



Camrose & District Pre-School September, 2019 Newsletter

Dear Parents:

Welcome:

We are so excited to welcome you and your child into our preschool family, and we cannot wait to get to know you both! We ask for your patience during these next few weeks as we try to match everyone's names to their faces; mistakes may be made and we do apologize for any of these in advance.

We have based our program on the capabilities, attention spans and interests of a three-year-old. Our philosophy at preschool is learning through play. We have taken this approach as we feel this is the most natural way for a child to develop and learn.



For many of your children, coming to preschool may be the first or one of the first experiences he/she will have at being away from mom and dad. Therefore, we will do our very best to make each of your children feel comfortable at preschool. We will try to reflect the children's interests in the centers and activities we plan; so, that their fears and anxieties about coming to preschool will quickly disappear, and that they will soon come to view preschool as a fun and exciting place to be that is their very own!

Newsletters:

Each month you will receive a newsletter. The newsletter will help to keep you informed on what is and will be happening, and also what progress your pre-schoolers have made throughout the year. The newsletter is posted on our CDSS website (www.camrosefcss.ca) under the preschool tab.

Activity Calendar

Each month you will also receive an activity calendar, which we will list special days and or activities that we will be doing. As these calendars have quite a bit of information in them, we strongly urge you to keep them where they are easily accessible as reference them to see what is happening, or what will be happening while your child is at preschool. **It will be up to you as parents to keep on top of what is happening on the day your child attends preschool.**

September Theme:

This month our main themes will be getting to know you and Fall. All of our themes will include activities that will provide the children with the chance to participate in experiences and opportunities that will promote growth and development in such areas as: social and emotional development, creative development, intellectual development, and physical development.



This year we will begin to introduce the children to our daily routine. Even though we may have a set routine, we are still flexible with our activities as per the needs of the children.

Taking into account the general attention span of a three-year-old, we have chosen small structured activities that last usually no longer than ten minutes at a time. We usually try and fit two or three of these structured activities into the day, as we feel this gives us a nice balance between structured and free play.

Alphabet / Numbers

On the first day of pre-school we will introduce the children to the story Chicka Chicka Boom Boom. We will then use this story to help us learn our alphabet and our numbers during the year. Each day the children come to preschool we will try and find some room for the letter and the number we are learning, on our Chicka Chicka Boom Boom palm trees.



Circle Time

Our three-year-old classes contain two short circle times. During our first circle time, we do roll call, an activity that helps everyone learn each other's names. We then introduce our special helper of the day. Next we briefly look at our calendar together, and then move onto the weather. Then using our Chicka Chicka Boom Boom palm trees we will look at our daily number and letter in a fun, creative, and interactive way that will encourage sight recognition in the order in which they occur in the alphabet and in traditional numerical sequence (1 to 20 is our focus for this year). Our second circle time is mostly spent singing a few simple songs and finger plays that will coincide with our monthly themes. These songs and finger plays will provide your child not only the chance to express themselves creatively, but it will also help in their language development.



Art - During art time we try to encourage the children to develop skills that will be useful to them all throughout life. We show them the proper ways to hold crayons, markers and scissors, but we do not stress that staying in or on the line as being the most important, because they need to have the basic small motor skills in place before they can move to that next level. We also give them the opportunity to follow simple directions on how to make an age appropriate art project. That being said, we do not expect a child to completely copy everything done in the sample art project. If a child has an idea of his/her own we strongly encourage that child to follow through with his/her idea, as we feel it not only encourages creative thinking, but that it also helps to build confidence in his/her abilities.

We offer art as an ongoing center (only one table open for this at a time) to the children starting after our first circle time and this center will continue on, well into our preschool day. Each child will still be given the opportunity to make the daily art project however; because this is a center (and not a mandatory activity) there may be days when, for whatever reason, your child decides that he/she does not want to make our daily art project. We will of course go around and ask each child multiple times, if they are ready to make the craft, but if they would rather keep playing, we will never force a child to make the daily craft. Even if a child is a bit reluctant to come and make a craft at first, they soon realize that if they do not, they will not have a project to take home at the end of the day to show mom and dad. This usually remedies any reluctant crafters, but remember there are always exceptions, and that at this age play is still the most important part of many pre-schoolers day!



Free Play - As we have stated above the teacher directed activities are no longer than 10 - 15 minutes, as three-year-olds tire from structured activities fairly quickly especially at the beginning of the pre-school year when they are just getting used to their new surroundings and teachers. At the beginning of pre-school, and in between the teacher planned activities there will be lots of free play time for the children. During these free play times, children will be able to freely explore the many different centers and activities that our classroom offers in their own child directed way. We strongly feel that this time is especially important at the beginning of our class, because many children may feel nervous and self-conscious when they first come in, as we only have class once a week. This free play time gives each child time to settle in and to find their comfort zone before participating in large group structured activities.



...a fun place to
play and learn!

Drink Station: During one of our free play periods, a drink station will be set up for the children at one of the tables. When you and your child first come into the preschool classroom, please make sure to bring your child's drink into the classroom and put it into his/her cubbie; this is where your child's drink will be stored until the drink station is opened. When the station is open and your child is ready to come and have a drink, we will help him/her locate their cubbie at the back so they can get their drink, and once they are seated at the table we can of course help your child open his or her drink if need be. This center will remain open until every child has had a sufficient opportunity to come and have the drink that he or she has brought from home.

Please do make sure that your child is well fed before he or she comes to preschool, as no snack will be provided.

Special Helper Days: Throughout the year, each child will have one day when he/she will be the special helper. If it is your child's turn to be the special helper for one day in a particular month, you will receive a separate calendar listing all of the special helpers for the month. If you do not receive one of these calendars for the month, it just means that your child will have his/her turn at a later date. When your child has his/her turn to be the special helper, we ask that your child bring one special item/toy of his/her choosing for show and tell. Other than that day, we ask that no other toys from home come to preschool as we do not want anything to happen to these toys, such as getting lost or broken. **Please also note that NO parent helper is required on your child's special day, your child's show and tell item is all that is required.**

Dress Code: We ask that when you send your child to preschool, that you always dress them for play, as that is their job while they are at preschool. In addition, some of our activities tend to be messy, and we do not want any special outfits to become dirty or stained. We also ask that you send an extra change of clothes with your child, because as we all know accidents can happen to anyone. Please make sure to bring this extra set of clothes into the classroom each day, and place it in your child's cubbie; clothes must be taken home at the end of each class as the cubbies are shared with other children in the other classes. **Also, it is extremely important to please remember to label all of your child's personal belongings with his/her name.**

Questions: If you have any questions or concerns about any of the information in the newsletter or any of the planned activities please feel free to contact us. I am available to take calls at home, as this will provide an opportunity, free of interruptions, for a more private conversation. Please find my number listed at the end of this letter.

We hope that this year will bring a positive and fun first school experience for you and your child, and that you will be amazed at how much they will have all grown and developed in just one year!

Yours truly,
Kelsey Miller: 780-672 -0917 & Pat Walker

