EARLY LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

Upcoming news about the daycare.

LEARNING THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD

A new section dedicated to what the children are learning and how their learning happens.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

New upcoming programming for the month of June.
EDUCATION BEGINS THE MOMENT WE SEE CHILDREN AS INNATELY WISE & CAPABLE BEINGS. ONLY THEN CAN WE PLAY ALONG IN THEIR WORLD.

MELANIE MANITOWABI, RECE, B.ED, OCT, M.ED

Aanii Kinawaya,

Here at the Centre, we are in full bloom! Part of our strategic plan is to ensure that our children are immersed in nature as much as possible. One project we have started is around the topic of food sovereignty and food security, we are doing our part by learning how to grow our own food, and being in relationship with healthy foods to nourish our growing minds, body and spirit.

Children will be immersed in getting their hands dirty and learning with all their senses as we go through the process of planting our own food from seed to table. Very exciting! We are also modeling the daily care of growing our own food, by providing our plants with patience, care and love, just like growing a healthy child! Please keep your eyes open to see our children’s garden blossom throughout the summer as we build and grow our living yard with the children and for them. As the learning progresses our educators will share your child’s inquiry as they document the children’s thinking, by sharing what children know, and what questions they have, about growing our own food and other areas of interest. Please stay tuned to learn more about where this project goes.

Lastly, we are pleased to share that our summer school age program for working parents will be reopening for July and August. If you require care for the summer months, please call the child care centre and ensure to put your child on the list as soon as possible. We will also be reopening the social program, once the stay-at-home order is lifted by the province. If you have any questions or have returned to work and require care please come and pick up a package and register your child. We wish you a wonderful month filled with nice weather and special moments with your loved ones.
CHILDREN LEARN AS THEY PLAY. MORE IMPORTANTLY IN PLAY, CHILDREN LEARN HOW TO LEARN

INFANT PROGRAM
CYNDIL NAHWEGABOW, RECE

Aanii, Boozhoo Parents & Guardians!

Sucker Moon – May – Nmebine Giizis
Spring – Mnnokmi

Spring is finally here! This month we enjoyed most of our time outdoors exploring our outdoor climbers, blocks, and new slide. We love the outdoors in the Infant Program and try to be outside as much as possible, please make sure your child has proper clothing weather permitting (hat, rubber boots, shorts, etc.). During our gloomy and rainy days, we have fun dancing, hand drumming, and reading. Our indoor infant climber even got an extension with a tunnel. Our littlest member has been very curious about it and has been exploring.

In celebration of Mother’s day we made gifts by exploring different materials and textures that we can use as paint.

Every day I do my best to speak our language during our everyday activities, I have been using descriptive words and simple commands during transitions.

Coat – Biiskawaangan
Hat – Wiikwaan
Pants – Miiknoot
Shoes – Mkizin(an)
Your turn – Kiintam

Sit down – Nmadbin
Stand up – Naaniibwin
Let’s go outside – Ambe gojyihing.
Let’s go for a walk – Aambe paamsedaa.
Come here – Maajaan

Looking into June.
- June 20, 2021 is Father’s Day.
- June 21, 2021 is National Indigenous People Day (Centre will be closed) and the first day of SUMMER!

We will be engaging in more outdoor activities! With summer just around the corner we will be having more water play outdoors.

Again, please bring in a hat and some swim shorts.

ACTIVITIES FOR INFANTS

Engaging the language in your child’s everyday learning helps expand their language through out their early years.

Try one of these activities at home for 5 to 10 mins at eye level.

- Singing
- Taking
- Reading

BENEFITS TO READING TO INFANTS DAILY

Children are more prepared for learning when they enter school
Increased parent and child bonding and attachment
Positive effect on the child’s language and brain development
Children learn to associate books and reading with fun family time

(KEELY PHILLIP, 2014)
PLAYTIME IS PRECIOUS. PLAY BUILDS BRAIN PATHWAYS FOR THINKING, CREATIVITY, FLEXIBILITY, EMPATHY & MANY OTHER LIFELONG SKILLS.

TODDLER PROGRAM
JOANN RECOLLET, RECE

Anii from the Toddler Room

We have had a great month of May,

The weather has been so nice that we have been able to spend the whole day outside. The children are really enjoying the new outdoor equipment in the yard. The children like to explore and create with the big blocks and building things. They have been constructing roads, pathways and even our very own WRFN water tower. The slide is another big hit with the children. They are working on their gross motor skills when they are climbing the hill and having that sense of gratification when they can go down the slide. They have been working on their social and emotional skills in their turn taking and sharing when they have been using the slide and playing with the big outdoor blocks.

As for the month of June, weather permitting we will continue exploring the outdoors more and bring more learning outside. The water tables will be in use more, so if you can bring some spare clothes, bathing suits, and even shoes the children can get wet it would be great. The children are excited to have more water play and there is so much learning that will take place with measuring, trial and error, counting, and imaginative play. We also will continue our morning walks we usually go on before lunch time.

This month we will be focusing on the season summer, and explore more with them as we go on our walks. At this time we will go on our walks and we will collect various nature items to do art with.

We look forward to the month of June and all the new learning that we will be doing outside with our garden.
Aanii from our Preschool Classroom, where we are Celebrating Mnookmi!

After a small leave of absence, it feels great to be back within our center and working again with our wonderful children and families! Our Preschoolers were anxiously awaiting the day that they could return to our Preschool room, and seeing their smiles when exploring our new climber and classroom furniture was priceless. We have also been spending a lot of time outdoors, enjoying the sunshine and playing with our new water tables. The Preschoolers have been busy filling various buckets, containers, and cups, and using them to transfer water, pour, scoop and mix! They have come up with some great creations, including muddy cupcakes, wonderful ‘soups’ and the perfect consistency of mud. The Preschoolers have also been busy helping Miss Candace with the preparation of our daycare gardens! As a group, they gathered topsoil for the bins and planted beet and flower seeds. We look forward to watching our seedlings sprout and grow over the course of the summer.

As we spend more time outside, we are noticing many signs of Spring and changes within our environment. Our preschoolers have noticed new buds and leaves on trees, dandelions in the fields and lawn, little insects within our yard, and strawberry flowers! Over the next couple of weeks, we will expand on what we’ve observed and begin investigating insects such as bees, ants, lady bugs, and butterflies. We will do this through storytelling and books, shared conversations at circle time (indoor and out), crafts, and through bug hunt nature walks, with our findings recorded in our Bug Log Book. We will also be exploring the life cycle of the Odemin (Strawberry), as we’re seeing a lot of the small white blooms while on our walks.

TRY AT HOME- BACKYARD SOUP

An easy and fun water activity to do with your child. Have fun and use your imagination!

- Set up a few different mixing bowls, kitchen utensils (like a soup ladle, spoon, whisk etc or whatever you have on hand) on your porch or other outdoor area that is ok to get wet.
- Add water to a plastic juice pitcher or large plastic cup. If you don’t have one, you can also add water directly to the mixing bowls. Add food coloring to the water for extra fun!
- Go for a walk around your yard together and collect things from nature to add to your ‘soup’, such as small pebbles, sand, grass, and dandelions etc… there are so many possibilities and remember it’s okay to get messy!
- Sit together, create, mix, and pour, letting your child take the lead.
- Ask questions, encourage and share in their excitement. “Wow that looks so good!” “What kind of soup is this?” “It smells so delicious!” “Who are we making soup for?” are all good starting points and encourage your child to extend their play and communication skills.

*Any water play activity should be supervised at all times.
Learning through a child’s eyes.

Why do we document in early years programs?

Reflect and learn as a practice – Any profession that aims to improve will document and reflect on their practice. Early childhood education should be no different if it seeks to evolve with the aim of improving overall outcomes for children.

Discuss and plan with your team – Documentation enables teams and colleagues to study, interpret and discuss in order to create and adjust learning plans for children and programs. Without organized documentation, this shared reflection would not be possible.

Communicate and share with families – Documentation is critical to engaging families, which is known to improve learning outcomes for children by creating a connection for the child between home and school. A partnership with families is essential, as families know their child best, while educators can use their knowledge and experience to educate families on their children’s development.

We see waawaashkesh (deer)! …While playing outside the other day Josie, Doris and the children noticed the waawaashkesh (deer) across the road. As I returned they were excited to show me what they were looking at, “Cyndil, LOOK!” I said to the children, “WOW! What kind of animal is that?!” Ace and Haisley both said, “DEER!” As we continued to watch them I then asked, “What do you think they are doing?!” Again, some of there responses were, “Eating, Climbing the hill, and walking”. Soon enough the deer continued on into the bush. We then decided to go for a walk to see if we could find them.

Cyndil Nahwegahbow, RECE.
This past month seemed to have went by so quick and summer is now here! Last month we had a lot of new programming begin and have had some amazing participation from the community. The gardening program has been a hit, we have almost 30 families in total that have signed up and are taking part in learning how to grow their own food and being self sustained. The enjoyment and feedback from community has been a sense of reassurance that we are on track for what our families are looking for and wanting out of our programming.

Syrkal came back to meet with families virtually to host a DIY hand sanitizer and liquid soap making workshop. We had a great turn out with the participants wanting more programming from her in the future. Keep an eye out for more upcoming programming with Syrkal.

This month will also be out last regalia making session on beading medallions with Sophie. This has been a great opportunity for parents to learn some new skills and I’m excited to see everyones final pieces. Sophie will be back in other future programming initiatives.

Miigwetch Sophie for helping us learn this through zoom!

This upcoming month we have so many new and exciting programs. I will be working with the Family wellbeing Team and we will be having the Chef On Call Program. Make sure to sign up ahead of time to confirm your spot. Who's Crafty will be back for more programming. Another paint night and we will be having a day of learning to make the outdoor game yardzee. Please sign up ahead of time to pick a spot as this will be down outside in the daycare parking lot. Starting this month I will be having a fellow RECE worker, Sarah Earley meet the daycare students via zoom to share some exciting projects with the kids. This program will also be offered to families in the evening. I’m looking forward to what this summer has in store.

Some exciting details for a fun event in July will be posted in the July newsletter.
BUILDING FAMILIES

INGREDIENTS

- 4 bell peppers, halved and cored
- 1 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 c. pizza sauce
- 2 c. shredded mozzarella
- 1/2 c. finely grated Parmesan
- 1/3 c. mini pepperoni
- 1 tbsp. chopped parsley

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350°. On a sheet tray, drizzle peppers with olive oil and season with salt and pepper.
2. Spoon sauce onto each pepper half. Sprinkle with mozzarella and Parmesan and top with pepperoni. Bake for 10 to 15 minutes, until the peppers are crisp-tender and the cheese is melted.
3. Garnish with parsley before serving.

FAMILY FUN IDEAS

- Go for a walk
- Ride bikes.
- Fly kites.
- Blow bubbles using a DIY mix.
- Play classic outdoor games such as Red Rover, Red Light Green Light, or Steal the Bacon.
- Host a nature scavenger hunt
- Hula hoop.
- Roller skate.

IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY TIME

While it’s true that family is forever, it is important that the family is healthy. Your family will be healthy if you give it time. Family time is an essential factor that helps to create strong bonds, love, connections, and relationship among the family members. Spending quality time with family does help in coping with challenges, instill a feeling of security, inculcate family values, fill kids with confidence, and much more.

HARLEENA SINGH, 2017
Happy to report several home visits with new babies this past year and most of the Committees are up and running. This means collaborations for future events. I anticipate that in the fall you may see more programming. I have started one on one parenting classes for now, a COVID times adjustment.

My office days in AOK will be Thursday and Friday for now. I am excited! Healer visits will be in person again soon.

June Events
Camping challenge for kids watch for poster.
Beadings for a 3 week session watch for flyers, TBD

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Aanii kina waya
The kids and staff have been having a blast outdoors enjoying the nice weather and running from the black flies and mosquitoes lol! Last week the kids helped load buckets of dirt to the wheel burrow to fill our planter boxes in the daycare yard, the planter boxes have a see-through window so children can observe the growth progress we decided to plant potatoes, beets and nasturtiums (edible flower) in these planter boxes it will be fun to watch vegetables grow underground. We also planted sunflowers, beans, mouse melons, cucumbers and sugar peas along the fence.

The “big” school (as our kids call it) has graciously allowed us to use 2 of their raised garden beds, we planted tomatoes, peppers, carrots, beets, zucchini, and some herbs. It was so nice to see the interest the children have, gently holding the seeds and putting them into the ground, they’ve been really enjoying it.

The gardening program has been going great! Raised beds and soil were delivered last week to families that signed up, it’s safe to say the danger of frost has passed!! That means it’s planting time! In our Friday evening gardening zoom meets we discuss a number of different topics and do a Q&A. I feel so joyful to see people attending, asking questions and showing genuine interest. I’m extremely passionate about gardening and food security, teaching our children how to grow their own food is a skill they can use for a lifetime. I’m proud to be apart of this program, I get to play in dirt and garden with our future generations. Grateful.

CANDACE PERRAULT

In every gardener is a child who loves to play in the dirt
In every child is a gardener ready to grow

TERRY WILEMSVANDYK

Nimajii-too min maamwi’
We are on this Journey Together!
Terry Wilemsvandyk, RECE, Resource Teacher (RRT)
Maternal and Child Health Program Coordinator, Mnaamodzawin Health Services
Cell: 705-282-4970 Email: terry.wilemsvandyk@mnaamodzawin.com
UPCOMING PROGRAMMING

MAAMWE KENDAASING EARLY LEARNING & INNOVATION CENTRE

WHO'S CRAFTY YARDZEE
OUTDOOR GAME MAKING

Saturday June 26, 2021
10 - 4PM
In the daycare parking lot

Each family will need to book a time slot. COVID safety measures and protocols will be in place.

To register please contact Courtney Laundrie, Early Learning Coordinator via email: courtney@whitefishriver.ca or by phone: (705) 863-2791

Anishnaabemowin Bingo

GAMEs • FUN •

LEARN ANISHNAABEMOWIN •

JUNE 15, 2021 / START AT 6PM VIA ZOOM

WRFN REMAINS IN A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WRFN REMAINS IN A STATE OF EMERGENCY

PAINTING WITH NATURE
with Sarah Earley

June 16, 2021 @ 6PM via Zoom

Explore the world around you & create your own paint brushes and mark making tools using natural materials from the land. Create beautiful natural patterns on paper, bark, rocks, & leaves using your natural brushes you crafted from nature.

WRFN REMAINS IN A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WOOD BURNED BOWLS

Tuesday June 9th, 2021
6:00pm to 7:00pm

FLINT+FLORA

FAMILIES WILL LEARN HOW TO CREATE A RUSTIC WOODEN CEDAR BOWL USING AN ANCIENT TECHNIQUE WITH COALS FROM THE FIRE.

ONCE THE BOWLS ARE BURNED, PARTICIPANTS LEARN HOW TO REFINE AND FINISH THEIR HANDCRAFTED BOWL SO THAT THEY END UP WITH A FINISHED AND FUNCTIONAL PRODUCT

glasses, sunglasses or safety glasses are recommended as personal protective equipment

1 HOUR ZOOM SESSION DEMONSTRATE

Download the WRFN COVID-19 app from Apple App Store or Google Play
### JUNE 2021

#### Waabgonii Giizis

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**Anishnaabemowin N'bakinaage**

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- **OZHAAWASHKWAA**
- **GWIIWIZENS**
- **MISKWA**
- **KWEZENS**
- **MIINAANDE**