

Sooke-West Shore Newsletter

Your communities' best source of child care information & resources

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THE SOOKE/WEST SHORE TEAM

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Spring is finally here! After what felt like years of cold weather and random snowy days, we have finally reached Spring!

The blossoms are coming out in full force and the sunny days are more frequent.

Summer will be here before we know it!

Have a wonderful Spring season from your Sooke/Westshore CCRR



Did You Know?

The CCRR isn't just for families and caregivers!

At the Sooke/West Shore CCRR, we offer many services to daycare providers and those working in the Early Years field.

Not only do we provide training opportunities for those in the Early Years field, but we also offer the following:

- Guidance and support navigating becoming a Licensed daycare provider
- In-house activities for the children (ie-crafts, circle time)
- Toy Library lending (we can bring toys to you!)
- Resources/support on Early Childhood topics (ie-development, specific behaviours, etc)
- And many other things; just ask!

Baby Bumblebee Song

I'm bringing home a baby bumblebee,
Won't my mommy be so proud of me,
(Cup hands together as if holding bee)

I'm bringing home a baby bumblebee,
Ouch! It stung me!
(Shake hands as if just stung)

I'm squishing up the baby bumblebee,
Won't my mommy be so proud of me,
(‘Squish’ bee between palms of hands)

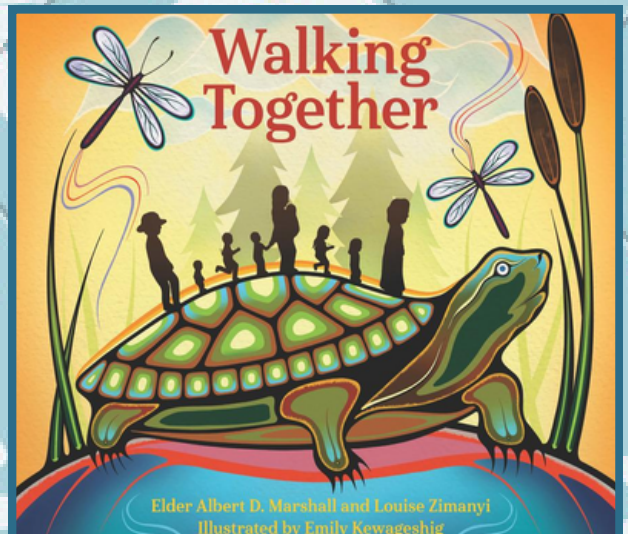
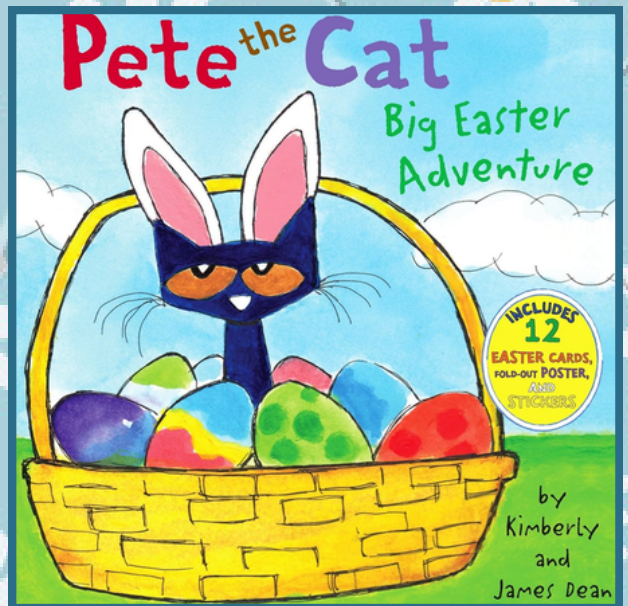
I'm squishing up a baby bumblebee,
Ooh! It's yucky!
(Open up hands to look at 'mess')

I'm wiping off the baby bumblebee,
Won't my mommy be so proud of me,
(Wipe hands off on shirt)

I'm wiping off the baby bumblebee,
Now my mommy won't be mad at me!
(Hold hands up to show they are clean)

Alternative Version:

I'm bringing home my baby dinosaur
Won't my mommy hide behind the door
I'm bringing home my baby dinosaur
Ooh eee it stepped on me!



Crafty Corner



Animal Faces Toast

Ingredients:

Whole wheat bread
Nutella
Cream cheese
Peanut butter
Banana
Strawberries
Blueberries

Instructions:

Toast bread.

Spread either Nutella, cream cheese or peanut butter over toast.

Cut banana and strawberries into appropriate shapes to mimic the animal faces in the photos. Add some blueberries for eyes and serve these animal faces toast slices up to the kids!



National Child & Youth Mental Health Day



Free resources, activities
and events





may7icare.ca

Inclusive Child Care

(Excerpts from the *Inclusive Child Care Toolkit: Supporting Children of All Abilities*. Ministry of Children and Family Development, 2019)

BENEFITS OF INCLUSIVE CHILD CARE:

Everyone benefits from an inclusive environment. Research on inclusion shows the positive impacts of inclusive child care on children with support needs, their family, their peers, and child care staff (see table below for details). This is because inclusive child care settings provide a higher quality of care compared to non-inclusive settings. Further, research shows that gender equality and social health outcomes improve with inclusive child care.

<p style="text-align: center;">Benefits for Children</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes social skills and peer interactions, improving language/communication skills • Establishes new and diverse friendships among all children, strengthening social and emotional development • Improves self-esteem, confidence, autonomy, and leadership skills • Provides children with the opportunity to fully and meaningfully participate in their program • Provides children with the opportunity to learn about the value of diversity 	<p style="text-align: center;">Benefits for Families</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases access to quality and accessible child care • Improves relationships with child care staff • Provides parent(s)/guardian(s) with the opportunity to remain employed or attend school • Provides families the opportunity to see positive changes in their children • Provides families with the opportunity to learn about early intervention services • Provide families with the opportunity to better advocate for their children
<p style="text-align: center;">Benefits for Child Care Providers</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases the ability to problem-solve and develop new solutions to support children • Improves parent/guardian and staff relationships • Improves interactions between children and child care staff • Provides staff with the opportunity to gain new skills, knowledge and competencies • Provides staff with the opportunity to build connections with early intervention services • Provides staff with the opportunity to think more about a strength-based model to understand how each child can contribute to the learning environment and social community 	<p style="text-align: center;">Benefits for Communities</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enriches relationships within the community • Provides the opportunity for increased diversity and inclusion • Provides community members with the opportunity to learn about early intervention services • Promotes social inclusion for all people

The positive impacts of inclusive child care also benefit our society as a whole. Increased access to quality and inclusive child care means that families with children that require some level of support can increase their participation in the labour market and take advantage of education opportunities, which promotes a healthier economy. *Continued.*

LANGUAGE MATTERS:

What we say and how we say it influences those around us. In your program, you may notice that the language people use changes based on their backgrounds and world views. In an inclusive child care environment, all staff use the same language and clearly understand the meaning of common words to develop a fully inclusive child care setting. Increased staff awareness of terms and definitions used in your centre and the importance of language is key to inclusion.

The way you speak about diversity in your program matters. Consider how your assumptions may influence the way you think about someone and recognize how they may be incorrect. Talking to families and children directly about their preferred terms and language is significant to honouring inclusion and diversity in your child care centre.

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

Inclusive language is free from words and tones that reflect prejudiced, stereotyped, or discriminatory views of people. It ensures that people feel included and accepted by others. The use of inclusive language is key to inclusive child care.

Person-first language puts the person first. For example, in identifying children who are living with various conditions or disabilities, you would say “children with disabilities” - this focuses on the person first, not on their traits.

Identity-first language refers to a person with a condition as a descriptor. Rather than referring to something that a person has (e.g. child with autism) this focuses on the core of the person’s identity (e.g. autistic child). People who prefer identity-first language may feel that their condition or disability is not something that has happened to them, rather it is a strong part of who they are.

As language evolves, preferred terms change. Not everyone will have the same preferences. For example, a “Deaf person” often prefers to be referred to that way rather than a “person who is Deaf” due to significance of the connection it implies to Deaf culture. It is important to talk openly with families and children to understand their preferred language. Be considerate in the language you use. Chronic conditions, disabilities, and mental illness can be both visible and invisible.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Inclusive environments consider the unique needs of all children in the set up of the physical environment, to provide full and meaningful participation. Environmental considerations involve reflection of the physical environmental and materials such as wheelchair accessibility to sensory putty in a child care centre. Reviewing the environmental considerations of your child care improves the inclusivity of your program.

INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

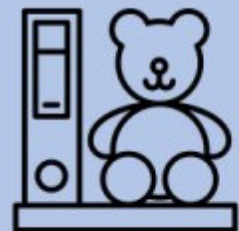
Physical Considerations

- All classroom and learning areas are accessible to all children
- Efforts to meet sensory needs are met with softened noise and lights, quiet spaces and active spaces
- All play areas inside and out are accessible to all children
- Wheelchair access is available and adequately maintained
- Wide pathways between furniture to allow for a wheelchair and walker
- Adaptations are made to equipment and furniture to reduce or remove barriers for children, such as adjusting table heights



Learning Experiences

- Learning experiences respond to the children's unique needs (e.g. culture, interests, strengths, and passions)
- Accessible communication is visible (e.g. American Sign Language visuals, picture schedules, emotion/feeling images)
- Learning materials includes people-of diverse abilities and diverse cultures
- Books in the space reflect all children's interests, strengths, and passions
- Learning materials are visible and at the children's level so that every child can access items independently
- Adjustments are made to routines and transitions to make learning experiences positive for all children



Social Learning Materials

- Accessories and equipment span the interests and skills sets of all children in the space
- Play accessories represent diverse cultures
- Accessories and equipment encourage solitary, parallel and cooperative play and promote social interactions among children of all abilities



Multisensory Learning Materials

- Multisensory learning materials are included in the centre to encourage gross and fine motor skills, and to meet sensory needs(e.g. sensory putty, finger paints, textured objects, fidget toys, clay, small and heavy blocks, and sand)



Training Opportunities with Sooke/West Shore CCRR

There are 3 more CCRR
Workshops left in the
2023/2024 season!
Sign up here!

If you would
like more
information
regarding any
of our
workshops,
please call
250-940-4882

Where to find other workshops:

Appetite to Play – www.appetitetoplay.com/training

BC Early Years Hub – www.bcearlyyearshub.ca

Early Childhood Pedagogy Network – www.ecpn.ca

Early Learning Framework – Info: www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/early-learning/teach/early-learning-framework

Training: www.mytrainingbc.ca/ELF/

Early Years Indigenous Cultural Safety Guide – Includes many online training resources: www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/child-care/ics_resource_guide.pdf

Early Years Portal – www.earlyyearsbc.ca

Science of Early Childhood Development –
www.scienceofecd.com/pages/workshops



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