

November 2019

Lord Roberts Children's Program's October 2020

Letter from Director

Director's Note...

I am writing this on the first day of fall 2020-the weather feels like the first day of summer in the craziest year ever!

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a hold of our world and every day has been unique and challenging in our lives at LRCP. The summer at both sites passed quickly and although it was different to not have field trips and messy activities it was well planned and fun for the children at both sites (despite the separate cohorts). Our staff teams remain mixed with preschool staff moving to school-age to handle the extra cohort and both sites are operational. The preschool is down 19 children as we do not have space for a 3rd cohort and the school-age site has room for 60 and we currently have 60 enrolled. The other big changes right now are we have stopped serving snack and lunch and our hours of operation are different so we can accommodate the extra and huge amount of cleaning we need to do daily. When I say "we" I really mean our amazing staff that have been stellar throughout this pandemic-besides planning and working with your children they have cleaned and cleaned and cleaned. Every toy is disinfected during the day, every doorknob is

wiped, every chair is sprayed and the list goes on. Added to this at the school-age site the staff are working alongside the school lunch program staff over the lunch period so children can stay in their school cohorts and several of them are working a "split shift" to make sure we can staff the cohorts from 7:15 am to 5:30 pm every day. The amount that our staff give to this organization is truly amazing and if you have a moment make sure to thank them.

As it is also time for flu season I must remind you not only will we be following all COVID-19 health guidelines we will be monitoring children closely. To date we have found that our families have been great about keeping children home and we hope this continues as the cold weather comes and germs will be spread more easily. There are all sorts of signs posted around both centres **and if you have a sick child-stay home and keep siblings home as well**. If your child is ill and you are not having them tested you must stay home as per the COVID-19 health guidelines (which is 10 to 14 days and self-isolating). If you have them tested they cannot return until you have negative test results confirmed. Please notify us in both cases so we can track information used for tracing if there would be a positive case confirmed.

For those of you who attended our virtual AGM- thank-you! For those who could not attend there is a list of the new Board of Directors on the website and posted in the centres for your information.

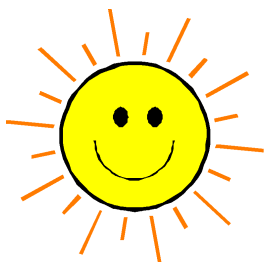
Lastly, please remember to check your ChildCare pro emails as that is where we send out communication from (where your invoices and receipts come from and the also check the website for Announcements, staff lists etc! (www.lordroberts.org) Watch your emails for our easiest fundraiser ever!! Stay well,

April

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News from Sunshine Room



Hello from the sunny Sunshine room and the staff!

We have been very busy coming up with great and exciting activities during this COVID time. Here is what we have been up to so far!

Summer update:

We have been busy exploring nature over the entire summer. Some of the things we enjoyed doing were:

- looking for holes in trees
- discussing what might be living in those holes
- climbing small trees to show how strong we are
- and making leaf berry sandwiches to feed the birdies!

We usually have a fun fashion show to close off summer but this year we couldn't do this for obvious reasons and we had to change our plans. The children really loved playing hide and seek through the summer so we upped the hide and seek game and played in the gym. We gave all the children (in their cohorts) glow sticks, flash lights and used our fash-

ion show disco light and music and played hide and seek in the dark. The children were super excited and one of the children exclaimed "Best day ever!"

Mary from The Scooby Doo's



We have been talking about the changing seasons and doing painting with fall colours. We have been learning about counting using the leaves we made in

our group. We have been visiting the many parks in our community while the weather is good

Mayling from The Lady Bugs



For the last 2 weeks we have been getting to know the friends in our group. We have been doing the following to help with this and letter recognition: 1.) what is the first letter in your name game? 2.) Learning to identify and recognize our whole name when we see it. This helps the children be independent when they put things in lockers and folders. 3.) Learning about ladybugs by observing them when we are outside. 4.) Learning about height- the children were measuring how tall each other was so we measured them all and put them in order tallest to shortest which helps with concept development. 5.) The children were talking about birthdays so we will use this to learn more about months of the years and numbers. 6.) The children love to draw and colour and we try

and use as many mediums as possible for this- chalk, markers, crayons, pencil crayons etc. Art activities with small children are so important! They develop fine muscles, creativity, eye/hand coordination, social skills, sensory development, and concept development- colours, dry, wet, big, small etc but most of all it is FUN! 7.) We also go for lots of community walks. The children love the large muscle activities on the swings and climbers and we love being outside. Lastly, we have been talking about our feelings- happy, sad, scared, mad, etc as with new friends starting feelings are running high!

Brenda from The Bumble Bees



This group has not yet met but will begin when our new staff Sayuri begins in October.

Natalia from The Butterflies



The goals for fall in our group are further development of cognitive and motor skills. During circle time activities we will be doing crafts that develop skills regardless of the child's age in our group. An example of this might look like arranging shapes in a way that creates a familiar object like a boat, a boy, a girl etc. We will start to use scissors for those that can and teach others how to use scissors. Our circles will always start singing and rhyming songs and poems. We will begin working on numbers and letters through fun activities and games

News from The Rainbow Room



This summer we spent a lot of time outside at the park climbing, running, exploring, searching for frogs, playing with water bottles and bubbles and doing fun activities!

As fall arrived we have started having a short group circle- reading stories, having sing-a-longs and dancing as well as all the play-based learning that happens every day. We know our young friends in our room have short attention spans and need lots of movement time so we continue to head outside as much as possible.- Sybile and Cristin

Note to Rainbow Room families- Brenda from the Sunshine Room will be the ECE in this room joining Cristin beginning September 28th as Tonee has decided to stay home with her son.

Preschool Reminders

- Please dress your kiddos for the weather- we go outside every day- rain, snow, sun...
- Please label all your children's belongings otherwise we have no way of returning things that are misplaced! (participate in the Mabel's Labels fundraiser)
- Please label your child's snacks A.M. or P.M. It makes life easier for staff



Fundraiser Information



This is our latest fundraiser- just go to www.mabelslabels.com and look up Lord Roberts Children's Programs Inc. and place your order! We receive 20% of every order placed so let's get labeled before the snow flies and mittens, hats and toques are lost!

News from School Age

Older Cohort

It's safe to say that this summer was definitely a drastic change from our usual summer breaks. With limited options available in the way of field trips and outings we had to get creative with our daily choices. A vast majority of our time was spent outside which gave us a great opportunity to explore nature and what our neighborhood had to offer. There was a lot of on the spot random activities that weren't planned but became great moments for growth and development. The opportunity presented itself to take apart a park bench when some of the children noticed a few bolts were loose. We ended up taking it completely apart and used some of the beams to make a ramp that we rested on the trunk of a tree. Some of the children used it to get up into the tree which was great to witness. Children who couldn't climb trees before are now practically monkeys. New bonds were formed within the cohorts with children who wouldn't always play together. These bonds have followed through into the school year. Comfort zones have been challenged, peer support was increased and we all formed a new appreciation for music and its ability to make anywhere a karaoke dance party. I made a point to introduce the children to some different genres of music. They in turn



introduced me to some as well. I can't say we fully agreed on all of our music selections but the ones we did we sang loud and proud. We went for walks with no destination chosen. One child would pick a direction and then go to the end of the line so the next child could choose. It was

interesting to see where they chose. I expected them to choose unfamiliar paths and roads but was surprised to see they chose familiarity instead of the road less traveled. Goes to show you that yes they want freedom but within their comfort zones.

As for the school year, things have of course been slightly chaotic as we all find our groove in these Covid times. Children of course have lots of questions regarding why things are the way they are and how long they will remain. We answer the best we can with what we know and acknowledge that things are always changing. Not a great situation to be in for those children who struggle with transitions but just as much as there are difficult struggles there are also opportunities for growth and resilience. So as usual we keep moving forward and embracing those unexpected moments that offer us chances to do something different and experience something new.



News from School Age

Younger cohort

Hello from cohort? We may need to come up with a name for our group. Stay tuned.

We have new kindergarteners joining our school age program as usual at the beginning of the school year. Routine changes, room changes from the summer, practicing social distancing (kind of) as well as having to wear masks are all changes all the kids are adjusting to. I'm always amazed at the children's resilience to change.

In the midst of all of this change, the activities provided by the staff have allowed opportunities for our groups to discover and learn through play. You may have noticed the wonderful story boards that hopefully have given you a glimpse of your child's day at Lord Roberts School Age. Leona's guinea pig Franklin caught the hearts of our children as they had opportunities to visit, feed and snuggle



him on a couple of occasions.

Our summer was filled with venturing out to many parks (6 in fact) that are located within walking distance from the centre. Ask your child, maybe it's a new one that you haven't discovered yet. With such beautiful weather this summer we enjoyed water days and many trips to the garden located in Colleen's backyard. Picnics with our lunches were enjoyed as well. Taylor lead the baseball games outside where ever green space allowed as well as the hockey series being played any free moment in the gym. A Stanley cup was created and presented to winning team.

As summer wrapped up we switch rooms but your child continues to explore, discover and play as their interest are observed and activities provided to encourage a joy for learning new things.



Our New Board of Directors



Board of Directors

- Neil McKernan- Chairperson
- Kate MacKay-Secretary
- Pam Boychuk- Treasurer
- Ronilee Neufeld
- Jeff Neville
- Rikke McFeetors-Vice- Chairperson
- Danniella Brazel-Adams
- Kristina Lage
- Sean Robert
- Shoni Madden

