



News From The Family Centres

Seven Oaks School Division/Seven Oaks Early Years Coalition

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Special points of interest:

- Be fully present with young children as they experience summer...you will receive much more than you give.
- Dandelions are the whisper in our lawns that tell ussummer is finally here.
- We offer free parent/child preschool programming in 14 schools.
- @FamilyCentres

When the World Gives You Dandelions...

Jacky Molyneux

Do you remember your first Dandelion bouquet? I do. I was teaching Kindergarten. Children would come in, faces beaming, bouquets of bright yellow in hand...for me. I received every bouquet with awe and appreciation. It tickled me pink to see the children so delighted in what most folks would



consider to be a nuisance...a weed. The children, however, saw beauty and wonder and the color of sunshine. Twenty years ago, I met a lady at the park, weaving dandelions into a chain. Curiosity got a hold on me and I asked her what she was doing. She grew up in Poland, where she learned to weave flowers into adornments. I asked her to teach me and the rest is history. Every summer, I turn dandelions into crowns. Wherever I go, be it a park or a schoolyard, I simply issue an invitation by collecting dandelions and commencing with crown making. Within minutes, it never fails, children become captured by the possibility of imagination and together, we transform the noxious weeds into sheer delight. I remember one young child saddened, as her crown wilted. I explained the notion of nature as fleeting, ephemeral, one needing to capture the beauty of a moment. She said to me, "The next crown I wear, will be plastic." I still giggle when I think of that moment and I still experience delight when I see a little one holding a yellow bouquet.

Make a dandelion crown.

Yes. We're Open In The Summer.

Free parent-child summer preschool programs for Families in Seven Oaks.

From July 9-August 15, summer programming will be offered at Victory School, O.V. Jewitt School and A.E. Wright School. Each school will be open, two days per week, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.

At summer pre-school programs, we offer Story Time, art, music, play and a chance to meet other families in the neighborhood.

Please contact the Community Coordinator in the school nearest you, for more information and a registration form.

See you there!



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Seven Oaks Early Years Coalition

Did you know that there are 26 parent child coalitions in Manitoba?

Did you know there are 14 Child and Family Centres offering Story Time in 7Oaks?

FREE PARENT/CHILD/ PRESCHOOL PROGRAMMING!



Big Bouquets go to our Community Coordinators!

A.E.Wright..Donna &Dave

Belmont Marielle

Collicutt Marianne

Finney Donna

Nisbet Marielle

Riverbend Colleen

Elwick&Semple Dave

Forest Park Debbie

Margaret Park Debbie

OVJ Christine

R.F. Morrison Veronica

Victory Veronica

WSP Cheryl

Children Often Prefer The Box



Have you noticed that young children often prefer the box to the gift or some pots and pans to bang together?

“Babies and toddlers have a natural curiosity for exploring objects which interest them. Young children enjoy “finding out” about objects, what can be done with them and how they can be manipulated. Once a discovery is made, such as one object fits into another or an object makes an interesting sound, a child will often repeat the action several times, encouraging concentration, cognitive skills (helping the brain to make connections and develop) and hand/eye co-ordination.”

“Elinor Goldschmied and Sonia Jackson coined the term heuristic

play to describe providing children with the opportunity to find out about objects and what can be done with them. Heuristic play is a way of offering a group of children a range of objects to explore, freely, with little adult intervention. This type of activity is particularly useful in encouraging young children to engage in an activity for more than a few minutes! The term heuristic is derived from the Greek word “eurisko” which means “serve to discover or gain an understanding of.”

www.childrenscentres.org.uk

Heuristic play, describes what can be seen when a young child becomes far more captured by wrapping paper and a box than the actual gift inside. Upon reading up on heuristic play, I put together some rudimentary wonder baskets and took them to the Family Centres. It was amazing to see children explore, discover and wonder about the items in the basket. One little girl gleefully shouted, “A real spoon.” It was great to see her so excited about ordinary, real objects. I read somewhere that the key to this play is, “No plastic.”