

February 2021

# Lord Roberts Children's Program's

## Letter from Director



Hello all!

As I write this on a frozen day in February I reflect on the astonishing fact that a year ago I was tanning on a beach in Mexico and not imagining that the world would be in this pandemic that has so drastically changed so many things as it progresses. At LRCP we have made adjustments and with the hard work and dedication of our staff and Board we have been able to remain true to our mission which is:

**“To provide quality early years education and care through a curriculum that develops capable people, supports the families we serve and helps to build a healthy community”.**

We as a program have been blessed with hard working teams who have gone above and beyond to keep our centre welcoming and warm, clean and healthy, fun and exciting and a wonderful environment for families and chil-

dren during this time. The centre has been back up and running since last May and at our school-age site we are back at full capacity largely due to the support of Lord Roberts School who allows us the ability to separate cohorts. At the preschool we are able to accommodate only 40 of our 59 licensed spaces as the rules surrounding cohorts do not allow us to be full right now. This means that we lose 7904.00 in revenue every 20 working days. That is a staggering thought! Thankfully to date we have qualified for CEWS from the federal government which takes some of the sting but it is uncertain what will happen when this program ends.

The Province has launched a survey for parents and would like you to fill it out. It is posted on our website as well as a related fact sheet that I would recommend reading prior to filling it out as some of the questions could use a bit of information attached! Something to keep in mind as a FYI- parent fees have not been increased in over 9 years and our operating grant has not increased in 5 years so you can only imagine where this shortfall hits first- if you guess the salaries of the amazing staff you see daily, you guessed correctly!

This winter we have said farewell to 2 staff- Margaret retired after being here since 2004 off and on as both a CCA and an Inclusion Support Staff, and Ashley

left to have her first baby who was born on February 19 -a lovely baby girl called Naomi-Rose. We welcomed a new staff to our team and you can read about her in this newsletter. Our team is patiently waiting for information as to when we might qualify for vaccination for COVID because as you all know: **Thanks to child care, Manitoba works.**

Stay healthy, stay safe and stay home!

April

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## News from Sunshine Room



### Mary from The Scooby Doo's



February is now upon us. We welcome Genya who has fit in nicely to the Scooby Doo group.

The children are enjoying the mini hill at Ted

Jones Park. They have been going to parks and for walks around the neighborhood. The children also enjoy the use of the gym in the community club. The cloth elastics in the gym allow the children to improve their dexterity while having fun firing them at their friends. They use the indoor climber which offers opportunities for large muscle development and the recent purchase of gym balls has become something the children enjoy. They experiment catching the ball and throwing it at the basketball hoop. Hand/eye coordination is hard at work daily with the cold weather keeping us indoors.

### Mayling from The Lady Bugs



Hello from the Lady bug group.

We have been learning about winter weather and One fun thing the children enjoyed was ice cube painting.

Children learn mixing colors, feel the texture of the slippery cold and wet paint. Children also develop fine motor and gross motor skills as they paint. It's also fun. We spent some of our time outdoors making snowman and winter animals. During circle time the children made their own snowman with different sizes of circles. This helps them organize and identify visual information. It helps them with reading, math and science. Around Valentines day we started talking about what we like about our family. The children learn that love is a good feeling. We have also been learning about patience and letting our friends share their thoughts while we wait till it is our turn. This led into being kind and ways we can show that by not pushing or hitting our friends. This is how our children develop social and emotional skills and creative expression skills.

### Sayuri from The Bumble Bees

We have spent lot of time playing outside during the warmer mornings. The children have loved building ice castles with yogurt cups by scooping snow and smashing them afterwards. We made lots of colored ice cubes and creating and decorating snow cakes. Inside we had various activities. There was lots of crafts with different loose parts materials such as aluminum foils (making icicles), roller painting on the drywall, weaving the paper bag. The children have also been



learning the concept of shapes by making shapes with popsicle sticks as well as name recognition by matching each letter with the model names. When we had the cold weather, they enjoyed indoor physical activity, foot/hand print game.

Throughout each play, the children have been developing both their small muscles and large muscles. While they joined with shapes and name matching activity, they were using their thinking and problem-solving skills as well. We will continue to have fun activities and expand their overall skills.

### Natalia from The Butterflies



The Butterfly groups is focusing on further fostering their cognitive, motor and social skills.

As the children traced letters and numbers they would utter the current letter or number they were working on. Recognition of the letters in their name is occurring daily and assisting in helping the children spell their names through memorization. Children are doing their first steps in acquiring reading skills. They are recognizing short words that consist of 3 letters and finding them in their story books.

Outside time has been few and far between as the weather has not been on our side but when we do have the opportunity to go outside the children enjoy finding shapes in the piles of snow or ice that has formed.

## News from The Rainbow Room

The toddlers in the Rainbow Room have been busy learners and explorers. Since it's been extra cold out, we have been doing more craft activities such as painting, gluing art works. We have also been pulling out more of the large climbers for the children to use their large motor skills more often, as we have noticed their needs for climbing. We also have been doing a lot of running and dancing to different action songs and dances.

We also have more time in the morning on teaching the children self help skills such as to try to take off their own jack-

ets. Giving them instructions and tricks on ways to take off their own winter items such as the tricky zippers and using their big toes to push their winter boots off their little feet.

The children have been enjoying the pretend play with the new toys we have received last month. They also love the new car mat and wooden play pieces for pretend play. Right now, the children are extremely interested in making ramps for their little cars to roll down on and playing the card game, memory.

In the next few weeks we will be focusing on assessing the children in the rain-

bow room to have an idea where they are developmentally.

Please remember to bring the communication books to daycare each day in case we want to share or if we have questions as we don't always see the parents during the day. We hope you continue to share your ideas, fun experiences at home or any concerns you may have through our communication books as well.



## Introduction to our New Staff Members

**HELLO**  
my name is

**Sayuri**  
**Ishibashi**

**HELLO**  
my name is

**Geniya**  
**Mazovskyy**

**HELLO**  
my name is

**Lisa**  
**James**

I am very excited to work here as a staff member of LRCP. Before I moved to Canada, I was a high school teacher in Japan for 15 years. I have two children (6 year-old son, 10 year-old daughter) and their educators in their child care supported them grow, develop their skills in many areas and also supported me when I was working. It was the moment I decided to become an educator like them. I hope I will contribute myself to this program to support each and every child's growth and their families. Please feel free to talk to me when you have time!

I am a Child Care Assistant and I am taking over Ashley's position while she is away with her new baby. I have worked in Child Care and as a long term activity worker with seniors in Churchill for 7 years. I also worked at the lunch program at Lord Roberts School for 2 years. I am now employed at Lord Roberts Children's Programs Inc and I am really enjoying it. I am with the Scooby Doos in the center. I live in the neighborhood and am married with 2 children.

Greetings! My name is Lisa. October 2020. I rejoined the fabulous and caring staff at Lord Roberts Children's Program. I am currently working at the School Age site as an ECE in Training. I would like to say "Thank You" to the children and their families, my co-workers, and the Lord Roberts Board for welcoming me back as one of their own. I look forward to working with the children and their families.

## News from School Age

### Older Cohort

It's so crazy to think that we have spent half a year in the gym. The older children haven't stepped foot in program since the summer and they adjusted seemingly well. The staff on the other hand had to brainstorm what to bring in, what to leave behind, where to put things, where the children would put their things and the list goes on. It was a learn as you go process for most of us. We had a lot of "well why didn't we do that before?" moments and the layout is still changing monthly if not weekly in some cases. We had children come and go. That was hard. Especially when our usual goodbyes had to be altered. It's been an interesting adjustment to "Covid times" but we make the best of it and keep going.

The one thing I have noticed is that there seems to be a commonality

with what the children do. There has been a greater emphasis between all the children with cooperative play activities. Four square and beach ball volleyball are popular options for physical activity while board games such as Sorry, Uno and Blokus are fan favorites for a more relaxed option of play. This



could be out of lack of options, comfort or a combination of both those things plus more. The "lack of options" was something that had us stumped for a bit. In program it's easy to lay out craft

supplies and let the children go to town with what was there. There wasn't a worry of having to have everything cleaned by a certain time or finding a place for their creations. Sadly in the gym this is something we have to consider on a daily basis. In-service days offer us an opportunity to go back to "the good ole days" so to speak. A full day to make messes, create, inspire and explore. I give full credit to those centers that are roll away programs. This thought has been brought to all of the staff's attention and has fuelled us to find ways to provide the children with opportunities to make messes, inspire them to think outside the box and explore that side of their minds that let them create and imagine what they can do. Not just on in-service days but all days moving forward.

### Younger cohort

It is unbelievable that we are approaching almost a year since we have had to deal with the pandemic. Our group has been getting into the routine of wearing a mask when they're playing close together, washing hands before and after eating, before joining a new activity, after completing an activity, coming to the centre and going home. With all this hand washing you may have noticed your child's hands looking dry and sore. You are welcome to send hand cream that we can also help apply. In between all that hand washing, we have been involved in a lot of emergence pedagogical curriculums. This is providing activities and opportunities

inspired by your children. We observe their play and discussions and document it with notes, pictures and videos. We invite them to try new activities that may peak their interest and curiosity. We do this by asking questions, setting up areas using loose parts or adding various materials to a different environments.

We had brought our animals out to play at McKittrick Park. The children had created habitats for Arctic animals as well as dinosaurs. These habitats were left out so that their play could continue and new ideas explored. Snow play both inside and out is always a big hit. With cave building, snow castle creations to hide and seek of dinosaurs in snow chunks and snow painting.

Some of our older children have taken on the role as mentor to their younger friendships with organizing games and helping with teaching rules of games to them.

As the snow melts and warmer weather arrives we will begin our gardening journey and with this comes new and exciting opportunities to discover and learn.



# How Children Deal with Fears



I'm sure we have all seen children playing and pretending they're soldiers, the walking dead or monsters. Some might think this type of play is the result of video games or shows they see or hear about. While this is true and probably accurate, there is also self regulation happening.

So what is Self Regulation?

Self regulation is the process we go through to help us cope and learn from difficult moments that challenge our actions and reactions. I can remember being a child and being afraid to flush the toilet because of the loud noise it makes and the forceful way the water disappeared. Adults would often say "you have to flush the toilet when you are done". I didn't know how to explain what I was feeling so instead I listened to what I was told. I found a way to deal with my fears. I created a scenario that whenever I flushed the toilet tiny creatures that lived in the bowl were being released. The second the toilet flushed I would run and hide under the closest blanket. I could swear that I heard their tiny feet scampering across the floor and onto the top of the blanket. If wasn't quiet they would know we I was. Eventually this became something I started playing with my cousin during

sleepovers as well. She had the same fear as me. Every time one of us would go to the bathroom we would prepare for the invasion. The fear subsided and the toilet was no longer something that we worried about. Now it was a fun aspect of play.

Children often play in scenarios, that to us seem aggressive, dark or we don't understand. This is often where levels of development and understanding happen that they don't realize themselves. Children can submerge into a world of imagination that often involves the very things they fear. This allows them to choose how they deal. Some will choose to be the very thing they are afraid of and some will choose the path of the hero who vanquishes the evil and saves the day. Either way once they have found a way to work through what's scaring them the play usually stops or turns in a different direction.





## ***The Nothing Poem***

***When children come home  
At the end of the day.  
There's a question they're asked  
As they scurry to play***

***"Tell me, what did you do in school today?"  
"Nothing, I did nothing today!"***

***Perhaps nothing means that I played with blocks.  
Tied my own shoes, or found beautiful rocks.  
Maybe the monarchs hatched today.  
Or maybe I found a new friend to play.***

***Maybe today was the very first time  
My scissors followed a very straight line.  
Perhaps I learned a new song,  
And sang all the words.***

***Or I touched a feather from the strangest of birds.***

***When you're in preschool and your heart has wings,  
"Nothing" can mean some wonderful things!***



***-Author Unknown***