

# October 2021 Newsletter

**Dear Parents,**

In our classroom at the Juniper Early Learning Center we are exploring the wonder of the season with its colour and majesty! We have enjoyed watching your children as they explore our classroom inside and our play space outside! We have enjoyed many songs so far...some of our favourites are "Way up high in the Apple Tree," "The Wheels on the Bus," "Baby Shark," "Mister Sun," "You are my Sunshine," "Zoom, Zoom, Zoom," "Rolly Poly," "Baa, Baa, Black Sheep," and (of course) "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star!" The children have danced to a variety of music! They enjoy dancing wearing the dress-up clothes!

In art we made sunflower handprint pictures and sunflower stencil pictures. Another activity they are enjoying is placing leaves on contact paper. We have collected many leaves and are observing how they change when they dry out! A highlight this month was when Miss Lisa brought a huge sunflower into the class! The toddlers enjoy picking out the seeds with their fingers and with tweezers! This month will learn about leaves and pumpkins. The toddlers are enthusiastic about doing crafts and are eager to try new things...painting is a wonderful activity for exploration!

We are excited to see the toddlers practicing independence, self-help skills, cooperation, sharing, cooperative play and taking on responsibilities in our classroom, including helping to

## Juniper Early Learning Center Toddler Program



wash the tables and sweep the carpet! It is amazing to see our little group working together as we follow our routines each day. We thank you parents for your support in making the transition to our setting a smooth one for your little ones!

### Lunches

Snacks and lunches are high points in our class! We see that the children really enjoy these times together at the tables. Thank you for sending food in reusable containers! We notice a decline in the amount of wrappers that go in the garbage! We also are collecting compostable peelings, etc.!

### Pumpkin Decorating

Parents, please send a miniature pumpkin to school with your child beginning the week of October 18 so they can participate in a pumpkin decorating activity.



**October 11<sup>th</sup>, Monday** – School Closed for Thanksgiving

**October 29<sup>th</sup> Thursday** – Dress-up Party!

**November 11 Thursday** – School Closed for Remembrance Day



### Happy Birthday!

To Raiden DeRose...2 years old on October 3!

### Dress-Up Party!

Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup> we will have a day to dress up in costumes! We look forward to this time to dance to some familiar songs and some new music for our Dress-up Party! Toddlers are welcome to wear a costume to school that day (with a change of clothes available, please!)

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### On to the 3-5 room!

We say goodbye to Kate and Everett at the end of October as they move to the 3-5 room with Miss Grace and her teaching team! We will really miss Kate and Everett, but know they are ready for the bigger room and ready to join many of their friends there!

### Parents Please Note:

With the colder weather just around the corner please remember to send your child to school with warm clothing for outside time. We have time outside each day for the children to have some fresh air and exercise. **Please label all their belongings...including outerwear...sweaters, jackets, hats, mitts, scarves, boots, etc.** One of our families is looking for a grey “Old Navy” hoodie. Please check to see if it happen to make it’s way home with your child! Thank you!

### Miss Lisa’s Practicum

Miss Lisa is contributing many wonderful fun developmental opportunities for the children during her practicum time with us! She is building meaningful connections with the toddlers and adding much to our program! We will be sad to see her practicum end towards the end of October, but as a staff member of Juniper Early Learning Center, we know we will still see Miss Lisa!

### Covid-19 Policies

Covid and its variations are still present in our city and community! At our centre we continue to step up the sanitizing, cleaning, hand washing, social distancing, etc. protocols in our centre. We also continue our daily monitoring of the children for any symptoms that may present themselves. The following is from the BCCDC regarding isolating after coming into close contact with someone who tests positive for Covid: “If you are a close contact of a person who has COVID-19 you need to:

1. **Montor yourself for symptoms for 14 days**

### 2. **Self-Isolate for 10 days”**

More information can be found at <https://www.bccdc.ca/> and <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/self-isolation/close-contacts>.

We remind parents to do a daily check for any symptoms your child may have each day before arriving at the centre. Thank you for being available, or having an alternate available, for pickup in the case that your child presents symptoms associated with Covid-19 while at school. We are all working together to provide a safe and healthy environment for your children in each of our programs!

### Your Toddler’s Brain – Social and Emotional Skills

Only from the age of two onward is the brain sufficiently developed to be able to remember and recall information, and these skills continue to develop over the next 12 months. By the age of three, your toddler will be starting to discover that other people may think and feel differently than the way she does. This shows in a toddler’s impulse to comfort another child who is upset. Over the next year, reasoning skills will develop so that, for example, Cara will not only understand that “Tommy is upset, don’t cry” but that “Tommy is upset because...” and will start to modify her behavior accordingly. However, the ability to feel empathy cannot develop fully until the frontal lobes have begun to mature. Your child will gradually become more consistently understanding and you will notice that she begins to play more cooperatively, showing that

she has expanded her emotional range and understanding. This early breakthrough shows she is well on her way toward developing rewarding relationships in later life. Development is rarely a steady line of forward progress...It is possible that a child will revert back to being more egocentric and will abandon some of her compassionate skills. As your child becomes more empathetic, she will begin to understand that not everyone sees things the way she does. (Your Toddler Month by Month p. 242-243)



Wishing everyone a very

Happy Thanksgiving!

Have a wonderful month!

Miss Lin, Miss Daniela, and Miss Lisa

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