

# Applewood March Update



## Reaching New Milestones

In this past month, we have noticed the children expanding their social interest with each other more and more. They do continue to observe their peers but can now be observed playing together – briefly BUT successfully. Although at times playing together looks like a struggle for possession of a toy, they are demonstrating appropriate social skills for their age. While it's in our nature to want to remove the struggles children experience, the struggle for toy possession leads to opportunities to develop new skills and acquire resilience. As they continue to refine these skills the duration and success of play increases due to this strengthened resilience.

### How Does Learning Happen?

“Children demonstrate a sense of belonging when they [...] participate in social interactions, shared exploration, play, and learning with adults and children.” (HDLH)



## Belonging

This month we will continue to focus on belonging as we have noticed that the children seem to really show interest in the pictures that we have posted in the classroom of themselves and their peers. We have noticed that the children have been particularly interested in the class photo we took last month. They are regularly looking at it and pointing to each of the children's and educators faces.

Since the past photo day went so well, we would like to do it again this month! We will plan to wear all green on March 17<sup>th</sup> to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

We would love to expand on this and have family photos to post along side our classroom photo for the children to look at and recognize that their families are important here as well.

“Children's sense of belonging and feelings of security are also strengthened when they have opportunities to make and explore connections between home and the early childhood program” (HDLH)



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## Children's Interest: Sensory Exploration

Through the month of February there were a few days where we stayed inside due to inclement weather. This gave the children ample time to immerse themselves in uninterrupted sensory exploration. Some of the activities they engaged in included waterplay with their own individual buckets, bringing snow inside to explore, and painting with their hands and whole bodies.

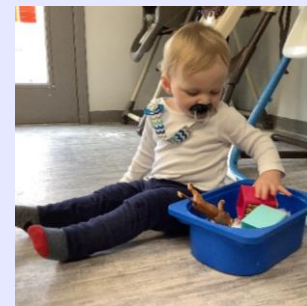
Water play encourages children to practice their gross motor skills. When there are toys in the water either floating on the top or sitting on the bottom, the children are using their spatial problem solving to navigate their hand to the object and then use their gross motor skills to grab the toy. (ELECT 4.5 Spatial Problem-solving, 5.1 Gross Motor)

Bringing snow inside for the children is a great way for them to explore the properties of snow in a new context. The children were able to touch the snow without mittens supporting their tactile exploration. (ELECT 5.3 The senses – Tactile Exploration)

Painting is another fun and exciting sensory activity we offered the children. Whether it is painting with a paintbrush, their hands or whole bodies, these “opportunities to explore materials support creativity, problem solving, and mathematical behaviours.” (HDLH)

## Classroom Updates

We are really enjoying sharing your child's daily report to you through our HiMama app. We continue to learn more about how the app works so if you have any questions about what is being written on the reports, or how it works, please let us know!



## Coming Up This Month

March 17<sup>th</sup> – St. Patrick's day (Wear Green for Class Picture)