

March 2022

Lord Roberts Children's Program's

Letter from Director

It is with disbelief that as I write this that it has been 2 years since the Covid-19 Pandemic began. When I think back to March 2020 I recall the fear, the confusion, the panic (remember the toilet paper rush at the stores?) and the absolute belief that when we closed for 3 weeks we would return to work in April 2020 and that would be that. How wrong that optimism was! The 2 years that have followed have been stressful for everyone but the early learning and child care sector really had a lot to deal with. We worked daily while other industries worked from home or shut down, we were asked to do our part and step up when we were not provided with adequate information, adequate safety equipment and were expected to provide care for children of essential workers, many of those who were at the highest risk of catching this virus and bringing it right into our programs so in turn we could possibly carry it home to our own families and loved ones. In our program we had 2 outbreaks where we closed the centre; we had many staff develop the virus, some who are still having side effects many months afterwards and some who never contacted the virus despite our working in close quarters in the centre.

There were some positives that came out of chaos that is the Covid-19 pandemic for early learning and child care the biggest being that the general public now realizes that without early learning and childcare in place society does not work- all the essential workers who need to be at work need a well-funded, quality, easily accessible system with well-trained and compensated Early Childhood Educators doing this work. The federal and provincial governments of all prov-

inces and territories (except Ontario at the time of this writing) have signed onto the Canada-Provincial childcare agreements which will help build this system beginning in the next 5 years. Of course, I recognize that the federal government had made this a campaign promise but for it to actually be happening now is a direct result of the pandemic pushing us to forefront- people who never used or thought about childcare are talking about it now.

Our centre staff have been outstanding during this pandemic- **they are the essential workers needed** to make sure that the centre where your children spend their days are safe and clean environments where play-based learning occurs, fears are calmed (and yes children were scared of this virus) and consistency in the days of chaos remained. There are not enough words to thank them for their dedication and willingness to do whatever was needed during this time. We worked in complete partnership with the school, always with the best interests of the children and families in place and we worked in partnership with other childcare centres at the beginning of this pandemic. I know of course that this is not the "for sure" end of this pandemic and that another wave could come around. However, as we start to loosen the rules and move back to normal I cannot help but reflect on what has just passed with a mixture of "oh my goodness what just happened" and "oh my goodness we did a great job" and know that what I have always believed to be true actually is: childcare is now and always will be an essential service. #childcarethetimeisNow

Stay well, April



News from Sunshine Room



Mary from The Scooby Doo's

With the previous cold temperatures, the Scooby Doo's were going to the gym in the morning. They used their large motor skills by playing with cars, hoops, balls, running and jumping. They practiced coordination skills by kicking and catching the balls. Scooby Doo's also like to dance and exercise to the music from the blue tooth.

On Feb 28th, we welcomed Scarlett to our Scooby Doo Group. She is a Red River College student taking her practicum at LRCP.

During circle time we have learnt about many different concepts such as shapes, colors, opposites etc. We also used paint to be creative. Construction toys were also used to enhance their fine motor skills and their creative building skills.

Overall we are all looking forward to spring. The children want to jump in the puddles when all those snow-banks melt.



Mayling from The Lady Bugs

Hello everyone:
Just want to welcome Jackson to our group from the Rainbow Room. A warm welcome to our friend Elliott and also our Red River student Dora. Our group of friends are: Miral, Jackson, Elliott, Violet, Frida, Alita, Kparobo ~ with Rachel David ~ Diane

Here is a snippet of what we did during the past three months:
January

~ New Year's 2022. Welcome to new year and new friends.

~ The children played with various winter animals using natural materials

~Outdoor play weather permitting.

~Melting snow and seeing what happens February

~Children loved beading, cutting and drawing pictures.

~We made valentines cards, did color mixing with paint and gluing.

~We learnt how we are all different and unique in our own way and being kind to everyone can make a difference.

~We did an activity with ice and salt added paint to see the outcome.

~We celebrated festival du voyageur (reading books, doing puzzles and playing with voyageur dolls and looming etc.) ~The children also celebrated Chinese New Year. (Reading and making lanterns etc.) March

~The children will be doing St. Patrick's activities and other activities based on the child's interest.

~The children love playing with magnetic letters. To further enhance their play we play alphabet bingo, matching letters in their name and writing their name. They love to recognize their names and other children's names too! Stay happy, healthy and safe.



Sayuri from The Bumble Bees

Weather permitting, our group explored snow a lot. The children learned and developed various skills. They first discovered that the views of park/the field were completely different from other seasons by walking through the deep snow paths, digging and finding out where

the play structures were. They showed a sense of achievement when they could finally climb up the hill or go inside the park where there was a pile of snow! It was amazing to see older friends naturally giving a helping hand to little friends in walking. One day, one of our friend brought some sticks from home and we made birthday cakes, using buckets. We sang a birthday song in the snow! In circle time, the children developed fine motor skills (small muscles), too. They colored snow with eye dropper in a tray and froze them outside. They were amazed how they turned to be beautiful ice cubes. They also developed their cutting skills by snipping strings (hair cut activity) and beading skills (Valentine's day craft)



Natalia from The Butterflies

The butterflies continue to make friends with their new members. As a teacher facilitates fascinating circle time activities, they assist the children in exploring their new room. Butterflies enjoy matching games that show a variety of numbers, letters, animals, plants, and insects. They are delighted by the stories and fairy tales they hear during story time. They not only listen but also discuss their favorite characters and predict what will happen next. Thus, they are encouraged to develop their narrative skills, become independent in asking questions, and eliminate embarrassing feelings while interacting with others. Butterflies spent a lovely Valentine's Day together. They participated in an array of activities enjoying the treats.



Qiuli from The Dragonflies

We have been through a cold snowy winter this year, but we still have had a lot of fun. If the weather is suitable to go outside, I will take my dragonfly group outside. These days, I am working on encouraging my groups to dress up and undress by themselves. The younger children can do most parts of the work expect doing the zippers. The older chil-

dren can dress up very fast and I 'assign' missions of helping others to them. Through the whole process, all the children develop their self-help skills, fine motor skills, and social skills. During play, I always bring shovels, food coloring, and animals outside which extend their play and promote their



imagination.

During circle time, I started to teach them letters and numbers through different activities such as puzzles and matching games. Also we do arts like cutting, painting and coloring. Through all these activities, I can see every child is unique, they have different interests, different developing skills, different personalities, but the same thing for them is that they are having fun and making progress every day. I cannot wait for the summer and we will have much more fun!

News from The Rainbow Room

Currently in the Rainbow Room we are continuously striving to develop self-help skills such as learning how to unzip zippers, open Velcro straps and to try help us to try help them to take off their own winter gear. We are also encouraging the children to use the word "help". We are also encouraging children to try pulling their own pants down, while they are having a "try" on the toilet.

With the new toddlers coming into our program, we have been taking things down a notch with our crafting and routines to more of a basic introductory skill for developing routines, such as; lining up, listening for their name (name recognition), sharing and taking turns.

The children have been learning how to clean up after themselves during snack and lunch times. They are learning how to sort the garbage and putting it in the correct garbage

bin. They are also learning how to put their dirty dishes away into the dirty dishes bucket. Since we have been consistently teaching this skill in the rainbow room, we notice that spoons and cups are not being thrown away as frequently as it was in the past.

We have also laminated each of the children's names along with a photo of each child so they know which locker exactly is theirs and that they can put their own lunches away into their own lockers.

During our scheduled programming activities, we are incorporating into our daily routines a running or walking activity usually for about 5 -10 minutes and we often do stretches and yoga. We are also practicing handstands using the wall as leverage. The Rainbow Room friends are very enthusiastic when it comes to the riding toys. The children in the Rainbow Room are eager to wait in

the correct spot (white line), while we are choosing toys and giving them to the children when they do get to the spot first. It's also far enough away from the door if something were to fall. When our newer children are more comfortable in our center, we will be taking out more climbers, toys and large motor activities.

I am very happy to be back in the Rainbow Room. April, Sybile, and the rest of the staff helped me to realize that this is a place where I am loved and I feel safe comfortable and at home here. Plus, I don't have to pay for parking.



Introduction to our New Staff Members

HELLO
my name is

Qiuli Wang

My name is Qiuli Wang. I come from China and came to Winnipeg in 2017. I am an ECE 2. I graduated in Early Childhood Educa-

tion work place program at Red River College in 2021. I learned a lot of new knowledge from school and have been using it during my work. I love working with children, they make me laugh and I

grow with them at the same time. In my spare time, reading and traveling are my passions. I have spent two summers traveling most of the main cities in Canada. It is a big and great country to stay. Also, I can play a Chinese instrument that I hope I can share with children someday. Overall, it is a great opportunity to me to work in the Lord Robert Children Program. I will share what I know and learn I see.



News from School Age

Younger Cohort

It has been a cold cold winter with the many days of staying indoors so any opportunity to venture outside we took it. As Elsa sings "The cold never bothered me anyway" we look on that same philosophy.



This was especially true of the kinder group. Even the ten minutes of going out to pick up the other group. We enjoyed using the snow bank to slide down to the sidewalk. The snow was a great ingredient to create cakes as we waited. There are times we brought shovels along to make steps to get back up the snow bank as well as hoesvelin new fallen snow and clearing snow away from the fire hydrant to help the fire fighters.

Large piles of snow the plows produced in the safety of near by parks became new worlds for play. Campfires were made, we escaped an avalanche, sliding through tunnels, scaling the mountain, practicing parkour, being animals and ninja turtles. The imagination was limitless. Our school yard became an ocean and the snow piles transformed into whales and ice horses.

Stay tuned of upcoming adventures in outdoor play as the snow melts and a world of water presents new opportunities for imaginative play.



News from School Age—continued

POWER OF CREATIVITY

change their thought pattern and formulate a more modified method that will work. Instead of getting frustrated and giving up they find the ability to ground themselves and carry on with the project.

Don't get me wrong they still paint and draw pictures but I'm missing those big moments where they make more detailed, more involved and more imaginative things. The projects that can take days instead of the few hours afterschool. The ones that can be admired, engage other children around them to foster their own creativity and the ones that make them feel proud of what they accomplished.

So yes.....lots will be different and an adjustment but we will also get back to the things we miss.

Older Cohort

Is it really true? Is Covid regulations almost over? I cannot begin to express how excited the possibility is that things may return to normal, especially for the older cohort. I say that hesitantly because in actuality I have no idea what "normal" is going to look like. My hope is to return to pre-covid times. When we could all be in the same room at once. Older children mingling with the younger children and socializing with all the different age groups.

The older cohort has been in a "roll away" program for the last two years and it's safe to say that we have grown a little bored of the limitations it sets forward. The dynamic of what the children choose to do has changed. Of course we still offer a steady supply of craft materials but because they aren't readily available and in eye site there has been a large decrease in that area. At first it wasn't as noticeable. Children were still creating and making art projects but as the time carried on the appeal seemed to leave. Predictive activities became almost a source of comfort and familiarity during Covid. I think after hearing "no we can't do that" over and over it became the safer and easier option then dealing with

the disappointment. Sadly this "play it safe" mentality seemed to carry forward into asking for anything, which in turn included craft supplies,

Crafting no matter what shape or form it takes is such an important part of development. It has so many benefits to it. Besides the obvious benefits of cultivating creativity, art projects also help build resilience and critical thinking. Sometimes an idea in your head doesn't come to fruition as you start to construct it. So what happens then? Children





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***STEP 2* Select "Find Your Teacher" & search by province & city or by our postal code**

OUR POSTAL CODE IS – R3L 1B8

***STEP 3* Select your school using the drop down menu**

OUR SCHOOL IS – LORD ROBERTS PRESCHOOL

***STEP 4* Choose your teachers name from the drop down menu & select "Create an Account"**

When asked

TEACHER IS – SYBILLE KINLEY

CLASS CODE IS – RC175361

***STEP 5* Create your account – fill out the information & click continue**

***STEP 6* Add you child to your account. Your child's information will be used to notify**

You're the teacher of their order.

HAPPY SHOPPING – HAPPY READING

