



Camrose & District Pre-School

September, 2019 Newsletter

Dear Parents:

Welcome:

It is with much excitement that we welcome you and your preschooler to the new preschool term. We



are looking forward to getting to know you and your children if it's your first time with us.

We also look forward to reacquainting ourselves with those children who were in preschool last year and will now join us in our four year old classes this year.

We've based our program on the capabilities, attention spans and the interests of a four-year-old. It is our hope that the children will find our program stimulating, challenging and most of all fun. Through their participation in our program, we know that they will grow leaps and bounds in all areas of their development. We hope that their self-confidence will soar the more they are with us and that they will be willing to try any of the challenges and experiences offered at preschool without hesitation. We hope that the children will soon feel comfortable with us and that the preschool will become their very own special place to be.



Monthly Newsletter

Each month you will receive a newsletter like this one to keep you up to date on what will be happening at preschool and what progress the children have made as the preschool year moves along. **You will also receive an activity calendar each month that we strongly suggest you to keep posted somewhere in your home so it is plainly visible so that you can easily reference it.** It will be up to you parents to keep on top of what's happening on the days your child attends preschool. Especially watch for special events or field trips that may be happening in any given month. All field trips will require you to sign a permission slip for your child to be allowed to attend. Please read these forms thoroughly as they will give you all the information

that you will need to know about the field trip your child will be going on. If you have any questions about or are unclear about anything in the newsletter or on the calendar please let us know and we will help you with it. If you think you haven't received a newsletter by the first week of each month please ask for one as you should have found one in your child's cubby in most cases by then. These are also posted on our Preschool website

Monthly Themes:

Each month we will be looking at a specific theme or mini themes. All of these themes will include activities that will provide opportunities and experiences for the children to participate in that will promote growth in all the areas of their development. That is in their physical, creative, intellectual and most importantly their social/emotional development. They will learn concepts of structure and routine, treating others with respect as they learn to take turns, listening quietly to others and to raise their hands when they wish to speak during group activities. They will also learn how to choose independently where they will play at center time. Here they will learn to play cooperatively and confidently with others.



September's theme will include getting to know each other, learning our daily routines and providing activities that will help the children begin to feel comfortable at preschool. These are especially important for the children joining us for the first time. We'll also learn about fall as we observe the changes that will take place all around us all during this season.

The children will be encouraged to express themselves verbally while at play and during circle time discussions. We love to hear their ideas and thoughts on the topics that we discuss. Some of their ideas and how they arrive at these are really amazing and sometimes highly creative. Discussions like these help to promote increased language skills.

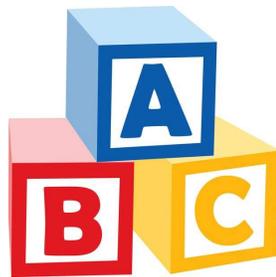
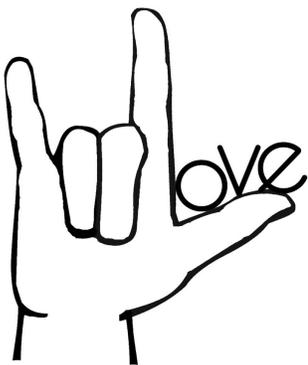
At preschool we also encourage the children to try and work out conflicts they may be having with others in the classroom with their words in an appropriate manner. And of course we encourage them to ask us anytime for help if they are having a problem that they can't solve themselves. It could be with a friend or some activity that they need help with, or a project we've given them to do or some personal need that only an adult can help with. We want the children to always feel that they can come to us when they need to.

The children will also be encouraged to express themselves through their art projects, some that are done on their own and some that we will do as a group together. Small motor skills will be developed here as they learn use their scissors, glue bottles, markers and much more. Songs, finger plays and drama will be introduced to the children throughout the year as well, another opportunity for your child to express themselves in a creative way.

Alphabet & Numbers

Each month we will also look at three letters of the alphabet, a shape and one or two colors. For instance this month we will be focusing on the letters ABC, a circle and the color red. We will also include other activities to expand on these concepts such as teaching the children the American Sign Language alphabet and having them create an Alphabet book that they will work on throughout the year. These are simply an introduction to writing the alphabet by tracing the letters and then a chance, if they choose to, print some on their own.

It's also a chance to practice holding a writing tool and to strengthen up those muscles needed to do this.



Number skills will be practiced as we learn to recognize and count numbers up to at least thirty as every day we will look at our preschool calendar and count the days. Other ways that number skills may be incorporated in our day will be in some of our finger plays, songs and dramatic play.



All of the skills mentioned above will be presented in ways that the children will not feel pressured to learn these until they are ready to. Each child will learn at his /her own pace.

Gym Time

Each month will include some gym time/large motor skill activities that will help further develop these skills as the children learn movement skills, play with our gym equipment, such as balls and hula hoops and participate in cooperative games. We will also practice a fire drill on these days every second month or so starting in September. Indoor shoes are required for preschool. May we suggest that running shoes are best as they are non slip and work best for the more active experiences the children will participate in this year.



Always dress your children for **PLAY** as that is their work while they are at preschool. Some of our activities can be a bit on the messy side and may be presented to the children on any given day without notice to you. And while these may be messy they often provide a wonderful sensory experience for the children and are lots of fun too. We also ask that you include a change of clothes in case an accident happens and their clothes somehow become soiled. These can be left in their back packs as long as they are clearly labeled with their names. Please remember to **label** all your child's personal belongings with their name.

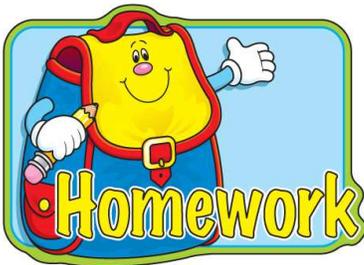
Special Helper

On most class days one child will have an opportunity to be our special helper. That is they will have special duties to perform, which they always seem to love, and it will also be their day to bring a show and tell item to share with their classmates. We ask that you help your child choose one item only please. Each child will have two turns to be the special helper during the preschool term. A calendar will go out to just the children whose turn it will be each month. Please watch for these as this day is so important to your child.



Homework Assignment

Yes we do ask that homework be done once in awhile. The reason being that not only do we like to keep you informed about what the children are



learning at preschool but we like to involve you in what they're learning whenever possible too. These little tasks we will sometimes ask you to do with your child are

always easy, fun and wonderful memory makers for you and your child.

This month we would like you and your child to gather small items from nature that can be mounted on a small paper wreath that we will be making with the children on September 17th and 18th. These items can be:

- colourful leaves,
- small twigs,
- interesting rocks,
- pinecones,
- berries,
- flowers,
- feathers
- and small items grown in your garden or farm.

This could be a wonderful opportunity to take a walk around your yard, neighbourhood or on one of our beautiful trails in Camrose and discuss with your child the changes happening all around them in nature as we head into the fall season.

It will also be a wonderful topic for discussion for circle time as each child will be given an opportunity to tell us what they saw and what they found as they explored nature's wonders. Please bring these items in on the day we are making this craft. Please find a paper bag in your child's cubby to collect these in. Have fun! Oh and if you bring a bit extra to share that would be wonderful.

Field Trip

On September 26th and 27th we will be going on our first field trip to the Camrose Fire Station.

- The first part of our class time will be at preschool as usual until 10 a.m. for the morning classes
- 1:45 for the afternoon class at which time we would ask that you return to preschool to take your child to the fire hall for this visit. (We will have snack time just before we leave for this so please remember to send your child's snack with them as usual.)

Please be on time as we are expected to be at the fire hall by 10:15 for the a.m. classes and 2:00 for the p.m. class. We will dismiss the children to go home at the end of this visit even though it may be a few minutes earlier than our usual dismissal time.



Questions

If you have any questions about any of the above activities or any other concerns about preschool please feel free to contact us. I am available at home to take phone calls too. That way we can talk in private without interruption about your concerns and we can take our time as well.

By the end of the preschool year we know you'll be amazed at how much your little one has grown and how much they have learned in ten short months. I know that we always are. And most of all they will have had tons of fun too!

Yours truly

Pat Walker
Kelsey Miller