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dragonfly gazette

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News Around The Pond

Hello **dragonfly** families,

Happy Easter! A quick reminder that our office and providers will be closed Easter Monday, April 2. Please remember that as our weather starts to (hopefully) change, so should your child's outerwear. Rubber boots, splash pants, jackets, hats and mittens all become necessary when those irresistible spring time mudpuddles start showing up. There are so many benefits of mud play! From building creativity and a connection with nature, to learning and testing theories and building foundational understanding of the world, and even stress relief —mud play benefits everyone!



Earth Day

Earth Day, celebrated on April 22, is an annual worldwide event to demonstrate support for environmental protection.

This year Earth Day Canada is encouraging people to 'Consume Less and Play More'

Here are some family-friendly ways to celebrate and support our environment:

- ◆ Create art using recycled materials
- ◆ Limit electricity use
- ◆ Have a waste free meal
- ◆ Take a walk and scout out signs of spring
- ◆ Build a bee hotel
- ◆ Volunteer to help clean up a local park

Accreditation Standards Briefs

Standard Two:

“Program planning and practices support every child’s optimal development in an inclusive early learning and care environment that incorporates the value and importance of plan”

A few examples of indicators that agencies and educators show to support Standard Two are:

- i) incorporate experiences and cultural backgrounds of children in daily program planning
- ii) promote physical activity and minimize the time that children are sedentary
- iii) promote early literacy through daily programming
- iv) demonstrate flexibility by changing schedules, routines, and transitions to best meet the developmental needs of children.

Accreditation Q&A

Q: What is involved in the Self-Evaluation Process?

A: The Self-Evaluation process is a thorough, comprehensive, self-evaluation of the program’s services, policies, and procedures, identifying areas for improvement, creating a quality enhancement plan and implementing developed strategies to achieve the standards of excellence. For more information visit Accreditation of Early Learning and Care Services at aelcs.ca.

Apple Butterflies



- 1/2 cup peanut butter (sun butter, or WOW butter)**
- 4 fresh baby carrots**
- 1 large red apple**
- 8 pieces celery, thin strips** **Serves 4**

1. Spoon 2 tablespoons peanut butter onto center of each of 4 individual plates. Shape peanut butter on each plate into a mound about 2 inches long and 1 inch wide. Place 1 carrot down center of each mound of peanut butter.
2. Cut apple into quarters; remove core. Cut each quarter into 7 thin slices; cut 1 slice in half crosswise. Fan 3 apple slices on each side near top of each carrot to form upper wings. Place 1 half-slice on each side near bottom of each carrot to form lower wings.
3. Place 2 strips of celery at top of each carrot to form antennae.

Additionally, you can decorate wings with raisins, craisins, peas, or Cheerios. YUM! Click [here](#) to visit Genius Kitchen for the complete recipe.

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