

Applewood December Update



From the Applewood Room...

RISKY PLAY EXTENDED - Last month we highlighted Risky Play and the thrill of its success. We wanted to share an article with the Applewood families on Risky Play. We hope you enjoy it as much as we did.

Adventurous, Challenging and Risky Play for Children: The Time is Now!

Diane Kashin Article Link:

<https://tecribresearch.wordpress.com/2017/03/04/adventurous-challenging-and-risky-play-for-children-the-time-is-now-outdoorplay-reggiopl/>

PHOTOS PLEASE! - In order to help foster a sense of belonging by connecting the child's home life to the classroom environment, we are kindly asking that if you have not already done so, please bring in a family photograph. If it is easier for you to send the photo to us through e-mail, please feel free to do so.

Our email address is classroom1@thistleoaks.ca.

We will be proudly displaying all of the photographs in the classroom for everyone to enjoy. Children LOVE looking at photos of their family and their friend's families. Please feel free to send photographs of other important people in your child's life, such as grandparents and pets. Photos in our classroom bring opportunities to engage in discussion about the important people in their life. This also provides a sense of comfort, particularly for children who are new to the room. Children learn and share language through this experience.

We thank you kindly in advance for your participation.

Email and Communication

We will be connecting through email weekly to inform you of what skills your child has been developing during the week. We will also be sending photos of some of the activities that your child has been enjoying.

For pick-ups and drop-offs, we are kindly asking all families to wear a mask to help reduce the risk of COVID-19.

Coming Up This Month

- Dec. 24th - Pajama Day
- Early Closure Christmas Eve (12:30pm)
- Dec. 25th - Centre closed – Merry Christmas
- Dec. 28th - Centre Closed in lieu of Boxing Day
- Dec. 31st - Early Closure New Years Eve (12:30pm)
- Jan. 1st - Centre Closed New Years Day

*Read Mindy's monthly blog at
www.thistleoaks.ca/blog*

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Expression Through Music

Although the children in the Applewood Room vary in ages, they are all showing their interest in music. Each child in the classroom has their own unique and personal way to express their enjoyment and appreciation of music. We have been observing the younger children in the class smiling, giggling and using their motor skills to bounce up and down to the sounds they hear. While the older children in the class will hear the music and instantly search for anything and everything that they can bang together to create their own idea of an instrument. The louder the noise they can create the more excited they become. Music plays an important role here in the Applewood Room. It provides solace when feeling sad, excitement to hear new sounds, and we have been noticing that providing music during transition times is working to provide a smooth and calm transition that every child is able to understand and appreciate.

Through incorporating music throughout our daily program we have noticed various skills being developed and strengthened, some examples include, fine motor, gross motor, imitation, balance and language.

As we value each and every learning opportunity, and we are fortunate to experience this in the classroom. In response, we will be following the lead of the children's love of music by creating our own instruments out of various materials, exploring real instruments and listening to live musical performances by Thistleoaks educators (distanced from the hallway). We will also be exposing the children to various types of holiday music from around the world as our families are richly diverse. Children recognize types of music that are familiar to them and associate it with their family, which supports a stronger sense of belonging. If you have any music that you would like to bring in to share with us, we would greatly appreciate it.



Music Inspires Connections

Through incorporating music into our daily program the children have been learning various ways to express themselves. In the Applewood Room, we notice when we play music, the infants express their excitement and eagerness through their facial expressions, body language, words and actions. They instantly seek each other out to engage in musical experiences together. They seem to thrive on that level of engagement because of the connections they have built with one another and their educators. Our oldest infant will take on a leadership role, modeling how to move, how to make noise with instruments, and how to use a drumstick properly. The younger infants are observing their peers and imitating what they see and hear.

When children manipulate materials, explore music and movement, create symbols (e.g., mark-making), and engage in imaginative expression (e.g., visual art) and dramatic play, they are communicating. (HDLH?)