



February News at Churchbridge Daycare



The weather wasn't very cooperative for the month of January which meant that the teachers had to be creative with gross motor indoor activities! We were able to purchase indoor gross motor games and activities through the Active Play Grant that we received last year. We set up obstacle courses in the hallway and the kids loved it. The bouncer also came to the rescue many times.

The Little Caesars fundraiser has wrapped up and we would like to thank all of our families selling selling and selling some more. We surpassed our goal of \$2000.00 and made a profit of just over \$2300.00!

Incomplete fundraising hours will be added to January's invoice and emailed the first of February.

It is very important that you remember to sign your kids in and out of procare. We do double check every day to make sure that children are being signed in and out and will fix hours. However the time that the staff are marking them in and out on the sign in sheets may not be the time that they left. This could create issues with billing, especially with our casual families. If you have forgotten your password come and see Erin or myself and we can reset it for you.

Please remember that the daycare closes at 6:00 pm. All children must be picked up and have left the daycare by 6:00 pm. Families will be charged \$1.00 per minute after 6:00 pm as it states in our policy

The daycare will be having a Valentine's Day party on Thursday the 14th! Feel free to send treats along and Valentine's for the children in your child's room if so wished. Also feel free to dress them in pink and red.

Please remember to...

- 1) Have monthly planners in by the 20th of each month to ensure childcare for the following month!
- 2) All invoices are to be paid by the end of the month.
- 3) Clean out your child's cubby at the end of every week.
- 4) The daycare will be closed February 18th for Family Day.

Churchbridge daycare accepts, E-transfers, cheque, bank drafts and pre-authorized payments as forms of payment methods.

February Birthdays!!!

Edenilson- February 2, 2017
Connor. M- February 18, 2016
Mavric- February 23, 2012
Connor. J- February 23, 2013
Jersey- February 24, 2014
Zayd- February 35, 2014
Joe- February 26, 2014
Luke- February 27, 2013



BABY ROOM NEWS

We had a very fun but slow January it seemed like, with all these cold days. While it was cold, we were able to throw and kick balls up and down the hallway, play games, and played in the bouncy castle. This is great for their gross motor, intellectual, and social/emotional development. Even though they don't get much fresh air playing inside they are still burning off their energy and increasing in their developments.



We also did some painting, and playing with our new sensory mirror. I put some orbeads in some baggies with some food coloring and they love it, this sensory mirror has probably been one of their favorite.

We also sing songs every day, "all around the garden" on their hand, When I sing it with one infant, the rest will come over and join and with their hands out for me to sing with them. "Row row row your boat" is another favorite I hold both their hands and we go back and forth like we are rowing a boat and sing the song, they do that hand gesture for more and we have to do it over and over again. And our last favorite is "Tiny Turtle"



For the month of February we plan on doing Valentine's Day art activities as well as some sensory tables. As well I will be doing some pudding paintings, and make little penguins!!!

I hope it warms up so we can go outside more, we only go outside if its warmer then -24, and if there isn't much of a wind.

Toddler Room News

Can the chilly weather please leave us? One of the best things about winter is playing in the snow and it is something we haven't done too much of this month. As many have seen in the last week, the toddler room has been under-going some changes. I am making the room into more of a natural/nature friendly atmosphere, concentrating more on small parts and how they can be manipulated as well as art. The center of the room is completely focused on art and creative projects- these creative projects would be things like playdoh(which is a huge favorite), slime, moon sand, and other manipulative mediums.

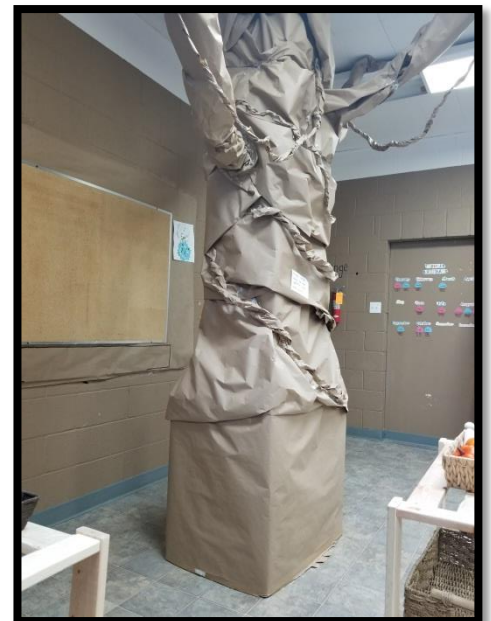
Our cave and tree are the biggest natural elements of the room and I am working towards more greenery to accompany this. We have dinosaurs, jungle animals and other creatures in the cave area where we are really into learning their sounds and being LOUD!

I am also going to be getting into child assessments. If you are curious about this, do not be afraid to ask me! I have some information on certain milestones that at certain ages, kids should be working towards. As a parent, I was really surprised with certain notes and have begun working on these with my child- some things that we don't normally think about or even realize.

Right now with the older toddlers we are getting into repetition, our colors, animals, shapes and songs! We have a couple babies moving up in the next few weeks, so as this transitions start to happen, I just ask for your patience! It's a huge change for them and we want to make it as smooth as possible! Again, always an open door policy! We look forward to Valentine's Day, keep posted.



Terissa and her crazy monkeys!



Crane Room News

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. I was quite excited to get back to work and get back into routine after our Christmas break. The Cranes have been working on a few things this month.

We started off with some decorating around the room. We did a lot of “loose parts” art, where we took objects and different items and made art pieces out of them to hang on the wall.

Fine motor has been a big focus in our art time. Fine motor muscles are used in our wrists, hands, fingers and toes. They are important to build & strengthen to be able to hold pencils, pick up objects and cut with scissors. Play doh is a great tool to use to strengthen those muscles, thanks to Mosaic who donated some new play doh dinosaur sets that the cranes have been using. Scissor skills are another important fine motor practise we have been working on. All the Cranes are very good at holding and using their scissors and need reminders to keep their thumbs up (so the scissors are not upside down), and to hold the paper steady. In the room I have provided practise sheets for cutting and they have done this at any point in the day.

With the month being so cold we have been spending lots of time inside doing lots of activities to burn our energy. The Cranes love to play in the bouncy house and dance around in the nap room. We also set up obstacle courses in the hallway with scooters, bridges, tunnels and more. Another big hit is playing the “The goldfish song ” by Laurie Berkner & Freeze Dance! The Cranes love these two songs and enjoy dancing around the room!

In the next month I will be focusing on making progress reports. I will be working with children individually going through skills to see what they excel in and where they may need help. After doing this I will write up a short progress report and put in their cubbies for parents to read. I believe this is important communicate to have between myself and parents. I plan to do an updated one every 3 months.

Starfish Room News

The Starfish kids were definitely excited for all the snow January brought...even though the cold temperatures kept us inside some days! They were especially excited for the two snow hills by the daycare, the smaller one in front and a big one in the back. We had lots of fun climbing up, sliding down and playing all sorts of pretend games on them.



We did a little investigating with a large piece of ice we found while playing outside. The kids really wanted to bring it inside so we got a container to put it in, made some guesses as to what would happen to it inside and watched throughout the day to see if we were right...and we were – as the kids predicted it melted into water! The kids felt it needed a little sprucing up and painted the ice at art time. They were pretty surprised to see the melting water change color from the paints!

On the really cold days we set up an obstacle course in the hallway. We burnt off lots of energy while building gross (large) motor skills, balance, coordination and teamwork skills! We also built secret forts in the Starfish Room with old curtains & table cloths!

We changed up our sensory table for January. We made winter ice rice! The kids were so intrigued to make the rice change from white to blue with our special ingredients (food coloring and rubbing alcohol)! Everyone worked together measuring, pouring and mixing until all the rice was blue.



We were very fortunate near the end of January, Trudy brought us in a big box that we are currently painting with plans of turning it into an ice fishing shack!

February will be all about groundhogs day, friendship, love and Valentine's Day with a Valentine's Day party planned for the 14th.

Details along with a Class list for anyone who wants to send

Valentine's will go home in early February.

Erin & The Starfish

Kinder Room News

New month, new year.... !

To keep things fun and interesting I am continually swapping out toys and activities and adding new items. This month they have been enjoying the grocery mart we purchased. They have even made themselves name tags for their job titles and their own credit cards. They are loving it! I will be swapping this out soon though, to make way for our 'deconstruction zone'. I would gladly accept any small household appliances, old battery-operated toys, cell phones. (I cannot accept any TV's or computer monitors).



The kids have been really creative lately with creating their own puppet shows – I will be incorporating this into our room shortly as well – props and all made by themselves. Pretty impressive listening and watching them get it organized; start to finish, with very minimal teacher requested assistance.

We spend as much time as possible outside, weather permitting. The kids are loving both the hill in front of the dayCare as well as the slightly bigger one at the back of our play-yard. Their imaginations run wild when on the hill, one day they are monsters, one day they are jungle animals climbing a big mountain, one day cops and robbers. It is always fun to see what new idea they will be playing out.

When the weather does not permit us to get outside we set up the inflatable bouncer, run laps in the hallway, make obstacle courses, play mini sticks or anything else they are interested in doing to keep them moving and burn some energy. Their favorite seems



to be acting out different animals and creatures or being secret spies.

To keep going with our on-going discussions of what it means to be a good friend, we have also been talking a lot about 'loving ourselves'. We recently purchased some new books for our room and a couple of our favorites so far are ones that work perfectly with these discussions. You will see in the hallway the kids have made 'Love the skin in you're in' and 'Happy in our skin' displays. Our silhouette 'Happy in our skin' display is an on-going project. It is not something I want the kids to rush through, I want them to take their time and really think about their 5 favorite things about themselves. Once they are done it will be displayed in the hallway.

Last but not least, I hope everyone enjoyed our Christmas concert as much as the kids and I did. They did great! I was very proud of them, especially since we didn't get to practice as a whole group more than 4 times. I do still have a couple of the kids' Christmas crafts that were made, if you are interested – they are above the child's cubby. If you are not interested, please just let me know.

Amanda and the Kinders

