



# Celebrate & Thrive Zero to Five

Early Learning in the Family Centres, Seven Oaks

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## Special points of interest:

- Being fully present in the company of children will bring you much joy.
- When you play with young children, don't be afraid to be a participant.
- Each ordinary moment of a child at play, is really quite extraordinary.
- Play is the way through which young children make sense of the world..

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## The Gift of Play....

Jacky Molyneux

On this particular day at one of our parent/child programs, the three and four year olds were captured by a bucket of plastic animals. I sat in the rocking chair, waiting for the slightest invitation to play. It came from a little girl carrying her pet plastic snake. She says to me, "You can pet him! He'll be nice to you if you are nice to him." There it was, my invitation to join in on the preschool fun. In a



New York minute, I became a zoo keeper. The children transformed my appendages into animal kingdoms. The farm animals on one leg, exotic species on the other. At one point in the play, an animal fell from my crowded knee. A child cradled the hurt creature in his arms. He instantaneously transformed into a veterinarian. Where there's a vet, there needs to be an animal hospital. One little girl sporting a coral colored tutu, told me to answer my phone. "Pretend you have a phone," she said. She informed me that she was the Builder, we dreamed up our plans for the new animal hospital. Back on my legs, now a farm and a wild animal refuge, the animals continued to slip and fall, with little pushes from the young ones...this became the rhythm of the game...an animal falls, and its "off to the hospital", with squeals of excitement from the cast of characters. "Oh! NO! I think the elephant is going to fall." A little push and it's "Off to the hospital one more time and so it goes. When it came time to clean up, one little person started to cry....didn't

### An invitation...

want to go home and neither did I. The good news...we can play again tomorrow. It's free!

## Something New...Lunch & Rhyme

Lunch & Rhyme, is our newest initiative in the life of the family centres. Wanting to reach new families, newcomer families, make new connections with community partners, we created a five week program inspired by feedback from parents wanting to know more about food in Canada. During each of our five weeks together, the parents and the preschoolers prepared and cooked food together. Hand over hand, they cut the vegetables, stirred the pot and broke bread together, in community. After the eating, came the playing and the rhyming. Families were gifted with a bag containing all of the cooking utensils used during the program and weekly give aways. We were gifted with their presence.



## Parent/Child Preschool Programs

A.E. Wright Community School

Belmont School

Collicutt School

Constable Edward Finney

Elwick Community School

Forest Park School

Governor Semple School

James Nisbet Community School

Margaret Park School

O.V. Jewitt School & Victory School

R.F. Morrison School & WSP

### Early Learning in Seven Oaks

Find us on the web...Seven Oaks School Division.  
Free Parent Child Programs

**EARLY LEARNING IS  
OUR BUSINESS!**

**@FamilyCentres**

## Infant Massage...the universal language of touch

Calling All Babies (birth to a year.)

The Parent/Child preschool programs have a new offering...Infant massage, offering families an opportunity to learn massage techniques with their baby.

Infant massage is a daily practice shared by parents and caregivers all over the

world looking to bond, communicate and care for their babies in a healthy, natural way.

Infant massage has been shown to enhance the ability of parents and babies to bond more closely and communicate with one another. Touch is one of ways an infant communicates with the

world around them. It is the first sense to develop in utero and the only sense we can not live without.

Infant massage is a universal practice that can be enjoyed by everyone. Ask a Community Coordinator when and where you can sign up. Next session: March/2014



**Calling All Babies!  
Birth to a year.**