

School District #73



John Tod Elementary

435 McGowan Avenue Kamloops, BC V2B 2P2

Phone: (250) 376-7231

Fax: (250) 377-2222



BUMBLEBEES StrongStart BC Centre
Early Childhood Family Centre

*Drop-In Parent-Participation Preschool Program
For families with children under 5!
8:30 a.m. ~ 11:30 a.m. daily, during
School year. Free of charge.*

JUNE 2007 NEWSLETTER



Dear Families!

I can hardly believe that we are down to the last month of school—it just seems like our days and seasons literally flew! But I must tell you how my heart is so filled with such wonderful memories and relationships discovered here at BumbleBees since our opening this past November. Thank you so very much-- I am looking forward to our reunion comes September! **Please note the following important dates:**

June 27th, 2007 Class Picnic at McDonald Park Meet at Park 9:00 am ~ 11:30
Pack yourself & child's lunch/beverage
Snack provided by Bumblebees

This is the last day of class! Miss Kathy will be on-site the 28th & 29th cleaning & preparing for September 2007

Sept. 4, 2007 First day of school for kids and parents! 8:30 am ~ 11:30 am

****Funded by School District #73 working in partnership with Kamloops
Make Children First
Initiative***

2.

Now for some ideas and talk about those wonderful summer days coming up, while 'Miss Kathy' is on her lawn chair! For every parent there comes the day when you hear the screen door slam for the umpteenth time and the whine of "Mom, there's *nothing to do!*" Here are some 'tried-and-true' suggestions for those very days:

- Paint rollers, large brushes; buckets of water and long fences and house sides! "Paint the house...or fence....or....." Just watch out for the family pet. If the children are in the very young stage, use paint trays or wallpaper trays.
- Large Appliance Boxes from home supply stores. Paper Rolls (for stove pipes, etc.) If the kids are really young—they need you to pre-cut windows/a door—or if it's a "car", car door and windshield. Poster Paint, paint rollers, brushes, sticky tape. Blankets, etc. This activity extends itself—*if adults do not interfere*—and often 'becomes' something you least expect. Sometimes a jail, sometimes a place for the latest crew of superheroes, etc. You can park it under a tree outside in the back—and suggest picnics in it etc.
- Rock Museum (or 'Pet' Museum) First, you have to collect some really good size BIG rocks—or you *could* collect small rocks, if you are into miniatures (a joke, folks!!!). Paint, brushes, shoeboxes (from the shoe stores) to 'display' the collection, a blanket or old sheet to sit on—and go for it! Maybe your rock will turn into a pig? A monster? Or? Make sure you have a hole puncher and someone who is really keen—or bossy—to make 'tickets' for other kids and adults to have to visit. This activity also extends—if you have older 4-5's—make up a 'story' or 'history' of each rock—and write or draw it to sit beside your rock.
- Pirates (boys love it!) You need cardboard (again those appliance boxes) to cut out sword shapes, paper foil to cover, sheets torn for bandanas and flags; an old suitcase (for the treasure) and paper, felts to make up 'fake' maps. *You may have to demonstrate how a 'map' works using your yard as the area to get this going!* Treasure could be something the children think of—or you could dump the junk drawer and surprise!!—Old keys, etc.
- Picture Books. Collect old magazines and one evening cut out pictures by themes. When you are ready to do this activity—have a box or bag ready and let them go at it with scrapbooks (one for each theme) to make a 'collection' of..... White glue and popsicle sticks are better for children to glue with—cover the table with an old plastic tablecloth and let them go at it. (The boundary is to 'stay at the table while gluing').

**Funded by School District #73 working in partnership with Kamloops
Make Children First
Initiative*

3.

Don't forget our playdoh recipes and making mudpies in the yard. I am also going to encourage you to just get out of the house on some of those days and head down to one of our terrific parks—picnic under your arm and kids in tow.

I found that when our children were small, money was tight, and we did not have the opportunity to get away for vacation in the summer. What seemed to create that 'vacation' feeling was going to Riverside Park for an early 'sandwich supper & watermelon' then laying on large blankets to hear and see the live entertainment in the Band shell. Give it a try—even though your children may not normally go to bed late, this experience once in a while, creates a wonderful memory of 'summer' and contributes to your family's sense of celebration.



This month, we are following our program of looking at bugs, learning to recognize the rest of our number family (6, 7, 8, 9, 10)—the symbols—and writing them. We are also continuing the preparation of children heading off to Kindergarten or Preschool by recognizing colors during transitions, following on task, managing during Group Time and helping our friends (during snacktime, getting out the door, etc.) If you struggle with your child's 'follow-through' to a task, feel free to ask me for any suggestions—you will also observe the phrasing in the classroom—requests are stated simply and as an expectation. (Easy for *me* to say, I know!)

Thanks also to everyone for your feedback and participation to the H.E.L.P. Research Project. Your information and support goes towards making the StrongStart Initiative a success! And—we'll be back next year—along with 80 sites province-wide! All thanks to you!

Have a wonderful summer—enjoy each day—and please come back and join us in September!

'Miss' Kathy xoxoxo

**Funded by School District #73 working in partnership with Kamloops
Make Children First
Initiative*