



## Community Child Care ~ May 2018



### Pot Luck

Thanks to everyone who participated in our provider appreciation pot luck supper May 2, 2018. It was a lovely, casual evening with good food and great company.

### Congratulations!

Our heartiest congratulations to provider **Shannon** and her husband/alternate provider **Doug** on both successfully completing their ECE (Early Childhood Education) studies and placements. *Well done!*



### Spring Means Showers

It is a little late this year, but spring has finally come. That means we can expect changeable weather and lots of rain.

Ask parents to bring an extra change of clothes for those wet days, and boots and raincoats. Even when it is raining you can have fun outside.

Go jump in puddles! Float sticks in the water flowing to the drains on the side of the road (the children can stay on the grass). Talk about where all that water goes after it falls down through the grate.

Discover the sticking properties of wet sand. Count the birds that are happily getting wet. Are they just robins or do other birds seem to like the rain too? If you have a source of mud, children can make "pottery" and then let it dry on a step or patio.

Collect rain water and measure it to see how much fell. Listen to the weather on the radio and see whether your neighbourhood got as much rain as other parts of the city.

Ask the children for their wet day ideas and follow their lead. When you are back inside, have the children write a story or draw pictures about what they did in the rain.

Try it. You will like it. You'll see!



### Too much money?

A very few providers will find more money than they expected with this pay. During our recent financial audit we uncovered a some errors in our calculations of the wage enhancement grant in 2017. Most of the errors were small. Sorry for the "inconvenience". If you have any questions, please call us to sort it out.

### Wanted: New Board of Directors Members

Do you know anyone who would be interested in joining our board of directors? The board is looking for people with a wide range of experience and skills, from legal to social media and anything in between.

Most important, we need people who are very honest and ethical who can work in a team.

The commitment would be for one meeting a month for two years minimum. If you know anyone, please ask them to send a short letter outlining what they can bring to the running of the agency and a copy of their resume to [director@communitychildcare.ca](mailto:director@communitychildcare.ca)

### Statutory Holiday

May 21 is a statutory holiday. Please ask parents to call the office if they need care that day.

If parents need care on a statutory holiday:

- if you agree to care for an agency child, you are paid their regular rate plus one full-day rate

or

- if you do **not** agree to take the child, the alternate provider is paid and you are not paid.

**Did you read the newsletter?** Our April winner was Truwork! Congratulations! Read the newsletter and then call the office to be entered in the May draw for a small prize.



## Let's Play Games

Children learn while playing games, *especially when you play with them.*

### Children develop intellectual skills as they:

Experiment with using numbers in a meaningful way

Have opportunities to solve problems

Try out their ideas to see if they will work

### Children develop language skills as they:

Describe how they want to play the game

Negotiate rules

### Children develop social skills as they:

Practice taking turns

Learn to negotiate with others

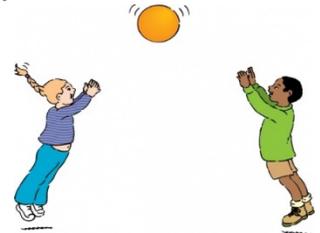
Learn to share property

### Children develop motor skills as they:

Gain better control over gross motor skills (throwing, rolling, kicking, etc.)

Manipulate small objects, thus improving fine motor skills

**Develop perceptual motor skills** using their senses together, eye-hand, eye-foot coordination, etc.



Here are a few examples. Think of your own games to play with the children in your care.

**Action games.** Encourage children to experiment with objects of different weight, size, and shape as they aim at the target. Allow children time to repeat the activity and to practice. Encourage children to experiment where they stand. With success they can adjust. With success they can experiment with the target, make it smaller, change the angle, etc.

**Ball games.** Use a large, light ball such as a beach ball and a sturdy old blanket. Have the children hold on to a part of the outside of the blanket. Put the ball in the middle. Move and bounce the ball without letting it bounce off the blanket. Experiment with movements, run around clockwise with their arms as high as they can, sit down, etc. Remember to be respectful of children with different developmental abilities.



**Board games.** Use commercial games or make your own. Don't be concerned about the rules on the box. It is appropriate for the children to make up and negotiate rules before and, even sometimes, during the game.

**Card games. Memory:** Cards are placed down. Players turn one card up, then another. If it matches, it is a pair. The children work together to make pairs. Everyone is involved and cooperating.

**Pretend/mime games. Butterflies:** With the children make tissue-paper butterflies and attach them to a cork. Make rackets with nylons or other material stretched over hangers. Outside pretend the butterflies are migrating and all fluttering in your yard. For older children there could be a "feet planted" rule where if a butterfly drops to the ground they try to reach it without moving their feet. See if they can get the butterfly to fly again.



**Seek/find games.** Children have three minutes to find as many different kinds of leaves as they can. Any leaves that are the same cancel each other out. This encourages the children to talk and share descriptions of the leaves as they are scurrying around.

**Water games. Ice Cubes:** Put ice cubes in a plastic bin of warm water. Children must retrieve as many ice cubes as they can by using a drinking straw. As they learn to coordinate their efforts, they will be able to get more before the ice melts.

**Word games. Spell-it:** As children begin to recognize their names and special words, spread two decks of alphabet cards or letters on a table. At a signal, children dash to the table, pick up a card or letter and dash back to an empty table. There they try to make a word together.

