



THE PRE-SCHOOLER



NOV/DEC 2011

The President's Pen



As the colder weather creeps up upon us, we start thinking about what lies ahead, December and the holidays, wintery, blustery days and the beautiful white snow that will soon drape our homes and the scenery around us.

During this time we often wonder what we might get kids for the holidays or even those winter birthdays that come up before you know it. In the most recent issue of *Today's Parent*, you'll find some great toy ideas that are suitable for a variety of age groups. We've provided the link here should you wish to check it out for yourself:

<http://www.todaysparent.com/activities/top-toys-2011>

If you're already thinking about what to do with your children during the winter break, there are many ways to keep them busy while having fun. Baking is always a great way to get the whole family together and it gets the children using their analytical and motor skills while promoting independence and creativity. Check out our Christmas Wreath Cookie recipe in this newsletter for some quick and easy baking the whole family will enjoy. Visiting the local fire hall and making a donation of non-perishable food items is also an excellent way to have an outing with the kids while teaching them the importance of the 'season of giving'. Local libraries and community centres are open over the holiday break which is a perfect time to get out and help your child apply for their own library card while exploring the activities being offered in your local neighborhood. We hope whatever you end up doing this holiday season - it turns out to be the best ever for you and your family!

On behalf of the entire board of directors, we wish you and all your loved ones a very happy and healthy holiday season.

Co-operatively Yours,

Gillian Eyre, RECE

President 2011/12

A Note from the Teacher's Representative

All our programs are up and running and most children will have settled into their daily routine, as well as parents becoming more comfortable with their new experiences with their cooperative schools. Teachers will have organized spooktacular events for your child's Halloween fun and enjoyment.

Teachers will have also attended their first of the years' Full Day Workshop on First Aid Recertification along with a story telling workshop in the afternoon. Supervisors also attended their first evening meeting where they were able to be updated on changes being made throughout the Ministry. As you read this your centre staff will be in gear organizing festive holiday season events that will surely delight your children. We wish all our families a happy and safe holiday.

Lise Sloan, RECE
Teacher's Representative

Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Early Childhood Education



Congratulations to Gillian Eyre, Teacher and Supervisor at Tender Years Co-op School for receiving the Prime Minister's Certificate of Achievement!!!

"Ms. Eyre is the best teacher ever. She took me to a pumpkin farm. She showed me science experiments like how to make a volcano. She let me help her cook in class. She helped me learn about Monet and Picasso. She told me why an Inukshuk is important to Inuit people. She taught me how to share things but not germs." Student

"Gillian is an exceptional person whose passion for early childhood development is both exemplary and contagious. She's admired by her students, their families and her peers. Gillian Eyre is the type of teacher we *all* aspire to be." Colleague

We are very proud to have Gillian Eyre as our current President of the Association for Preschool Education. Nominations for the 2011-2012 Awards are now being accepted, deadline is November 30, 2011. Go to www.pma-ppm.gc.ca for more details. Good luck!

Christmas Wreath Cookies



3/4 cubes butter
1 (16 oz) bag of marshmallows
7 cups corn flakes (any brand)
green food colouring
blue food colouring
red smarties



Melt butter in pan. Add marshmallows and stir until melted. Add food colouring until mixture is a nice "kelly" green. Remove from heat and pour over corn flakes in a large bowl. Mix thoroughly. On some wax paper form wreath-shaped cookies and decorate with red smarties to look like berries.

10 Great Books to Read and Enjoy with Your Preschoolers!

1. Goodnight Moon - by Margaret Wise Brown
2. Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See? - by Bill Martin Jr.
3. Owl Babies - by Martin Waddell
4. Not a stick - by Antoinette Portis
5. Preschool to the Rescue - by Judy Sierra
6. A Snowy Day - by Ezra Jack Keats
7. Freight Train - by Donald Crews
8. Red is Best - by Kathy Stinson
9. Jillian Jiggs - by Phoebe Gilman
10. The Napping House - by Audrey Wood



Ideas to help build good handwriting!

Before children are able to print letters and write words it is important to include activities that build and strengthen the muscles needed to successfully write.

Pegboards
Lacing activities
Lego
Play dough
Tinker toys
Finger plays
Scissor Activities
Finger Painting or Shaving cream play on tables or trays



Steps to teach pencil grip

A correct pencil grip is very important. It is easier to correct the pencil grip before it becomes a habit, good habits that begin early will last a lifetime.

Use small writing tools i.e. golf pencils, pipsqueak markers, short crayons, bits of chalk.

Start by having the child pick up a pencil using their thumb and index finger.

The two acceptable grips are the tripod grip and the quadropod grip.

For the tripod grip, the thumb, pointer, and middle finger work together to hold a writing tool.



For the quadropod grip, four fingers work together to stabilize the writing tool.

Getting started

Provide a comfortable space for writing

Remember to start your letters at the top

Use a slant board (a three ring binder works well) to encourage writing from the top to bottom

Use a variety of writing tools

15 minutes a day is recommended

Use print activities for practical uses i.e. writing grocery list, writing a note to grandma, thank you notes

GTA Association Member Schools

Alderwood Co-op Preschool	416-346-6242
Applewood Co-op Preschool	905-302-1928
Clarkson Co-op Nursery School	905-855-2106
Erindale Nursery School	905-848-8780
Erin Mills Co-op	905-820-5599
Hopedale Community School	905-847-1672
Hornby Co-op Nursery School	905-878-5211
Little Explorers Nursery School	905-842-7989
Meadowest Preschool	905-301-3781
Royal York Road Nursery School	416-239-1555
St. Elizabeth's Co-op Nursery School	905-333-9897
Sunnylea Co-op Nursery School	416-410-3575
Tender Years Co-op School	905-828-1104

SWO Association Member Schools

Ailsa Craig and District Co-op Playschool	519-293-3377
Avon Co-operative Nursery School	519-271-6400
Belvoir Co-op Nursery School	519-652-3419
Little Mountain Parent Participating Preschool	519-886-7930
Lucan & District Co-op Nursery School	519-227-1096
Mapleton Preschool	519-638-3331
Oak Park Co-operative Children's Centre	519-473-0512
Orchard Park Nursery School	519-434-3404
Palmerston Co-op Nursery School	519-343-3201
Tiny Tots Co-operative Nursery School	519-785-2164
Village Co-operative Preschool	519-652-0694

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Vice President	Susan Watson RECE preschooleducation@hotmail.ca
Secretary	Jane Shores RECE preschooleducation@hotmail.ca
Treasurer	Bianca Thorpe preschooleducation@hotmail.ca
Teacher's Rep	Lise Sloan RECE preschooleducation@hotmail.ca
Newsletter Editor	Sophie Giancoulas preschooleducation@hotmail.ca

*Association for Preschool Education
3120 Glen Erin Drive #14*

Mississauga, Ontario L5L 1R6

Phone: 905-828-9818 / Fax: 905-828-9140

email: preschooleducation@hotmail.ca



2011-2012 Award of Excellence

"One hundred years from now it won't matter what kind of car you drove or what kind of house you lived in. The only thing that matters is how important you were in the life of a child."

This award recognizes the Co-operative spirit of the Association for Preschool Education's dedicated members, parents and teachers.

We are looking for those teachers and parents in our schools that have mattered. These members go above and beyond their job descriptions whenever they have to or just because that's the type of individual they are — and you know who they are!

Nomination forms will be distributed in the new year but start looking for your special member and let them know how much they are appreciated.

Deadline for submission is March 31, 2012.