



nursery school

The first six years of your child's life are the foundation for later success.

Building Blocks is proud of the curriculum we have developed over the years. We know that children are eager to learn. Research shows that children learn best in a hands on, nurturing, supportive environment. We take pride in our classroom management. This is done through our small teacher to child ratios in all the classes we teach.

Children thrive in our preschool and then in our kindergarten classes because each child is noticed and worked with on an individual level. It is so important for children to be in and with calm, loving and stimulating people and environments as that is how they will relate all future issues with. In other words if your child is not hurried, meets with success and is in a calm environment that is how they will tackle their future. It's all about the habits your child will learn in school in their very formative early years. If your child meets with success, he will think success is always possible. If he is in a busy, hurried classroom with not enough direction or adults that will be his reality. He will always expect that no one will take time with him. Building Blocks would not recommend all day kindergarten for any child. There are simply too many children in a classroom with too few adults. All day kindergarten may appear to be convenient for parents, but as for meeting a child's need it will fall very short. Our Guest Speaker for our Kindergarten Information Night taught all day kindergarten last year. She gave her perspective on what goes on. Her eldest son came to our preschool, JK and SK Class, while her next son is currently in our JK class and has enrolled for SK.

**OPEN HOUSE
APRIL 12 2014
9:00- 1:00
FOR
SEPTEMBER REGISTRATION**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Registration has been ongoing for our Kindergarten classes since our kindergarten information nights in February. Families currently in SK and JK were also able to sign up younger children for preschool classes. During the week of April 7th we will have a table set up in the hall for registration. In school registration will take place then. You must reregister if you want a spot for your child for September.

We will open up registration to the public on Friday April 11th. Please pass this information on to friends and family. Word of mouth is how many families find out about Building Blocks.

All classes have been busy since returning from our Christmas Break. The children loved fitness week and so did the teachers. We used our large muscles and did many assorted activities that promoted coordination, fitness and fun. We have been having a Fitness Friday twice a month and are finding the children are enjoying the various routines we have been teaching. During one of the Friday February classes, Mrs. Julie Legare came in and did a gymnastics class with both the preschool and JK/SK groups morning and afternoon.

One of our themes for 3 weeks this winter was different countries. We focus on countries that our families come from and countries we are familiar with. We always start with Canada, and teach children that they are Canadian. We have the children hold a small Canadian Flag and teach them a song, "Oh I'm a proud Canadian, I'm a proud Canadian, I'm a proud Canadian, look at me." The smiles on their faces are indescribable. How do we teach? Well we bring in objects that are Canadian. Caribou horns from the far north to touch, fishing boats from the east and dancing to east coast music. We have some Inuit carvings to see with Inuit writing to compare the difference with our letters. We have the children try on a cowboy (girl) hat from Western Canada. We sing French songs. We cover all the senses so that we can engage each child's different unique learning style. There are so many areas we cover. We had one parent bring in a steel band for Trinidad and Tobago for the Friday pm class this year, thank you so much Mrs. Orié-Garvey.

This year we are also covering popular children's authors, starting with Clifford the Big Red Dog. The 2nd week found the beloved stories of Eric Carle. The Preschool Class focused on "The Hungry Caterpillar" reading the familiar story everyday and singing a song about the caterpillar, along with various art activities. The children loved the repetition of this story. We found a great game to go with it that involved colours and hand eye coordination in feeding this hungry caterpillar. Turn taking and waiting all occurred while playing this game during small circle times. The JK and SK classes each read a different Eric Carle book each day and had wonderful art work to go with the books.

We still will have a week of Curious George with lots of fun monkey activities. Once we return from March break which is from March 8-16, we look forward to a week of Jan Brett stories. School returns on March 17th, St. Patrick's Day. Wonder how much green we might see that day? We are always busy planning for your child's day and year.

Preschool News

The children in our preschool classes continue to enjoy the varied themes and activities at school. We are now seeing the children who have been with us since September following directions more easily. They are enjoying all aspects of school both large play room time and small circle times. In the large playroom the children are exploring more areas now, staying on task for longer periods now and thoroughly enjoying their art time. As in all our classes art activities are age appropriate. We are working on skills that strengthen their fine motor skills and following directions. Children love art time and much teaching is done at this time. With our small ratios children sit with a teacher in small groups and teachers are able to give help and encouragement. Children really look forward to their art time at school. Enjoy your child's masterpieces! Equally important is the small circle time. Each class is divided up into 3 groups. Circle time includes calendar time, days of the week, counting and a month song, games, songs and always a story. Children love this small group time. We also work on fine motor skills and play skills.

Mrs. Sookhoo, Mrs. Nunes, and Mrs. Quibell work with the preschool class for the first half of their day.

During the second half, Mrs. Quibell stays with the preschool class, and Mrs. Freer and Mrs. Sanger work with the preschool class.

A reminder to parents to limit the amount of time your child is spending in front of the television and computer. When children over focus on TV they have a harder time paying attention. Young children should be watching no more than 1 hour of TV a day. Children who engage in computer games for periods of time can become very fidgety. We really think it is best to let young children explore the world around them.

JK News

The JK class in both the morning and afternoon are capped at 16 students. With an 8-1 ratio this ensures that each child's needs are being met and that we have the time to work with each child. This week the JK class will have finished learning 40 plus sounds in English. It is great to see the reading level improving on a weekly basis. During the Spring Term the JK students will start exploring word families during their class time. Students will build up to 15 words each day, learn correct letter formation on primary lined paper and spell 3 or more words from dictation. We start at a K level and finish at a Grade 2 level in June.

We will also work on a reading book, keep learning tricky words and finish a 70 page workbook.

During Eric Carle week, while reading A House for Hermit Crab the JK class discussed the things they will take with them from JK. This was their list:

reading	sounds of the alphabet	new friends
printing	sharing	cooperating
listening	helping others	trying- don't give up

The class was full of wonder as they thought about how they had changed and what they had learned since September. One of the JK Dads commented this past week that he was skeptical about our JK program when he was first introduced. He went on to say, "This is the best value I could ever find. I am so happy my son is here, he has improved in so many areas. He is fully reading now."

The JK starts their day with Mrs. Freer, planning the lessons and Ms. Kuehni. Each day a new lesson is taught. There are movement breaks during this part of their day, with a very familiar routine. Once we start back in January, we introduce a helper of the day, who then leads opening circle, singing each classmates name, doing the calendar time and graphing a weather chart. We record the temperature each day. It has been a very cold January and February. It's great to see the self confidence grow in the children over the months as they take turns being the helper. Both JK and SK followed the Olympics and did a graph on the medal standings in Sochi Russia. The children were so interested.

Ms. Kuehni follows the JK class through to the yellow room where she can continue with consistency. All JK children do an age appropriate art activity with Ms. Kuehni. The children also work with Mrs. Sookhoo and Mrs. Nunes in the large classroom.

SK News

The SK children have made huge gains over the last few months. They have covered so many topics: the use of nouns, verbs and adjectives, how to conjugate verbs, how to use past present and future tenses when talking and writing a sentence, how to use a dictionary and how to arrange words and groups of words into alphabetical order, initial letter word blends ("sp" as in spell, "sw" as in swim) and final word blends (lk as in milk). The weekly spelling tests are progressing nicely many children are finding it easier to sound out

words from past spelling tests when journaling. On “Math Fridays” the class has covered units on counting and identifying numbers up to 100, learning to tell the time on the hour and half hour, we are currently in the middle of a unit on addition and the children are just loving the abilities they are developing to add in their heads quickly up to 10. All these spelling, grammar and math concepts are taught on an on going basis, so each unit builds on the previous one and with our continual review the progress is amazing.

When the children first come into Mrs. Sanger’s room she often has phonics based games to play such as the all time favorite “Silly Sentence Strips” and words that sound out but make no sense like “flang” or “strant”! These types of games become harder and more complex as the children learn more sounds and sound groupings. The calendar and days of the week are sung each day and then it is straight into our lesson. The lesson portion of the day lasts for about 25-30 minutes, included in this time we also do Tricky words and add onto the Tricky Word Ring from the child’s JK year. Once the lesson and all related topics are covered the children then move to tables to do their written work for the day. Each day the work is different so the children who come every day receive five different lessons and five different work projects a week. During any free time that the children may find they have they are encouraged to do independent reading or read to Mrs. Sanger. The reading level of the children in the SK class has improved tremendously, with many parents commenting on how their children just love to read.

Once all the children have finished their work there is just enough time for a “circle time” where we sing songs, have a story and discuss the theme for the week. Then it’s off out into the hallway to do art with Mrs Sookhoo. The children are putting lots of time and detail into their art projects and have tons of fun producing some fantastic art creations. Then it’s into the big yellow room with Mrs. Nunes and Ms. Kuehni to have snack and the long awaited and well deserved chance to play. The SK children have just started an ongoing class journaling project. They get to take home a stuffed animal for two days then journal about their adventures together. The children return the new mascot to class and read their journal entries to their peers. What a fun and exciting way to encourage reading and writing!

We at Building Blocks are pleased that you have given us the opportunity to encourage, develop and nurture this thirst for knowledge in your children.

We keep the child in childhood!

www.buildingblocksns.ca

905-846-3305

We at Building Blocks are pleased that you have given us the opportunity to encourage, develop and nurture this thirst for knowledge in your children.