



March 2020

ELCC- Gladys McDonald



Message from the Director:

Parent's I would like to take this time to thank you for all of your kind words, understanding and support during these very difficult and unpredictable times.

I would also like to acknowledge the amazing work of the supervisors and educators to ensure children felt safe, secure and continued to have fun during such stressful times. Their dedication and caring attitude have never been more apparent. Once again, we want to assure you that we will resume operations as soon as possible and that your child/ren's space in the centre are secure. Rest assured that no fees are required during our closure or to secure your space. We will share relevant updates from the Ministry of Education as they come available.

Thank you for your continued support. Please be safe and be well.

Karin Duff
Director of Early Learning

Supervisor's Message:

I want to thank everyone for their patience and understanding through this difficult time. My staff and I will miss spending time with your amazing children and the daily interactions with you. We hope everyone takes care of themselves and family and we will see you very soon.

Cultural Showcase: Philippines

School Age Group: For our cultural showcase the schoolers made Lava slime using baking soda, contact solution, glue and shaving cream to represent the volcanoes in the Philippines.

Kinders: This month we talked about the Philippines. We learned that they drove around in Jeepneys as a method of transportation. We also made the tallest hotel called the Manila hotel out of marshmallows. This hotel has 570 rooms and is the oldest hotel in the Philippines.

Sr. Preschool Group: This month's cultural showcase is the Philippines. The children enjoyed playing the game called Deklan Ruki, a variation of Simon Says, and have requested to play it many times. A child commented, "It's a funny game because it's tricky." The children learned there are many volcanos in the Philippines and created a volcano to understand the natural process. The children commented, "I made an orange explosion. The volcano explodes every day."

Junior Toddler Group:

March was a busy month for the toddlers. We had some beautiful weather, so we enjoyed the fresh air and sunshine outside as much as possible. They loved kicking the soccer balls and taking turns going down the slide.

In anticipation for St. Patrick's Day, we decorated shamrocks with bingo dabbers. We discussed the colors of a rainbow, then created our own rainbows using crayons and cotton balls for the clouds. For a sensory activity, the toddlers used their hands and spoons to play with dinosaurs and shaving cream. I added glitter to the mixture and they loved seeing the shaving cream sparkle as they mixed it all together. An activity that the group thoroughly enjoyed was our baking soda and vinegar experiment. I set up a bowl of each child with a drop of food coloring hidden in the baking soda. Each bowl was a different color and a surprise for the children. They took turns pouring vinegar into their bowls and loved watching the mixture bubble up in a colorful foam. As we prepared for our break from the center, we had fun stacking different materials as high as we could. The toddlers loved making towers, we discussed which shapes we thought would stack the highest and balance the longest. I enjoyed the time I was able to spend with the toddler group this month, and hope that everyone is able to stay safe and have some wonderful quality time together at home.



Jr Preschool Group:

Although March was a very short month, it was a very busy time for the girls and boys in the group. With St. Patrick's Day approaching and the changing weather, the children wanted to learn more about rainbows. In order to begin to understand the colors of the rainbow better the group created an art activity of a cloud and rainbow. This activity focused on our fine motor skills as the children were required to cut out strips of different colored paper. As the group cut out the strips we talked about the different colors that we were using to create the rainbow. Once the children were done cutting out the strips we glued them to make the rainbow coming from the cloud. Leading up to St. Patrick's Day the group used beads and pipe cleaners to create shamrocks. It was a little tricky to keep the beads on as we twisted and turned the pipe cleaners, but the children did a fantastic job! The children have fun anytime we cut with scissors, and to keep on with our St. Patrick's fun and the color green, the children cut strips of paper for grass to. We proceed to then use the grass to create a "who is hiding" collage with butterflies and grass. There were lots of giggles and excitement when the children discovered where the butterfly was hiding in the grass. When young children use scissors, they expand on eye hand coordination as well as improve focus and attention and the muscles in their hands get stronger.



Senior Preschool Group: We have had many activities going on through-out March. We continued our fishing web this month and have spent some mornings outside in the warmer weather playing Fish and Minnows. The children commented they loved running in the fresh air and being chased by the other children. This social activity encourages positive social interaction and gross motor development. The highlight of our month was our outing to Pacific Fresh Fish. Thank –you to Nash and Krystal for volunteering so we could go on our outing. We met Holly the fish monger (a person who sells fish) at the store. She was very kind and eager to share the wonders of the store. She showed us lobsters, crabs and various fish sold at the store. Holly pulled out a large live lobster from a tank and showed it to the children pointing out parts of the lobster, and letting the children touch the body and the claws. The children were apprehensive at first, but soon were eager to try the experience. A child commented, "This was the best outing ever!" "I liked the fish heads." as we returned to the centre. The children have also worked on our tree web. We were not able to get outside to explore real trees, as the weather was still pretty cold. We used resources inside the centre such as the tree trunk cut pieces. The children were shown how a tree gets a new layer of bark each year which creates a tree ring. We worked together to count and see how old the tree was. The children also explored the parts of a tree.



Fun Activities we want to give our families that we have done in the center. We hope this can provide some fun and entertainment, not only for your children but for your whole family. Activities, supplies needed and instructions included!

Glitter Slime

- Elmer's Clear Glue (6oz)
- 2 tablespoons of water
- Glitter
- ½ teaspoon of baking soda
- Liquid food coloring
- 1-1.5 tablespoons of Contact lens solution



Best Ever No-Cook Play Dough Recipe

- 2 cups of plain flour (all purpose)
- 4 tablespoons of vegetable oil
- ½ cup salt
- 2 tablespoons of cream of tartar
- Up to 1.5 cups of boiling water (added in increments until you get the right consistency)
- Food coloring (optional)

Step 1 – Add all dry ingredients, mix and make a well

Step 2 – Add wet ingredients in a separate bowl, then combine into dry ingredients slowly.

Unbreakable Bubble Recipe

- 3 cups of water
- 1 cup of liquid dish detergent
- ½ cup of white corn syrup

Simply stir the ingredients together to make the bubble solution. You can also use dark corn syrup just as easily as white corn syrup, but the solution will be colored. You can also add food coloring or glow paint to color the bubbles.



Homemade Air Dry Clay:

- 2 cup baking soda
- 1 cup corn starch
- 1 ½ cup water

Directions:

Combine and stir baking soda and corn starch. Add in water and stir until everything is thoroughly wet. Place on stove over medium heat and cook until the ingredients form a ball.

Remove from stove and knead to reduce water. Once excess water is removed, knead on cutting board with corn starch until smooth and cool.

Chocolate Play Dough:

- 2 cups water
- 1 ½ cup white flour
- 1 cup salt
- 2 tablespoon oil
- 1 ½ teaspoon cream of tartar

Directions:

Combine all ingredients in pan. Stir over medium heat till combined and the dough begins to form. Remove from heat.

Allow to cool properly to knead with hands. If too sticky, add more flour.



Puffy Paint:

¼ Cup Flour, 1-3 Drops Food Coloring, ¼ Cup White Glue, ¾ Cup Shaving Cream OR One half Shaving Cream and One half White Glue, Drops of food coloring

Mix ingredients together and paint on cardboard as may soak through paper



No-mess Shaving Cream Bags

- Large Ziploc bag
- Shaving cream
- Food coloring
- Duct tape

Fill one bag 2/3 of the way with shaving cream, drop in a couple of drops of food coloring. Gently squish the air out of the bag, sealing the top and then taping the closure. Then allow the children to squish the bag to incorporate the color and draw letters/shapes/numbers on the bag using their fingers. Simply squish the bag to start over!



Bubble Foam:

2 parts water to 1 part sunlight detergent—or any children's bubble bath

Food color—optional

Mix with electric mixer until peaks are formed---have fun



Sun Catcher/Wind Spinners:

An old CD, foam stickers, gem stickers, permanent markers, fishing wire

Have your child decorate the CD as you wish and then tie a fishing wire to hang from your tree or window.



Editable Pudding Slime:

1/4 Cup Instant Pudding Mix, 1 Cup Corn Starch, 1/3 Cup Warm Water

Add instant pudding mix and half of your cornstarch into a mixing bowl. Add 1/3 cup of water and stir until slime begins to form (it will be pretty sticky at this point). Slowly add the rest of the cornstarch, stirring as you go. When slime thickens and is hard to stir with a spoon, finish by kneading by hand. Knead for 3-5 minutes.

If it is still sticky – add a bit more corn starch

If it is still too dry – add a bit more water

Ice painting:

Freeze colored ice cubes, using food coloring and Popsicle sticks inserted and have the children paint, and create new colors



Kinder Group:

March was short but sweet for the kinder group. We were working on finishing up our bear projects. The kinders decided we should make bear masks by using forks as paint brushes to give the illusion of fur. We also went outside and made bear paw prints. Nora discovered that it took both of her boots to make the right size of print for a bear. The kinders had a blast trying to figure out how to make the claws and really used their imagination in order to come up with the idea of using a shovel. The kinders were super excited to learn that the first grizzly bear had woken up from hibernation, which was a sign that spring is on its way. The kinders read a book about baby turtles which peaked their interest and they started discussing turtles. They had many questions like where did turtles live, what did they eat and how big do they get? As a group we did some research and discovered that the biggest turtle is a leather back who weights 2019lb. We discussed endangered species and how most turtles will or are on that list and what we can do to keep them from becoming extinct. We also made turtles out of brown and green playdough. The group was able to mix colors and create the perfect turtle shells. From there we made turtles out of papers plates and construction paper. The kids practiced their fine motor skills by cutting up small pieces of colored construction paper and placing its strategical all over the paper plate to make a turtle shell and used the leftover paper to make the tail, head, and body. We did lots of baking such as cookies, brownies, and cupcakes. The group was able to pour, stir, and measure all the ingredients for the different baking activities. The kinders were able to see how some recipes called for 1 egg and some called for 2. They very inquisitive and helpful when it came to measuring and pouring some of the ingredients, they even helped with cracking the eggs. We are all looking forward to spring and the warmer temperatures

Schooler Group:

March was an exciting month. The children started their volcano experiment and other exciting projects. We started our volcano experiment by mixing baking soda with vinegar in a bottle. We were able to watch the reaction that the two chemicals had together to create a burst out of the bottle, recreating what a volcano would look like. After our experiment, we made lava slime using baking soda, glue, contact solution, shaving cream and water color. We mixed all ingredients together to form lava, after the experiment the children asked questions like how do volcanoes form and what countries can we find volcanoes in? We were featuring the Philippines as our cultural showcase where they have volcanoes so we took the time to gather information about Mayon in the Philippines, which is the most active volcano in the country. We also found out that there are 53 active volcanoes in the world as well. The children painted pictures of the chocolate hill which is also found in the Philippines. They all had a fun and exciting time as they finished up the month with making igloos using marshmallows and glue.



Contact us

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