



Region of Durham Regionally Operated Early Learning and Child Care Centres' (ELCC) newsletter

Issue 7

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Play-based programming

Our Directly Operated Early Learning and Child Care Program Statement supports play and inquiry-based learning. We provide many opportunities for a range of experiences that support each child's learning and development.

You will see:

- Children actively engaged in activities, usually in small groups.
- Children and educators smiling, laughing and having fun; playing and learning together.
- A focus on learning through play with educators encouraging and supporting questions, answers and problem solving on the part of the children.

When you arrive to pick up your child from our programs, you may observe them:

- In the Quiet Area looking at books or listening to a story being read aloud. When children pretend to read or listen to stories, they learn to interpret pictures and what they mean. They learn about cause and effect, and how to anticipate and predict what comes next. Reading is the first step in recognizing symbols, letters and words. Books help develop imagination and self-expression.
- On the carpet or at a table putting together a puzzle or playing a game. Working on intricate puzzles helps develop eye-hand co-ordination, as well as concentration and turn-taking skills. Games and puzzles assist in the development of problem-solving skills, and are the beginning phases towards the mathematical skills of matching, sequencing, counting, sorting and classifying.

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General information

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- Playing musical instruments, listening to music or singing. Music helps children (and adults) express themselves and their emotions. Creative movement and dance develops self-confidence and body-awareness. Musical exploration teaches new concepts and vocabulary, such as tempo (fast, slow), pitch (loud, soft), beat and sound. Fine motor skills are also refined when children hold instruments, or clap rhythms.

“When children are able to explore the world around them, with their natural curiosity and exuberance, they are fully engaged. Through this type of play and inquiry, they develop skills such as problem solving, creative thinking and innovating, which are essential for learning and success in school and beyond.” (How Does Learning Happen, page 7)



Ajax Early Learning and Child Care Centre (ELCC)

We would like to welcome Kaden and Remy to our infant room. We are looking forward to the warmer weather, so we can venture outside to explore. Bring on the sunshine!

Our toddlers would like to welcome Chase and Priya who have graduated from the infant room into our program. The children created a grass seed caterpillar and named him Herman. We also went to the EarlyON Child and Family Centre to explore new and exciting activities, and will be making it a regular enhancement to our program.

Our preschool children are learning about co-operation, and are developing their social skills through a variety of dramatic play games. They have shown a great deal of interest in community helpers. Recently, we spotted an ambulance, a fire truck, a police car and a motorcycle, during a community walk.



Clara Hughes Early Learning and Child Care Centre (ELCC)

The preschool room had a literacy night with their families, while the rest of the centre is planning, implementing and demonstrating some excellent learning opportunities within their groups. The toddlers have added a display in their room that illustrates the four foundations of How Does Learning Happen? The JK, SK and school-age children had their very first Monday PA day, where they were able to explore the neighbourhood, and participate in a couple of more complicated and extended baking activities, since they had the whole day together.



Edna Thomson Early Learning and Child Care Centre (ELCC)

Natural elements within our every day environments, provide endless opportunities for exploration, play and learning. The children at Edna Thomson Early Learning and Child Care Centre can often be observed exploring the outdoors, running and jumping in our back play space, while watching members of our community from our front lawn, or exploring the neighbourhood on a group walk. Sensory exploration occurs naturally in the outdoors as the children engage their eyes to observe what they see, their ears to determine what they hear, their noses to discuss what they smell, and their hands to touch the new wonders they discover. On a recent community walk, the preschool #1 room was even able to determine how many children and educators it took to wrap around a large tree they found. We are looking forward to ongoing outdoor exploration throughout the summer months!



Lakewoods Early Learning and Child Care Centre (ELCC)

The toddler room has been busy. We have been enjoying colouring on miniature window panes and dancing to our favorite music with bells on our legs. We love stacking things and watching feathers blow on the register vents. Our creativity is being tested in our toddler outdoor play space. We have been watching the robins collect material to build their nests, and we are planting seeds to grow some colourful flowers. We are looking forward to the nicer weather, so we can watch our seeds grow into beautiful foliage.



Pickering Early Learning and Child Care Centre (ELCC)

The children and educators have been enjoying this great weather. They have been planting flowers and vegetables. They have planted pumpkins, beans and carrots. Each day they are checking to see if they have grown.

We are participating in a science project. We have caterpillars that will grow and form Chrysalis and then emerge as butterflies. At that time, we will do a butterfly release.

The children and parents enjoyed a "Someone Special" morning with fruit kabobs. The children also presented their parents with a carnation flower.



Sunderland Early Learning and Child Care Centre (ELCC)

As the school year comes to a close, we reflect on the creative expression of our early learners. Frederick is drawing detailed pictures, and verbally sharing the story about the people and the world he lives in (ELECT 2.2 Identity formation). A self-portrait of Taylor shows us how she sees herself (ELECT 2.1 Self Concept).



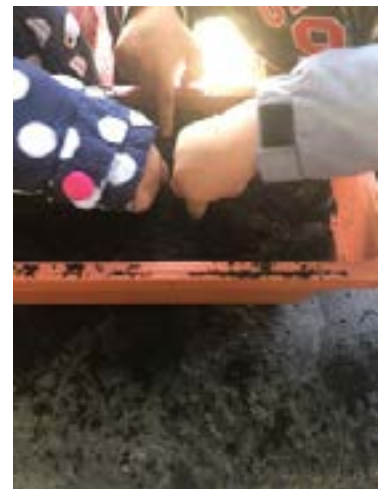
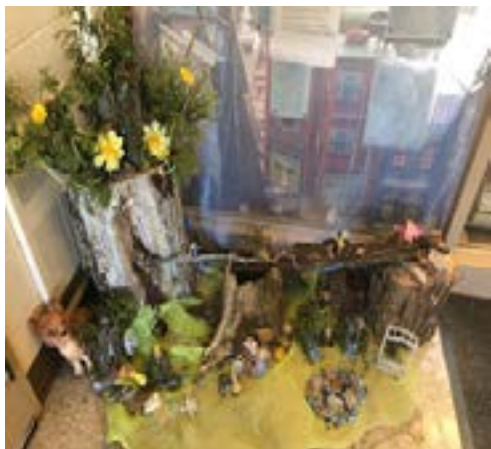
Whitby Early Learning and Child Care Centre (ELCC)

Our toddlers are enjoying the warmer weather. They are working on their self-help skills, and we are celebrating their big and small accomplishments! The toddlers are all about bubbles and bugs; a lot of exploring, experimenting and learning is happening in the toddler program.

Spring has sprung in the junior preschool room. The children are exploring Jack and the Beanstalk, and planting. The children have been planting seeds, and observing the growth and learning about what plants need to grow.

Fairies have arrived in the senior preschool room. The children have created fairy gardens in our entrance way and in their room. The children are exploring nature and habitats in the forest, including bugs, animals and, of course, fairies. The children are transforming their play space into a fairy wonderland.

Our Spring Fling, in honour of all of the women in our lives, was a great success. Thank you to all of the family members that were able to attend our cupcake extravaganza!



Welcome to a place for you, parents and caregivers, to share your stories, recipes, ideas and thoughts.

The educators and staff at Edna Thompson deliver a warm, safe and welcoming environment for my son who has been attending the program for over two years. The staff are passionate about working with children and this is evident from the warm welcomes you see, the attention to detail given to each young learner, and through little notes and feedback they give to me about my son each time I come to the centre. Knowing that my child is being fed nutritious foods each day and is engaging in hands on, play based learning really helps the transition to and from the centre each day for both myself and my son. My daughter attended Edna Thompson several years ago and I am grateful and appreciative to see the level of care provided maintained and that they are evolving their programming based on research based best practices.

Kind Regards,

Michelle

The start of our journey

My daughter started Junior Kindergarten in the fall at Sunderland Public School and also attends the before and after program three days per week.

From the first email to today the centre has been beyond amazing! All the staff interact so perfectly with the children and my daughter is very excited to go.

The center has been such a great transition for my daughter and our family. Starting a new routine can be overwhelming, but the center has made it great. We look forward to our next few years for our daughter to grow with the program.

Ryan, Brittany and Abigail

We have recently been on a playdough kick. Victoria has even brought some playdough to the Pickering Centre to share with everyone. There's something so enticing about the bright colours, the soft texture, and the endless ways you can cut, mould, and create with it. We have a go-to recipe that takes only moments to make, and the measuring of the ingredients and choosing the colours are part of the fun for Victoria. We hope you enjoy this as much as we do!

Recipe:

1 cup flour

1 cup water

2 tsp cream of tartar

1 tbsp vegetable oil

1/3 cup salt

Food colouring of choice

Mix all ingredients in a saucepan. Heat over medium heat, stirring until mixture starts to lump together and pull away from the sides of the pan. The mixture will be lumpy but just keep stirring. When almost dry looking, remove mixture from pan and place on wax paper or a plate to cool. Once cool enough to touch, knead the dough until uniform in colour and consistency. Store in an airtight container or plastic bag.

Jennette