

Applewood April Update



Reaching New Milestones

In the past month, the Applewood children have become more effective communicators through their non-verbal communication to let us know what they are thinking and wanting. Some non-verbal communication skills that have been observed are using gestures like shaking their head to mean “no” and waving their hand to mean “hi/bye” (ELECT pg. 20).

They are beginning to use this intentional communication with the intention of meeting goals (ELECT pg. 20). As educators, we “observe [the] infant to determine his intentions [and] interpret his gestures with clear and simple language. This provides a rich context for language and exploration.”(ELECT pg. 20).

We also use some baby sign language when speaking to the children to demonstrate how to use gestures to show us what they want. Baby sign language can also be done by parents at home, to encourage further development in communication. A baby sign language chart can be found here: <https://www.babysignlanguage.com/chart/>

How Does Learning Happen?

“Seeing children as capable and powerful communicators from birth onwards means recognizing them as active social partners who are able to initiate and respond to communication exchanges. Conversation can occur with even the youngest infants when adults are attuned to the child’s subtle verbal and non-verbal cues and gestures and when they respond by interacting in ‘serve and return’ exchanges.” (HDLH)



Expression

This month we will be focusing on fostering communication and expression of all forms. When the children have already shown an interest and ability in non-verbal communication. We want to expand on this and support other forms of expression as well. Expression can be recognized through creative experiences. “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)

We will provide many opportunities to create with materials such as markers, chalk and paint on both a small and large scale. We will give the children ample time to explore and manipulate these materials. It’s important to note that in order for this to support expression, we don’t provide materials with a specific final product in mind. It is the process of creating that is important, not what the final product looks like.

We encourage families to provide creative opportunities at home to promote expression and communication in the home as well.

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Children's Interest – Risky Play

The children in the Applewood room have taken their interest in risky play one step further this past month. They are beginning to independently move the furniture around the room in order to create new spaces to climb and explore. Some of the things we have observed the children doing are: climbing the stool to the sink, climbing on the adult size chair, and lying on the shelf to get a better look at our pictures. We encourage the children to make these room arrangements while we provide them support and supervision. Risky play is very important to us here in the Applewood Room as is providing the children with a safe and fun environment to support their interest. As co-learners with the children, we support the further development of these various gross motor skills.

How Does Learning Happen?

"Children thrive in programs where they can engage in vigorous physical play [...] that present manageable levels of challenge. While these environments need to be safe, it is also important for them to provide children with interesting opportunities for a reasonable degree of risk taking. Program adaptations and physical accommodations can be made to allow every child to participate and be challenged in meaningful ways." (HDLH)

Classroom Updates

Thank you to all of our families for sending in your family and pet photos! We have proudly displayed them in the classroom for all to enjoy!

You can contact us anytime via email, HiMama message, or phone call at 905-842-7303 ext. 109

Coming Up This Month

- April 2nd – Centre Closed for Good Friday
- April 5th – Welcome to Thistleoaks William!
- April 9th – Pajama Day
- April 28th – Nature Walk

