foster a sense of wonderment and belonging as our cheeky little friend explores our classroom and the homes of the friends who take him with them on the weekend. The children have become enamoured with Scorch, the little dragon, and have been eager to share in his adventures. The children have stated honing their inquiry skills with questions such as "Where did he go?" or "Why did he build a house?", and have been creating wants and needs for him as he "Plays" with them ("Scorch like the blue").

This month, we will continue to send Scorch home with a child every weekend. Scorch comes with his Journal, in which you encourage you to record at least one activity Beanie shared with your family. You can also E-mail them and any pictures you'd like to share to Classroom5@Thistleoaks.ca, to be later added to the collection, helping the children catch a glimpse of the home lives of their classmates, and fostering a sense of belonging as our home away from home.

Events

Tuesday the 17th - St. Patrick's Day -Wear green, and prepare to get messy as we explore all things green.

Wednesday the 18th - Show and Share - Bring a favourite toy, and be prepared to talk about and share it. Children should bring their show and share into the classroom in the morning at drop off time

Tuesday the 11th - Field Day - We will be spending the morning in the field - sledding down the hill if there is snow, or playing large group games. Please ensure your child is well prepared to get wet/muddy

As always. The last Friday of the month (the 27th) is PJ day. Bring slippers, pyjamas, and a laid-back attitude to enjoy this day.