



**Southgate Medallion
Family Day Homes**

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for the Kids and You!

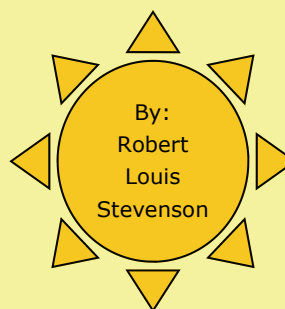
Volume 29 Issue 8

Bed In Summer

In winter I get up at night
And dress by yellow candle light.
In summer, quite the other way,
I have to go to bed by day.



I have to go to bed and see
The birds still hopping on the tree,
Or hear the grown-up people's feet
Still going past me on the street.



And does it not seem hard to you,
When all the sky is clear and blue,
And I should like so much to play,
To have to go to bed by day?

Multicultural Calendar

August 2010

August 6
Hiroshima Day
Canada, USA

August 12
Ramadan Begins
Islam

August 13
Oban,
Japan

August 15
Assumption
Christian

August 24
Raksha Bandhan
Hindu

August 24
Chung Yuan Festival
China, Taiwan

August 29
Notting Hill Festival
England

**ANNOUNCEMENTS &
Upcoming Events.**

**Heritage Day, Monday,
August 2nd
office closed**

Timesheets are due in the
office August 31st, 2010.

Please ensure your
timesheets are filled out
properly.

**Please fax your
timesheet one page
at a time to ensure
it is readable.**

Interactive Newsletter

Your input to the newsletter
is welcome. Please send
your information to:
jcyr@southgatemedallion.com

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Jennifer Yakymishen



Jennifer has joined our staff as a Consultant after operating a day home for 7 years. She has a Bachelor of Education degree and many years experience in the field. She has 3 school-aged children. Jennifer also volunteers within her community as the treasurer of a housing co-op, runs the children's community garden, canvasses for the Heart and Stroke Foundation and teaches classes on organization. We are delighted she has joined us and know providers will benefit from her guidance.

Brenda Proctor



Brenda is returning to the agency after spending time home being a full time Mom. Brenda was both a consultant and a provider with the agency when it was newly opened. A talented artist, she enjoys teaching art, crafts and calligraphy classes to the young and the young at heart. She works with children in volunteer roles at church and schools. Brenda is continuing her education at Grant MacEwan University. We look forward to having her enthusiasm and experience at the agency.



People need puppets just as puppets need people

Enhancing Play

Play is the way children learn and develop ideas about the world. It helps them build the skills necessary for critical thinking and leadership. It's how they learn to solve problems and to feel good about their ability to learn.

Children learn the most from play when they have a skilled provider who knows how to observe and assess play, and respond to, guide and enhance play to increase learning. Most child development experts agree that play is an essential part of high quality learning programs.

"Young children learn the most important things, not by being told, but by constructing knowledge for themselves in interaction with the physical world and with other children—and the way they do this is by playing." (Jones and Reynolds, 1992)

The Provider's Role in Enhancing Play

Guide and Enhance play by:

Provide materials for unstructured play: Put out collections of objects like cards or shells so children can arrange, sort by size, color or shape, count or tell stories about. Set out open-ended craft materials like crayons and blank paper, or sand and water. Allow children to move items from one area of play to another, such as using a doll in the blocks area.

Promote dramatic play: Create areas with props that encourage imagination. Supply play food, dress-up clothes, and household items to explore. Set up a restaurant, hospital, house area, or office.

Include outdoor play: Include daily physical outdoor play and allow experimentation with natural materials such as dirt, sticks, stones, leaves, water, and sand.

Respond to play: Build vocabulary by providing new words and talk about what the child is doing. "That's interesting. You have lined up the animals from tiny to gigantic."

Enhance play: A provider observes a child is pretending to drive a car. She encourages imagination by asking, "Where are you going? What do you see along the way?"

Guide Play: Add props for the child above such as a box for the car, a lid for a steering wheel, make paper plate wheels for the car, draw lights, cut a door opening. Cut pictures of travel destinations out of the newspaper and post along with a map. Add a camera, cell phone, suitcase, passport, and another box attached to be a trailer. If this leads to a camping trip, provide more props!

Observe and Document:

- Watch children play.
- Write down their questions, and comments.
- Note what they are interested in.
- Assess their development and plan activities to further their knowledge and skills.

Taking photos is a method of documenting children's development. A series of photos shows changes over time such as physical development: a child crawls, holds furniture, walks, runs, and climbs. Block structures get more complicated over time and photos show the development of spatial relations. It also communicates your activities with parents and your consultant.



An Example of How to Enhance Play as Observed in Louisa Munchinsky's Day Home

While reading books with two boys, Louisa noticed the boys had an interest in pirates and knights. She decided to expand on their interests. She bought large floor puzzles with knight and pirate themes. A castle was made out of cardboard cereal boxes and milk cartons, then painted. She added small toy figurines to the castle. For dramatic play she added pirate costumes to the dress-up area. She set out cards and games with the same theme. The children stayed interested for over a year and still return to play with the items. Louisa simply observed an interest and expanded on it in different areas of play, providing countless hours of fun play and learning.

When Children Play:

Δ They test their developing ideas with objects, people and situations—the key ability for academic learning.

Δ They develop many skills together—physical, social, emotional, thinking, and language.

Δ They are doing what they are interested in, so there is a natural motivation to learn.

Δ They develop concepts and skills together. Ex. A child learns to write the letters in her name is also learning that each letter represents a sound. She is motivated by the meaning, which is her own name. Memorable learning comes from meaningful experiences.

Δ They learn from other children by watching and copying. They develop social skills by co-operating with each other as they play.

Δ When children do activities they have chosen, learning is enjoyable. It is based on their own interests and gives them a sense of competence.



Community newsletters are an inexpensive way to advertise your available openings in your day home. Ask your consultant to proof read your ad to ensure quality.

Where can I get boxes:

- Costco or a grocery store
- Liquor stores
- Dollar Store
- Recycle Centres
- Moving or Storage businesses or an Instabox store
- Plumbers, or appliance delivery businesses

Best Practices



Rupa Ray encourages parents to enter her home each day to drop off and pick up their child. She and the children show the parent artwork, toys, favourite books and new skills they have developed.

Tara Passmore solved her problem regarding a posted menu even when parents do not enter the home daily. She picks children up at school and parents arrive during outdoor play at the end of the day. She laminated a two week rotating lunch menu which includes a list of snacks underneath. She circles the snacks she served with a whiteboard marker. Tara attached the menu to the clipboard so parents can read it when they initial their child's hours each day on the time-sheet.

Seema Manchanda uses a bulletin board to post her activity plans, daily menu, children's artwork, and any current articles on child care from newspapers. She also posts any information relevant to her scheduling for parents to read.

Navnit Gupta has a low table on which she provides different experiences for infants and toddlers. Some activities are: taping big pieces of paper to the table for children to scribble on with crayons or chalk, she will set out puzzles for their age group at times, and displays items from the natural world such as pinecones, vegetables and fruit. Infants learn through the senses. These materials give them a chance to look, feel, touch and smell. The children are free to explore the contents of the table whenever they are interested.



Southgate Medallion Tribute

