

Birch Room March Update



Programming: Exploration and Experimentation

Children are born learners, with a natural curiosity to figure out how the world works. Curiosity is the desire to learn, an eagerness to explore, experiment, discover, and figure things out. Children systematically and intentionally explore their environments with all their senses. And when they direct their own exploration and experimentation, they are also exercising other skills:

- Focus their attention
- Motivation and persistence
- Critical thinking and Decision Making
- Planning actions and behaviours
- Problem Solving

The Birch Room is full of materials that invites our children to explore, investigate, experiment, think, create, imagine, and make meaning from their experiences. We are also using “loose part materials” in our learning environment providing open-ended ways of enquiry, such as wood and cardboard pieces, boxes in different sizes and shapes, plastic cups and containers, metallic materials, cards, CDs, etc.

We are implementing toys with ramps, people, animals, and cars, building ramps with cardboard and wood pieces, constructing sorting boxes, working with pool noodle pieces or CDs as beading materials, using a variety of magnets and cards to be insert in plastic containers. It will be fun!



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Children's Interests: Ramps, Magnets, Adhesives

In the Birch Room our children are showing increasing interest in:

1. **Ramps:** Our toddlers are fascinating with ramps and everything that allow them see how things go down by themselves, such as cars, people or animal toys, eggs, balls, etc. They are exploring and experimenting "gravity", make predictions, build their own theories, and learn from the underlying cause-and-effect.
2. **Magnets:** Our children are exploring, experimenting and discovery magnets properties. They like to see how metal objects are attracted by magnets, how magnets figures can be stick in a cookie pan with out falling down, and they are very curious about the fact that sometimes magnets repel.
3. **Adhesives materials:** Tapes, Mac tac, foams, stickers: This interest started with children's exploration of their arts and pictures displayed on walls, shelves, tables and glass windows. They try to take them off with their nails and they persist until being successful. We want to encourage their curiosity, exploration, experimentation and action plans without loosing our displayed materials. So we are introducing adhesive materials in Art and Small Group Activities as well as at free play.



Read our regular blog entries at www.thistleoaks.ca/blog

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Learning Environment: Science Centre

Our Science Centre includes natural items, such as:

- pieces of wood, pinecones, stones, etc.
- magnifier glasses
- magnets and metal materials
- sensory bottles
- insects and other animal toys
- pictures of science themes
- And more!

Playing in this area our children develop skills in all developmental domains:

Cognitive: Though their natural curiosity children explore and discover properties of materials, cause-and effect of actions, they build their own theories , learn to questioning and start to think.

Physical: This area contributes in the development of fine motor skills, eye-hand coordination and sensory motor integration using their hands and body in the exploration and manipulation of materials.

Socio-emotional: It also contributes in the development of socio-emotional skills, such as : sharing, take turns, group entry, respect, self-regulation and self-confidence.

Language: This area is always full of verbal and non verbal communication between children and educators or between children. They make questions or communicate with gestures, words, sounds, point and show objects, and express the wonders of their experiences.



Reminders from your Educators

We kindly ask parents to bring seasonally appropriate outdoor wear for their children, including a 2nd set of mittens and a pair of indoor shoes.

We are asking parents a Family Picture to be displayed in our room. We want all our children find their family picture on the wall.

Important Dates

March 17th – St Patrick's Day! Wear green!

March 20th – First day of Spring! Bring in a flower!

March 30th – Creative Day: Making a Spring Collage

March 31st – Centre-wide PJ Day!