

March 2022

Lord Roberts Children's Program's

Loose Part— The development behind the Play

What can you do with all those odds and ends that you may have laying around at home?

You may have buttons, dice, cardboard tubes, magnets, etc in your house that you are saving for?????

In the world of Childcare, we call all those odds and ends loose parts. Loose Parts has been defined as, "Alluring, beautiful found objects and materials that children can move, manipulate, control and change while they play."

These loose parts are what spark imagination, curiosity, creativity, emotions, ideas, and questions. The power that loose parts has in a child's world is unlimited. Providing a variety of items for children to explore allows an enriched learning environment that helps increase development in domain such as literacy, social, cognitive, sense, physical, and emotional development.

With all these in mind both center's work diligently to provide items that can be used in the manners stated above. Below is one example from our preschool where the children used the loose parts they had available to them to create an imaginative scene of play that had them engaged and intrigued by its many possibilities.

-Lanny

Hi parents I have been introducing Loose parts play material for the children to explore. Recently I provided plastic cups, rubber bands, pine cones and a few other odds and ends to explore. I enjoy observing the children in their moments of creativity and exploration.



In this picture a group of children have a dinosaur with a rubber band harness. The dinosaur has a pine cone on its side. In a child's view, it could be carrying a dinosaur egg or food. It could also be a backpack or possibly using this object for transportation. It's amazing to me how something so simple can turn into something adventurous and exciting for them. I feel that these kinds of materials help them grow by imagination play, problem solving, eye coordination, gross motor skills, and social play. I enjoy capturing these moments and to be able to share this with families.

-Cassie



News from Sunshine Room



Mary from The Scooby Doo's

Mary and Genya's Scooby Doo group consists of the following children: Bodhi, Penelope, Maramawit, Colson, Nixon, Onella and Josephine. The children are curious and capable developing their skills through play.

We did some Halloween crafts and the children used their imagination and creative skills! We also did some letter recognition. They are using their cognitive skills. L is for Logan for example.

Painting and mixing colors was a fun activity for my Scooby Doo group. We did an exploding milk science activity and the children discovered how the food coloring changed and mixed with dish soap. The children also played a board game and learnt their colors too by matching them.

I make playdough for all the children. They use their fine motor skills. It is available daily. Playing with interlocking blocks help build their fine motor skills and they create something using their imagination.

Songs and stories are part of their learning as well. Right now we are learning holiday songs.

Genya takes the Scooby Doo's outside. They use their large muscles by walking, jumping, climbing, sliding, and playing in the snow. Genya does movement and dance in the gym with the children. They learn repetitive movements using their large muscles.

Genya and I would like to wish all of our families Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa and Happy Holidays!



Lisa from The Bumble Bees

Holiday Greetings from the Bumble Bees! Let me begin

by saying it has been such a wonderful time getting to know the children in my

group. We laugh, we sing, we play, and we share stories. We are building relationships. In Circle Time, the children have been learning about Alphabet Letters, colors, shapes, and numbers. The children can place tiles in correct sequence to spell their names. Classify same objects into groups of colors. Place a shaped block with the matching picture. Solve a number puzzle by matching the number with the same number of objects. In addition, they are engaging in activities that are building their Fine Motor Skills such as cutting paper with scissors and manipulating small and large Loose Parts materials. When Circle Time is over the children get ready for outdoor activities. This can be a challenging task for our young group as dressing themselves can be difficult when you are just learning, but they are doing a fantastic job! We go to the different parks in the community, we play in the field by the Centre, or we go for a walk. When the weather is too cold for outside play, we can go to the gym and use a variety of equipment-a climber, ride on cars, small and large balls, and mats to help improve their Gross Motor Skills.



Natalia from The Butterflies

Hello from the Butterflies Group.

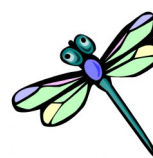
Aliyah	Aston
Azariah	Noa
Kaystem	Lewin
Benjamin	Owen

The Holidays are just around the corner and we are getting ready with our unique crafts. Also we enjoy talking about winter stories, looking at pictures, and answering questions from the teacher. By developing our logical, critical and communications skills we are able to make better decisions.

It is a pleasure to enjoy the fresh air every day if the weather permits. Whenever we go to the park or to the field, we talk about weather changes,

count squirrels (if we meet any), do sledding, and shovel snow.

Winter is a wonderful time of year. We wish everyone a happy and prosperous December and a wonderful holiday season!



Qiuli from The Dragonfly

I have been with the Dragonfly group for a whole year already. I have to say everyone has their own levels of progression. This summer we enjoyed the weather and nature together. We explored a lot of different parts. I encouraged them to pulled the wagon together which improved their cooperation and communication skills. Also, I collected their ideas of what kind of toys and activities they like to bring and do outside. Their favorite activities are using spray bottles. They were curious about why their clothes can dry up by themselves after spraying and why we can see rain-bow sometimes if we spray to the sunlight. After doing some research I was able to provide them the much requested answers.

When the weather is getting colder, we spend more time inside. I make a conscious effort to focus on promoting their fine motor skills, like using scissors, markers, tweezers. These activities improve their dexterity and can help prepare them for writing. Free cutting and cutting by the lines I drawn for them advances their eye hand coordination and their fingers' strength. Constantly learning letters and numbers is another main theme of our circle time. We cannot imagine how fast their brain absorbs information and expands their abilities.

Overall, after getting to know each other better over the past year it makes our interactions as a group much easier, and a smoother type of play and development happens overtime.



Mayling from the Ladybugs

The ladybug group loves provocation play. This type of provocation provokes thoughts and helps the children expand their feelings. I was working on emotions and feelings. Some examples are: happy, excited, sad, angry, tired, mad, surprise, love etc.

The children looked at different cards with facial expressions as mentioned above. We talked about the faces,

Ex: "I am happy when I get to play

with my friend." or "I am angry when someone takes my toy."

The children like drawing pictures of themselves and their families. The children picked a card with an expression and drew that emotion themselves. We then had a loose parts bin, a card with a blank face and materials for the children to use. The children were excited to use these materials.

This is part of invitation play which shows how different types of material inspire children to create different faces. The Children are free to create this developing their creative play, using since we elements and



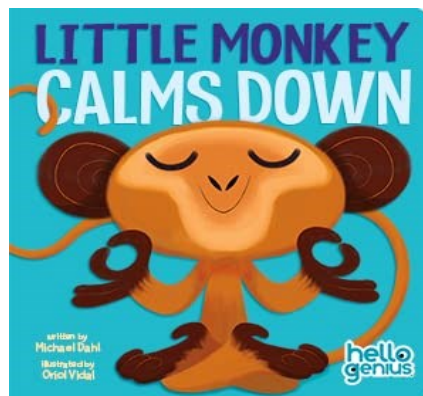
News from The Rainbow Room

Hello, families!

Welcoming a few more new friends this fall, Rainbow Room friends have been thriving each and every day. One of the primary skills we encourage children to gain at this stage is a self-help skill. It's challenging for them to dress/undress winter gears at first, but we see children making an effort to put on their winter boots, pushing their arms to put on their winter jackets, and zipping down their jackets etc. With full of trials and errors every time, it's amazing to see children gradually acquiring their self-help skills.

Circle time is the best opportunity for them to develop their fine motor skills. By grasping little Pom-Poms with their little fingers, gluing them on the paper, painting with cotton balls and

folks etc, they have been exploring different textured materials as well as developing their small muscles. They also love story time! Not only learning new names of animals and numbers, but they also learn how to be nice to friends and self-regulation skills through their favorite book such as "LITTLE MONKEY CALMS DOWN" written by Michael Dahi.



In the gym, in addition to sharing and turn-taking skills, they are strengthening gross motor skills like kicking/throwing/catching balls and jumping off the stairs every day! We hope that children will continue to throw with fun. Have a joyful winter holiday!

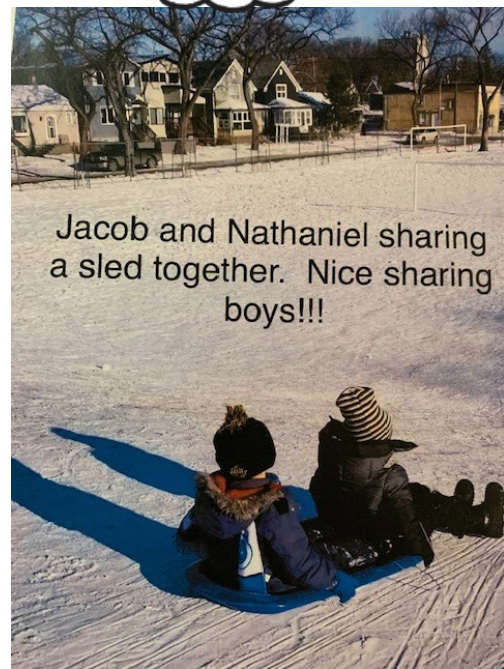
News from School Age



It began with story time and the reading of "A little spot of kindness" which is a series by Diane Alber that focuses attention on the big emotion's children feel on a daily basis. After reading "A spot of Kindness" we talked about what it means to be kind, and what we can do to show kindness.

From that discussion a bulletin board of pictures, depicting different acts of kindness, had sprung up. Children who were caught in the act of being kind had their picture placed on the bulletin board to show and encourage others to be kind as well. Several of the children took time arriving or leaving to look at their peers pictures and read the description. Soon the spot of kindness spread all throughout our daycare. Children were holding open doors for others, helping with zippers, writing words for younger children. It was maveous to see how one kind gesture spread like wildfire. I'm thinking that at this rate, Lord Roberts Childrens Programs will totally be covered in a Giant spot of kindness.

ACTS OF
KINDNESS



A LITTLE
SPOT
OF KINDNESS!

Written & Illustrated
by Diane Alber

News from School Age—continued

This year has gone by way to fast. So far however the weather has been accommodating and we have been able to spend more time outside then last year at this time. The children really enjoying playing outside. Even though we may have to convince them to actually go outside. They love sledding down the hill and playing soccer in the field. When the snow is nice and sickly they take full advantage and make snowman or test how strong they are by building a gigantic ball and pushing it as far as they possibly can.

It's hard to believe Christmas is here already. Secret santa names have been picked and the kids and staff are all anxiously looking forward to our annual holiday party. Things are finally getting back to normal and although we are unable to have the parents attend this year, our hope is that next year we will all be able to celebrate together. The staff have been busy plan-



ning for a fun Christmas break for the kids. There is sure to be an abundance of crafts, gym games and outdoor play to keep us all in the holiday spirit. Colleen has been preparing her yearly curling game for outside and I'm sure there will be more snow painting. With all of the plans we have forming for outdoor play it would be a shame for anyone to miss out so please

make sure your children come with all the necessary winter clothing so they can participate. 2022 has been a good but challenging year. I can't wait to see what 2023 will hold. I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season a Merry Christmas, happy holidays and a fantastic New year.

-Sherry





We need your loose parts!!

If you have anything that isn't being used, taking up space, or taking over a junk drawer, consider donating to us. Buttons, string, pebbles. Basically anything can be a loose part and used for play. Both school age and preschool would be very willing to take those objects off your hands.

