

Ontario Early Years Centre

Monthly Newsletter



Volume 6, Issue 10 June-Aug. 2009

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If you are looking for some fun crafts and activities for your children for the summer check out the following Web Links on our CROW website: DLT Kids and Educational Activities. The DLT Kids site has fun crafts organized by themes. The Educational Activities site has hundreds of activities for kids, including themes like alphabet, colours, number and shapes. Go to www.crowoeyc.ca and go to Web Links. I hope you will find some helpful suggestions here for summer activities for your children.

Remember to check with your local library to see what summer programs they are running.

We are working towards becoming a more eco friendly organization. In doing so, we are asking those participants receiving a paper copy of our newsletter, to consider receiving it electronically. We do not share your email address with anyone. We already email 198 newsletters. Please give us a call with your email address.

Ontario Early Years Centres



A Place For Parents And Their Children.

Helping Children Build a Solid Foundation

CROW is dedicated to supporting and strengthening childcare, family life, child development and community links in Lanark County

Website: www.crowoeyc.ca

Children's Resources on Wheels is a United Way Member Agency.



KinderCare and School Age Summer Child Care Program

Please enroll now for CROW's KinderCare and School Age Summer Child Care Program for ages 2 – 12 years located at Maple Grove Public School in Lanark Village. This program includes: weekly field trips to the Lanark Library; short hikes through the forest to play, swim and enjoy a picnic lunch at Providence Point. Program themes are designed to suit a variety of interest and ages. A full meal plan is available daily. Subsidy is available for qualifying families. Contact JoeAnn Hodgins 613-259-3389 for more information.

Last day for playgroups for the summer break is June 18. Summer playgroups start July 6 at our centre in Smiths Falls. Check page 7 for more information.

Sprinkler Party is August 19 11a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area 2854 Concession 8 Ramsay. Check page 7 for more information.



The Ontario Early Years Centre & Licensed Child Care are programs of Children's Resources on Wheels (CROW)

Provider's Page
Submitted by CROW Licensed Child Care

Understanding Learning Styles

People learn in different ways. Some learn by seeing, others by hearing, and still others by touching. Knowing our preferred learning style helps us learn and remember new things. There are three basic learning styles:

- Auditory (hearing the information)
- Visual (seeing the information)
- Kinesthetic – tactile (touching, participation)

When providers know a child's best way to learn, they can help them learn more effectively. It is just as important for you to know your own learning style. Providers usually teach in their preferred learning style, which may be different from the child's. This can be frustrating for both provider and child. For example, imagine you are a strong auditory learner and try to verbally explain the rules of baseball to a child who is more visual and really has to see the various moves in a diagram!

Even though we have a preferred learning style, we can still learn in other ways. People have varying degrees of preference – some are highly auditory, some are highly visual, some are highly kinesthetic-tactile (k-t), while others seem to have a moderate preference for all three styles of learning.

At any age, a child will learn more easily using his preferred learning style, but this doesn't mean he/she can't and won't learn any other way. In fact, he/she should be encouraged to use and improve all modes of learning. The more senses we use to learn, the more information we get! A good guideline is to allow a child to use his preferred style when learning essential information (e.g. road safety) and to practice using other learning modes for things not as important (e.g. words to songs you sing on car trips). The auditory learner will enjoy listening to tape-recorded songs; the visual learner will enjoy reading the words as he/she hears them sung; the k-t learner will enjoy dancing or acting as the music conductor.

Young children are all kinesthetic-tactile learners. Watch a baby put everything in their mouth and a toddler reach out to touch and explore his world. Visual and auditory preferences may emerge later. Schools have traditionally used visual and auditory teaching styles, especially in the upper grades. Children who learn easily through these modes are usually successful in school, while k-t learners often find school difficult. Most of us – not only young children – learn better if we are actively involved in our own learning.

Of course, all future learning is affected by early learning experiences. If these experiences are positive and satisfying, the foundations are formed for enthusiastic lifelong learning. Attention to learning styles when a child is young will help to make learning positive and enjoyable. As she matures, she will better understand and facilitate her own lifelong learning. For example, a visual learner who must remember information given at a lecture (auditory model), will know he/she needs to take notes, make sketches or read a book on the topic to reinforce the lecture content.

Auditory learners often: enjoy oral discussion; remember by talking out loud; need to have thing explained orally; have trouble with written instructions; talk to themselves while learning something new; repeat a phone number in order to remember it.

Visual learners often: remember visual details; prefer to see what they are learning; like to have paper and pens handy; doodle while listening; have trouble following lectures; like to write down instructions or phone numbers.

Kinesthetic-tactile learners often: prefer activities; want to actually do whatever is being talked about; like to move around while listening or talking; often "talk" with their hands; like to touch things in order to learn about them; remember things by recalling who did what rather than who said what.

Observe a child at play. Does she already show a preferred way to learn? Remember young children are still developing and most are very tactile – they want and need to be actively involved in order to understand things. Make sure a child has many opportunities to use all the learning styles so they can develop to their full potential.

--adapted from Child & Family Canada Resource Sheet #45

Don't Wait and See...It's Never Too Early To Refer A Child To Language Express

Parents often get mixed messages about whether they should be concerned about their late-talking or hard-to-understand children. Relatives, friends, and family physicians may tell them not to worry: "He's still young – just wait and see." This is not the message we want parents to hear, and here's why:

- Parents who are concerned about their children's communication development are almost always justified in their concern
- 10-12% of preschool children have speech and language delays or disorders that require intervention
- Recent research has shown there is a critical window of time for language development. Language-delayed children who receive intervention before the age of 30 months are much more likely to catch up to their peers. Children who do not receive intervention until after 30 months will make progress but will continue to lag behind their peers throughout their school years (Dionne, 2005)
- Language skills at school entry are the #1 predictor of school success
- There are no negative "side effects" of speech and language therapy. Approximately half of late talkers do not catch up without help. Therefore it is better to err on the side of providing intervention to too many children than to too few.

You should refer a child when:

- A parent/caregiver is concerned about speech/language/hearing development
- The child is not meeting one or more of the milestones for his or her age
- The child often repeats sounds and/or words (stuttering)
- The child has a diagnosis such as cleft lip/palate, hearing loss, PDD/Autism or developmental delay
- Speech and language skills have not improved over the past six months
- The child's voice sounds different
- Play or social interaction seems inappropriate

Here's how to refer:

Language Express accepts referrals for children from birth to January of the Junior Kindergarten year.

- Children born in 2005 must be referred before January 29, 2010 to receive an assessment and recommendations
- After January 29 referrals will only be accepted for children born in 2006 or later.

Referrals can be made by parents, doctors, teachers and caregivers. Parental consent is needed.

To make referrals call: The Language Express Preschool Speech and Language Services at 1-888-503-8885.

Parenting Page

The Importance of Fathers in the Healthy Development of Children Ten Ways to be a Better Dad

1. Respect Your Children's Mother

One of the best things a father can do for his children is to respect and support their mother. A father and mother who respect each other and let their children know it provide a secure environment for them. When children see their parents respecting each other, they are more likely to feel they are also accepted and respected.

2. Spend time with your children

How a father spends his time tells his children what is important to him. If you always seem too busy for your children, they will feel neglected no matter what you say. Treasuring children often means sacrificing other things, but it is essential to spend time with your children.

3. Earn the Right to be Heard

All too often, the only time a father speaks to his children is when they have done something wrong. Begin talking with your kids when they are very young so that difficult subjects will be easier to handle as they get older. Take time and listen to their ideas and problems.

4. Discipline with Love

All children need guidance and discipline, not as punishment, but to set reasonable limits. Remind children of the consequences of their actions and provide meaningful rewards for desirable behaviour. Fathers who discipline in a calm and fair manner show love for their children.

5. Be a role model

Fathers are role models to their kids whether they realize it or not. A girl who spends time with a loving father grows up knowing she deserves to be treated with respect by boys, and what to look for in a husband. Fathers can teach sons what is important in life by demonstrating honesty, humility, and responsibility.

6. Be a teacher

Many fathers think teaching is something others do, but a father who teaches his children about right and wrong, and encourages them to do their best, will see his children make good choices. Involved fathers use everyday examples to help their children learn the basic lessons of life.

7. Eat together as a family

Sharing meals together is an important part of healthy family life. It gives kids the chance to talk about what they are doing and want to do. It is also a good time for fathers to listen and give advice. Most importantly, it is a time for families to be together each day.

8. Read to your children

It is important that fathers make the effort to read to their children. Children learn best by doing and reading, as well as seeing and hearing. Begin reading to your children when they are very young. When they are older, encourage them to read on their own. Instilling your children with a love for reading is one of the best ways to ensure they will have a lifetime of personal and career growth.

9. Show affection

Children need the security that comes from knowing they are wanted, accepted, and loved by their family. Parents, especially fathers, need to feel both comfortable and willing to hug their children. Showing affection everyday is the best way to let your children know you love them.

10. Realize that a father's job is never done

Even after children are grown and ready to leave home, they still look to their fathers for wisdom and advice. Fathers continue to play an essential part in the lives of their children.

--adapted from www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/fatherhood website

Songs, fingerplays and crafts

Flutterflies

Materials: construction paper, pencil, scissors, colourful tissue paper, white glue, clear contact paper, hole punch, string or yarn, dowel.

Fold a piece of construction paper in half. Draw an outline of a butterfly on the paper. Be sure the body of the butterfly is on the fold. Cut out several holes in the wings with the scissors for the stained glass effect. Cut out the butterfly shape and trace it onto another piece of construction paper. You should have two identical butterfly shapes. Glue pieces of tissue paper onto one side of a butterfly cutout, covering the holes. Glue the second butterfly on top of this (the tissue paper should be sandwiched between the two construction paper butterflies). Lay the butterfly onto the sticky side of a piece of clear contact paper. Place a second piece on the other side so both sides of the butterfly are covered. Trim around the outside of the butterfly. Make a hole in the top of the butterfly with the hole punch so you can attach the string or yarn. Bend the butterfly in half and attach it to a string. Attach the string to a wooden dowel. Display in your garden or on a deck.

Butterfly Science – Butterfly Life Cycle bracelets

Children sequence the life cycle from egg to butterfly using a coloured pipe cleaner looped at one end and the following beads:

One white pony bead as the egg, as a spacer use a flower bead (for butterflies to drink from); three green pony beads as the caterpillar; flower bead, brown or gold pony bead as the cocoon, flower spacer, butterfly shaped bead.

**for children who are tactile learners (hands on), this is a great way for them to be able to remember the life cycle.



Butterfly Game – Kid Cocoons

Try this outside!!

Have children wrap each other in toilet paper (**excluding their head), so they can feel what it would be like to be a caterpillar in a cocoon. Have them lie down on the grass, close their eyes and imagine they are about to become butterflies. Have them stretch their “wings” and tear through the toilet paper cocoons. Encourage the children to run (fly like butterflies).

Grow a butterfly Garden With Your Kids

Gardening with kids is a great way to get them outside in nature. Focus on attracting butterflies to the garden and it will be a fascinating adventure! Allow the kids to help plan, research and plant. Make a butterfly garden plan on paper. Research what plants butterflies are attracted to in your area (milkweed, zinnia’s and nectar plants). Plant the flowers, host plant and seeds. Keep the garden watered. (Remember to keep the kids involved at all stages – kid sized garden tools are great to keep kids motivated and interested). Weed when necessary. Try to make a routine around the garden. Check it every day, discuss any changes or what the child thinks is going to happen. Look for eggs and caterpillars on the host plants. Help the child use his/her imagination (this is “hypothosis” – a science/life skill). Encourage the kids to decorate their garden with special stones, sticks or shiny objects.

Ziploc butterflies

Materials: confetti or colourful tissue paper – cut into tiny bits, snack size Ziploc bags, pipe cleaner.

Have the children fill their Ziploc bag about halfway with confetti or tissue paper bits. Seal baggie. Wrap a pipe cleaner around the middle of the bag – to form two wings (make sure the confetti is spread evenly into each wing.)

Twist the excess of pipe cleaner into the antennae.

*This craft is more about the “process”, rather than the “product”. Children will enjoy playing with the confetti! Try dividing the confetti into two bowls. Give the children measuring spoons/scoops to transfer the confetti back and forth between the bowls. Instantly you have a “sensory” activity, as well as a craft!

Ink Blot Butterflies

Materials: construction paper, two or three complementary colours of paint (yellow+blue=green; yellow+red=orange; red+blue=purple)

Fold construction paper in half. Cut into a butterfly wing shape. Open the shape, have children drop blobs of paint (slightly overlapping) onto one side of the folded construction paper. Fold construction paper back again, and show the children how to gently rub the paper to mix the paint. Have the children open their paper again to see the design.

*Have lots of paper ready, children love to see how they can “magically” make a “symmetrical” picture, and how they “magically” created new colours!!

These are prescience/math skills!! Learning that is fun!



**Gardening Poem
“Dig a Little Hole”**

Dig a little hole
Plant a little seed
Pour a little water
And pull a little weed

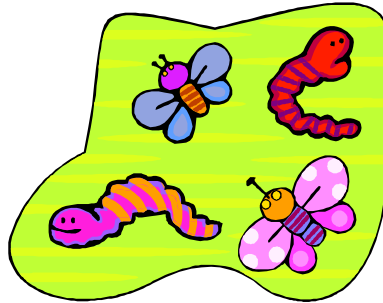
Fuzzy Caterpillar – Fingerplay

Fuzzy little caterpillar (hold up thumb)
Into a corner will creep
He’ll spin himself a blanket (put thumb inside hand)
And then go fast asleep.
Fuzzy little caterpillar,
Wakes up by and by.
To find he has wings (put thumbs beside each other and hold fingers outward)
And has turned into a
Butterfly. (hold hands same as above and move fingers)

The Very Hungry Caterpillar Song

(tune: Ten Little Indians)

On Sunday, 1 little egg, on Sunday 1 little egg, on Sunday 1 little egg, out comes a caterpillar.
On Monday, 1 red apple, on Monday 1 red apple, on Monday 1 red apple, that’s what the caterpillar eats.
On Tuesday, 2 yellow pears, on Tuesday 2 yellow pears, on Tuesday 2 yellow pears, that’s what the caterpillar eats.
On Wednesday, 3 purple plums, on Wednesday 3 purple plums, on Wednesday 3 purple plums, that’s what the caterpillar eats.
On Thursday, 4 red strawberries, on Thursday 4 red strawberries, on Thursday 4 red strawberries, that’s what the caterpillar eats.
On Friday, 5 oranges, on Friday 5 oranges, on Friday 5 oranges, that’s what the caterpillar eats.
On Saturday, too much food, on Saturday too much food, on Saturday too much food, that’s what the caterpillar eats.
On Sunday, 1 green leaf, on Sunday 1 green leaf, on Sunday 1 green leaf that’s what the caterpillar eats.
In his cocoon, he goes to sleep, in his cocoon he goes to sleep, in his cocoon he goes to sleep, that’s what the caterpillar does.
Out comes a butterfly, out comes a butterfly, out comes a butterfly, isn’t that a great surprise.



After reading the book “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” by Eric Carle try the following song.

There’s a tiny caterpillar on a leaf, wiggle, wiggle (children wiggle)
There’s a tiny caterpillar on a leaf, wiggle, wiggle (children wiggle)
There’s a tiny caterpillar, a tiny caterpillar, a tiny caterpillar on a leaf, wiggle, wiggle (children wiggle)

There’s a big fat caterpillar on a leaf, munch, munch.... (children munch)

There’s a pretty butterfly on a leaf, flutter, flutter.....(children flutter arms)

Playgroups

Please Note: The playroom is closed on the following Fridays: June 5, 12, 19

Day	Location	Time	Staff	Dates
Monday	Almonte	10:00 - 11:30	Leanne	June 1, 8, 15
Monday	Carleton Place – St. Gregory	10:00 – 11:30	Issie	June 1, 8, 15
Monday	Smiths Falls	9:00 – 11:00	Lori	June 1, 8, 15
Tuesday	Carleton Place - Arena	10:00 – 11:30	Issie	June 2, 9, 16
Tuesday	Lanark	9:30 – 11:30	Jane	June 2, 9, 16
Tuesday	Smiths Falls	9:00 – 11:00 5:00 – 7:00	Lori	June 2, 9, 16
Tuesday	Stanleyville	10:00 – 11:30	Linda	June 2, 9, 16
Wednesday	Almonte	10:00 – 11:30	Leanne	June 3, 10, 17
Wednesday	Carleton Place – St. Gregory	10:00 – 11:30	Issie	June 3, 10, 17
Wednesday	Perth	9:30 – 11:30	Jane	June 3, 10, 17
Wednesday	Ramsay	9:30 – 11:00	Linda/Janet	June 3, 10, 17
Wednesday	Smiths Falls	9:00 – 11:00	Lori	June 3, 10, 17
Thursday	Carleton Place - Arena	10:00 – 11:30	Issie	June 4, 11, 18
Thursday	Clayton	10:00 – 11:30	Linda	June 4, 11, 18
Thursday	Lanark	9:30 – 11:30	Jane	June 4, 11, 18
Thursday	Montague	9:30 – 11:00	Leanne	June 4, 11, 18
Thursday	Smiths Falls	9:00 – 11:00	Parent run	June 4, 11, 18
Thursday	Smiths Falls – old high school	9:30 – 11:00	Lori	June 4, 11, 18
Friday	Smiths Falls	9:00 – 11:00	Parent run	closed

Summer Playgroups: starting July 6 at our centre in Smiths Falls. Monday and Wednesday 9 – 11 a.m.

Food Sensitivities: Playgroup participants!! Please avoid bringing snack foods that contain or may contain traces of nuts.

Upcoming Events

**Sprinkler Party , August 19 11 – 2 at the Mill of Kintail
Conservation Area 2854 Concession 8 Ramsay**

**Please come and enjoy face painting, wading pools, bubbles-messy play
dress-up area and ice cream**

**BRING: sunscreen, picnic lunch, blanket, towels, plastic cups,
bathing suit, change of clothes.**

DONATIONS APPRECIATED - Donations given to Mill Of Kintail

Raindate: August 20

**Parents and Caregivers are responsible
for the supervision of their children at this event**

The Back Page

Remember to check with your local libraries for their summer programs.

Children’s Resources on Wheels Staff																																	
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