



Family Centre News

Seven Oaks School Division

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Special points of interest:

First Word Users (12 -18 months)

The infant cracks the language code and begins to use single words.

Later Sentence User (3 to 5 years)

The child uses long, complex sentences and can hold conversations.

(Adapted from the Hanen Program: Teacher Talk Series.)

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Did You Have That When You Were Young?

J. Molyneux

On this particular night, at this particular family centre, I was attuned to speech and language development and the various ages and stages of the children. The Community Coordinator, whom I will call Teacher, brought the children together for Story Time. The children, having been read to in this fashion many a time, eagerly crowded around Teacher. Squeals of delight filled the room with each turn of the page. Next, Teacher shared some pictures of various animals, possible pets in fact...a dog, a cat, a rabbit, a hamster. Each picture brought forward words, sentences and pure joy from the children. Some of the wee ones would have crawled right into the picture if they could have. Teacher asks, "Do any of you have a dog for a pet?" Hands went up, including mine. "A cat? A hamster?" When she gets to the rabbit, Teacher comments, "I had a rabbit when I was young!" More pictures...a giraffe, a lion, a shark. "Would you want a shark, for a pet?," she queries. Keeping the banter going, Teacher manages to get everybody talking and asking questions. Finally, it is time for the last picture. Out comes a big picture of a very big dinosaur. The children are stymied for just a second having gone from rabbit to dinosaur. Not skipping a beat, I hear a young child, using a full sentence with perfect intonation and sincerity, asking Teacher, "Did you have that when you were young?" Adult laughter filled the room. Teacher moves on to snack time, not skipping a beat. Afterwards, we laugh about the need for age defying cream perhaps and we chat about the wonderment of childhood!



"When I was young, I had a rabbit for a pet."

Seven Oaks Early Years Coalition

What is a Parent Child Coalition?

Parent/child coalitions bring together community strengths and resources within a geographic boundary or community, through partnerships with a variety of child, family and community programs and sectors. This approach supports community based programs and activities for children and their families, with a priority focus on the early years (birth through six.)

There are 26 Parent Child Coalitions in the province of Manitoba. The Seven Oaks Early Years Coalition is one of the 26. Our current membership includes representation from: Healthy Child Manitoba, Seven Oaks School Division, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Child Care, Winnipeg Public Library, Healthy Start Outreach and Immigrant/ Settlement Services Seven Oaks. Our members consist of anyone who works, lives and plays in the Seven Oaks Community. Healthy Child! Healthy Family! Healthy Community!

Did you know we offer free parent and child programs?

Our Four Pillars::

Physical health & nutrition, literacy & learning, positive parenting and community, capacity.

Check us out at:

www.7oaks.org

Click on the green tab that says: Free Parent Child Programs.

EARLY LEARNING IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS!



Summer Programs
Are coming soon!
They really are!
This year summer parent and child programs will take place 3 days a week, morning and afternoons at 3 schools. Stay tuned for registration.



Community Begins Here!

A Peek Into One Family Centre

Many interesting things go on in Margaret Park's family center.

This year, the preschool Community Coordinator, and the Kindergarten teacher have collaborated to bring great, new opportunities to preschool families.

Throughout the year, the preschool families join the Kindergarten class for rhymes, stories, exercise and outside fun.

Through these collaborations, preschool families gain the opportunity to meet the Kindergarten teacher, be in the

Kindergarten space and feel what their child will experience when they get to Kindergarten. These collaborations go a long way towards welcoming and transitioning children from preschool environments to Kindergarten classes. Parents can bring their newborns, toddlers, and preschoolers to the family center, aiming to give each child a knowing of "their school" from the get go.

On one particular collaboration, the children learned a traditional Round Dance, to the beat of the drum, and participated in a bear

hunt (a song, led by the principal of the school). The Kindergarten teacher took the lead in a series of movement activities, all within the kindergarten space. At one point, the Kindergarten children taught the preschool families a new song they had been practicing.

Do you see the possibilities?

On another collaboration, the preschoolers and the Kindergarten children met outside in the playground, on the hill to rhyme together.

Oh what fun!