

May Court and Tecumseh Newsletter 2021

We hope everyone has enjoyed the snow we had, but now we are welcoming in some warmer wetter weather.

We flew threw the online learning and are back to school.

You will notice a few things have changed at the screening tables. We are doing online screening before you enter the building. We ask this is completed prior to drop off. We do have extra copies at the screening table.

Our playgrounds are very wet due to the Spring weather arriving. You are encouraged to bring extra clothing (socks, and pants especially) We recently purchased raincoats and umbrellas for the children to wear and use while outside.

Check out our Facebook page for lots of photos and updates as the children explore.

Thank You.

Ms. Robyn & Ms. Laurie



When you order through Lovable Labels a percentage of every orders comes back to the childcare. Visit lovablelabels.ca

New Board Member: Josselynne Segeren

Hello GTFRC families! My name is Josselynne Segeren and I have been a board member for 5 years now, and a Growing Together parent for 6 years. I joined the board about a year after we became a GTFRC family. I wanted to have a better understanding of behind the scenes of our child care, the inner workings that make our child care operate so smoothly day to day. It's a great experience to understand first-hand the challenges and all the successes that make GTFRC such a great place for both the staff and most importantly our children!

I work in business and education full time and am happy to bring some knowledge in these areas to our board, including being our board Treasurer. My husband and I have been married for 10 years and we have a young daughter. Our family has a wide range of hobbies including farming, camping, and biking. We grow a large vegetable garden and are anxiously awaiting the spring to get those seeds planted! This winter we have been skating and playing hockey on our pond. In the spirit of our child care rooms, our home has an open craft station where you can always find a project on the go!

To any family member who is thinking of possibly becoming a board member, I encourage you to reach out to a child care supervisor or the director for more information. We would love to hear from you!

Josselynne Segeren





What is a Provocation?

This newsletter is different from others we have put together. Everyday the staff plan and fulfill many activities for the children based on their ideas and interests. We do however provide the children with something called a Provocation. Simply put a provocation is to provoke thoughts, discussions, interests and ideas. The provocations are intentional and come from observations and documentation. They are an invitation for the children to explore and express themselves.

"Play gives children a chance to practice what they are learning"

-Mr Rogers



Infant Room

Our infants love to have a challenge when it comes to their learning and play. When we observe and plan their provocations for each one it is based off their interest. The infants love to cook, love our coloured balls and ball pits and love our squishy toys. Our goals as educators was to take each one and make it challenging for them in different ways. It was also to make it pleasing to an infants eye. We don't really expect anything from them because they teach us how each provocation can be used and then we base our next activity on their idea.

We expected to be surprised in how it was all used and the infants never disappoint us.

For the cooking provocation the infants went right to feeling and holding the wood blocks sticking them in the bowls and seeming like they new how to use them.

With the ball activity I was surprised when they grabbed our colour play toys and was staring at the colour of the play toy and at the balls in the gate.

We are super excited to learn and grow with our infants in the following months to come.

By: Ashley and Brittany



Have you noticed how your toddler repeats actions within their play - Dumping toys, climbing into boxes, or twirling around? These patterns of repeated behaviours allow children to explore and express developing thoughts or ideas. Children are making meaningful connections within their play; this is referred to as a Schema.

Transforming can be both mesmerizing and calming as children explore change during their play. It can be explored by mixing paint, adding water, or smashing and crashing structures. Transforming exploration usually involves mess, risk, or destruction which can be a hard concept for adults. In the toddler room we support and encourage the children during their explorations.

I set up a tuff tray provocation after observing a child in the house centre pretending to scoop and mix between 2 bowls. I provided the children with flour, water and a variety of kitchen utensils. I provided the children the freedom and space to explore these items at their will. While observing the activity I witnessed the toddlers communication skills expanding as they made connections to real life. A child stated that their mixture looked like “milk”. During this exploration they demonstrated communication, social/emotional, fine and gross motor skills - all while they played.

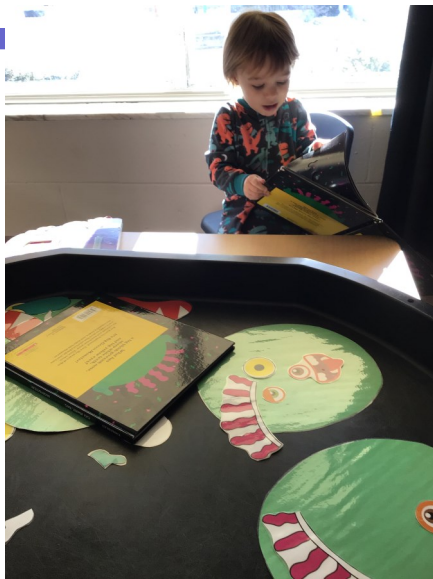
“Play is the work of the Child” - Maria Montessori

Ms. Heather (RECE)

Ms. Trista (RECE)

Toddler Room





Hello May Court families, first we would like to welcome back Ms. Sam who has been off since Christmas due to the lockdown, we are so excited to have her back!

For as long as we can remember we have always set up activities, or provocations, for the juniors to explore at the tables, outside, at different centres and recently in tuff trays.

Recently in the junior room there has been a lot of talk about “Monsters”. Monsters hiding in the classroom, monsters outside and our favorite circle time book “Go Away Big Green Monster”.

For this provocation we brought in extra monster books, printed off and laminated big green monster pieces and other monster pieces for the children to create their own monsters.



When we engage the children in positive ways and show them that their interests are being heard we let them know that we see them as competent and capable learners.

Ms. Shayla
Ms. Sam

Junior

Preschool Room

Hello Parents

I can't believe it has already been over one month since the Senior Preschool room has opened. In that time we have had several fun and exciting learning experiences.

One of my favourites was belly dancing.

The previous week I had the children enjoying dancing and using various objects to make music. This inspired me to bring in hip scarves used for belly dancing.

Ms. Melissa, Ms. Nancy

SENIOR PRESCHOOL



Just looking at them hanging is an invitation to touch and make them jingle



Each child chose a scarf and I tied it around their waist



Immediately they began to move to make the jingle noise



I put an Arabic Folk Music cd on and all of them began to jump wiggle and dance



it was pure
joy

FDK

Hello, welcome back we have missed everyone! Miss Kayle and Miss Amanda are so glad to have you back.

During online learning we have noticed some of our children were struggling with their sight words and they love playing hide n seek, so why not join the two! We printed, laminated and hid a bunch of sight words around the room up, inside, and under things in the room.

The children were teamed up and each team got a clipboard with paper, flashlights, and a magnifying. We shut the lights off and then then begin the hunt. When they have found all the words in the hunt, they took turns trying to read them out.

The children have really enjoyed this activity and have asked to do it again and again. After this activity we have explored more with letters by using big letters to paint with, hid the big letter in the room and the children find them, sight word bingo and lots more!

MS. Kayle, Ms. Amanda



School age Tecumseh

Hello Growing Together Families! Its the School Age teachers Miss Jayden and Mrs. Ashley here. We are so thrilled to have you all back after the online learning, we have missed you all.

We have noticed that the children are interested in a challenge. So the challenge we have given them is to see what they can create with one cup of leg, one cup of straws and connectors, also well as using their creative skills and making animals with 3 markers for the 3 marker challenge.

As being a School Age educator it is hard to guess how an activity would be done by the children as their minds are all so different and they are all so creative in their own ways. But we would have never thought that the children would have created what they did while exploring these challenges.

It was very interesting to watch the children use the materials in so many different ways. With the Lego we had a child build a house, as another child was building a rocket ship. With the straws and connectors, we had a child spell out the word "HELLO" and others were making a cage or even a parking garage. The 3 markers were a big hit as the children like to colour, we had all different things being made, like animals, their families and even coloring pages were used.

To expand on their interest of challenges, we will provide a sign up sheet for them to pick a date where they are able to provide a challenge for each other in the class. The children are able to work together and create the best challenge they can think of.

From your School Age Educators Miss Jayden, and Mrs. Ashely

