



Newsletter

Preschool, Daycare, ASC

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www.bowenchildrenscentre.ca

December 2011

The Safe Spaces Program

Last week the staff of BCC received a training session in the first of a two-part workshop on anti-bias, anti-racist curriculum and we will begin delivery of the *Safe Spaces* program in the classroom in January.

Safe Spaces has rules – and your children will be living them...

- My body is safe
- My feelings are safe
- My thoughts, ideas and words are safe
- My work is safe

As we begin the five month long curriculum, the children will become aware of safe and friendly behaviours, as well as emotional literacy based on the four universal emotions - happy, sad, angry and afraid. They will learn to notice how they feel in different situations, as well as how their behaviour makes others feel. Identifying negative or aggressive behaviours is part of the program, but the beauty of it is that it focuses on the positive behaviours that happen all day long and gives credence to them. One of my favourites is the "friendly jar" – a jar that children and teachers can use

A heartfelt appeal!

At BCC we will be collecting items for the Food Bank. There is a box in the cubby area, so please have your child bring in a non-perishable food item that will be delivered to the food bank the week of December 19th.

reinforcement for having done something thoughtful, kind or friendly. An effort is made to ensure all the children get noticed for a positive behaviour.

Friendly and safe behaviours are skills that need to be taught to children – remember, they are in a stage of development that is very egocentric and thinking of how their behaviour impacts others is not at the top of their list! It has to gradually and systematically be learned. The ages between two and a half and six, when children are developing their social persona, is a perfect time to give them these skills - skills that help them know what to do when someone hurts their body, feelings or thoughts or those of another child.

Research points to the fact that a bullying situation has three players:

- the bully
- the bystander and
- the victim or target

If we can teach more bystanders to know what to do when they witness unfair, biased and/or



racist acts, then we will go a long way to eliminating bullying behaviours. *Bystanders are the key to stopping bullying.* *Safe Spaces* is intended to develop a sense of community where all children, staff and families feel valued and that they belong. This builds the foundation of a *safe space*.

And on that note:

The staff and board of the Bowen Children's Centre join me in wishing all of our families a very Happy and Safe Holiday and a wonderful 2012!

Ann

The winter season is upon us and the holidays are fast approaching. During this time if you want to support BCC you can do so by shopping at stores on our web site.

Amazon, Indigo; Abe Books; Stongs; Sears; Think Geek; Please Mum; and All Posters can be accessed directly from our web site. Remember to click on "go shopping"!

www.bowenchildrenscentre.ca

Support a wonderful local business, Phoenix on Bowen, which will donate a portion of your purchases to BCC. Just let Angela know that you would like to support us!

www.phoenixonbowen.com

Dates to Remember

- * **Tuesday, Dec. 6th** MWF
AM Preschool Christmas party
(6-7:30)
- * **Wednesday, Dec. 7th** TU
TH Preschool Christmas party
(6-7:30)
- * **Thursday, Dec. 8th** MWF
PM Preschool Christmas party
(6-7:30)
- * **Mon, Dec. 12th**, MWF
AM/PM field trip to the Knick
Knack Nook
- * **Thursday, Dec. 15th** TU-
TH field trip Knick Knack Nook

Winter Holiday Start Dates

Friday **Dec 16th** for Preschool
Friday **Dec 23rd** for Daycare
Children's Centre Reopens
Tuesday **Jan 3rd**, 2012

What's happening in The classroom

The children at BCC have been so busy creating new games and being a part of so many new adventures that another whole month has come and gone as fast as could be! At the beginning of November the children decided to build a cave under the tree fort with a big cardboard box that was donated to them. This activity involved a lot of brainstorming from the children at meeting time, as well as planning things like paint colors, shapes and even what kind of tape would work best to hold it together. It was great to see them work as a team.

Preschool

The children also started to prepare for the Winter holiday parties by decorating the classroom with paper snowflakes, chains and beautiful evergreen trees. There has also been an immense interest in space, planets, stars and rockets and we have already ventured into this next theme, but hope to get really into it in the New Year, after all the winter celebrations are behind us.



*Saran, Zeyah, Lucas and Finn
sharing stories*

Preschool Parties

For the past couple of weeks the children have been working very hard preparing a musical concert to celebrate the holiday season. Every class will have their own evening in which they will sing a few songs for their families and friends. These will be POTLUCK parties, so please bring a little treat, savory or sweet, to share with everyone. We might even be having a surprise visit from a special someone that wears a suit of red!!

Preschool Teacher's Cell

604-317-1761

Class Reps

M/W/F am:

Amelia Smolar (604-947-0822)

M/W/F pm:

Carrie Thiel (604-809-9284)

T/Th:

Rachel Phillips (778-322-4961)



Maya roller painting "The Cave"

Knick-Knack-Nook

Last year at this time, the preschool children went on a field trip to the Knick Knack Nook. The purpose of this trip was to get them thinking about how good it feels to give and not just receive. It was such a success that we decided to do it again. Your child's job is to find a toy at home they don't play with any more and bring it to preschool before Monday, Dec. 12th. We will walk



Charlie... "Peek-a-Boo"

down the path to donate these precious little items, so somebody else can enjoy them in the future. MWF AM/PM class will go on Mon, Dec. 12th, and TU-TH class will go on Thursday, Dec 15th. If you have any questions, please ask one of the preschool teachers.



Alexis painting a Rocket-ship.



Cole and Jakob going to space!!



Nuala taking care of her three little mice!



Rhory with his helmet, wrench and cowboy boots...What else can you need???



Neve, Maya, Sadie Ross and Sadie Jones making Christmas chains.

Change in staff

We are happy to announce that our beloved Burle is going to be taking a maternity leave from the centre starting on Jan. 1st, 2011. We are very sad to see her go, but we are very excited for her to enter the world of parenthood. We will miss her and wish her the best of luck!!! Melina will here on Fridays as of January 2012 (YAY!)

Winter Break

The preschool will be closed from Dec. 19th – Jan. 2nd. We hope that everybody has a great holiday season, lots of rest and fun with their families and friends.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS !!!

Melina and Siobhan



Noam and Saran building "Leika the dog" a rocket-ship

A big thank you to all the families who attended the parent conferences with us.

We really enjoyed being able to connect with you all.

Dates to Remember

Tues Dec 20th - 5:00-6:00
Daycare Winter Celebration -
All daycare families welcome

Winter Holiday Start Dates:

Mon Dec 19th for Preschool
Fri Dec 23rd for Daycare
Tues Jan 3rd, 2012 Children's
Centre Reopens

The Benefits of Multi-Aged Childcare

Multi-age childcare, like the program offered in BCC's Daycare Classroom can provide your little one with all sorts of social, physical, emotional, and cognitive benefits.

- Multi-age groups offer children opportunities to develop and practice social skills with a variety of children.
- There is a wider range of behavior and performance that is likely to be accepted and tolerated by the adults as well as by the children themselves.
- There is often less competitive and more cooperative or helpful behaviours.
- Siblings are not separated



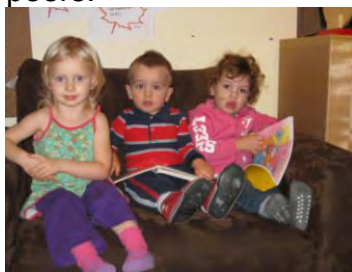
Community Daycare

Daycare #
604-947-9628
BCC Office: 604-947-9626



Capri "chillaxin" with her baby

- By design, mixed-age group care is geared to the needs of individuals. Children in such groups have greater freedom to develop their autonomy, and at their own rate.
- Older children learn to adapt their language and social skills to relate with younger children, often learning patience, compassion and problem solving skills.
- Younger children are challenged by older children, learn from their modeling, and often engage in more complex activities than when they play with same age peers.



Flint, say "AHHHHHHH"!

What's New and Inspiring at Daycare?

The children have been busy building, cooking, baking, dressing up, working with clay,



Charlee mixing banana muffins

and telling stories. So much of children's play can be expanded upon with a little guidance/encouragement from parents and teachers. This month, telling stories through clay has led to creating story books to share at story time. What a sense of pride the children feel when their story is read aloud! This has also worked as an inspiration for others to sit down and develop their own story at the clay table.





"Come on, Capri! Shark!"



Daycare Winter Celebration

All daycare families are invited to the Daycare on December 20th, from 5:00-6:00. Your children are preparing songs and treats to share with you to celebrate the Holiday Season.

Best wishes for a great winter holiday and a fabulous New Year

Erin, Johanne, Maureen, Sarah and Sherri



"...children need a 'nest'. It need not be large, but it must be quiet and protected.

There they are nourished and given warmth, night and day. As they grow, their space, too, must grow, the nest widen out...'Milk and honey' should flow in the nest. Milk here means food, protection, care.

Honey flows in attention, love, enthusiasm. When the child takes his first steps out into the world, he needs a hand that will hold but also be ready to let go... Respect of the child's person and unconditional love make it possible for him to find his own way. " -Isabella Quist



Dates to Remember

*December 2nd – ASC field trip to Snug Cove
*December 16th - Last day of ASC before the Christmas break
*January 3rd –ASC reopens

As we move closer to Christmas just a reminder that our *last day of ASC will be Friday Dec. 16th* and we will be returning in the new year on Tuesday Jan 3rd. We just want to say what a pleasure it has been for us to have your children in the ASC and we are hoping that they are having as much fun as we are!

Field Trip to Snug Cove

So, speaking of Christmas... we have been busy little bees making waterproof ornaments for the BCC Christmas tree which will be displayed on the lawn outside Doc's Marina during the holiday season. Bonita is leading the way and making sure everyone in the ASC will be able to make an ornament for Bowen Children's Centre's *great tree*. We will proudly be decorating this tree next Friday December 2nd for the Bowen Children's Centre in Snug Cove.



The After School Club (ASC)

After School Club Cell
604-908-6056

Friday, December 2nd

1) 3:15 - leaving BICS and walking to the cove
3:40 - decorating the *great tree*
4:10 - hot chocolate
4:30 - walking back to BICS
5:00 – ETA (estimated time of arrival)

Please make sure you sign the permission slip at the ASC for your child to go on this trip!

What's Happening...

We have ventured slightly into the wonderful world of aviation and paper airplanes. Sophisticated paper airplane making has been a big hit and a great group project for us. We are also starting to explore templates and spirographs and applying them to architecture. More to come...

Outside time has been challenging because it gets dark so early, but we continue to play outside when we can.

SNAPSHOT:
Three ASC regulars:

Joimarie loves our pancakes, loves the play kitchen centre, where she can make more pancakes. She is very helpful and enjoys helping to prepare for snack time.

Miranda also loves pancakes and enjoys playing in our play kitchen centre. She loves art and participates in a monthly native art class located at BICS.

Alexandra's favourite snack @ ASC is an occasional treat we have of a nutella and banana wrap (you must eat the banana). It's my favorite too. She loves our play kitchen so she can pretend anything and everything. She also loves her pug doggie named Bella.

Wishing you and your families a very safe and happy holiday season!

Bonita and Sharon

