

THE VOICE



"Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow"

Housekeeping

1. Friday, December 16th: CHSC Holiday Show (parents welcome).
2. Friday, December 16th: CHSC early dismissal.
3. Monday, December 19th-Monday, January 2nd: Centre closed for winter break.



A Message From our Executive Director

Dear families, friends, and staff,

Winter is in the air, as evidenced by the snow and cold temperatures this week. It is hard to believe that December is here already.

November, was a busy time for the centre. We held our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in-person on November 24th. This was the first in-person AGM since 2019. While the pandemic continues to cause a lot of uncertainty, with the help of our donors, supporters and governments, we managed a modest surplus this past fiscal year (2021-2022). Please see the [Annual Report on our website](#).

We are eagerly looking forward to the holiday festivities that bring with it a myriad of fun activities. We will be holding a holiday celebration on December 16th at the centre and families will be able to attend! Children can have up to three family members in attendance and masks will be required upon entry into the building. Each class is busy preparing their song for the performance. Further details regarding the event will be provided by your child's teacher. This year we will also have a live in-person visit from Santa, which will be a lovely cap to the day before we leave for the winter break.

Lastly, we continue to ask for your support in keeping the centre safe. As we enter cold and flu season we must protect the health and wellbeing of our staff and students. With the recent increase in COVID-19 cases, as well as the unexpected uptick in Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), we ask that you continue to monitor your child for illness, and if they present symptoms, please ensure they remain home until symptoms resolve. We thank you for your continued cooperation and understanding and wish you all the best of the season.

Warmest regards,



Dawn McKenna
Executive Director



Adopt- A Block Event at City Hall

by: Lisa Labere

As you know, CHSC is part of the City of Vancouver’s Adopt-A Block initiative. Every month we go out and keep our community clean by picking up garbage around the neighborhood. The City of Vancouver provides us with all the necessary tools and materials and it is a great opportunity for our children to learn about the environment and community.

In November the City invited all volunteers from this initiative to City Hall for light refreshments, a small gift, and an opportunity to learn more about how we can keep our community greener. They had guest speakers to discuss ideas and plans, and they also had a “Repair Café” whereby skilled volunteers offered their repair services to help fix common household items, which helps extend their life, and diverts them away from landfills.

I got to attend the event as the CHSC ambassador for this program and had the opportunity to participate in a discussion about reducing the city’s food waste. I had a great time representing CHSC!



Playing with Natural Materials

by: Vivian Ip

This month is all about nursery rhymes and fairy tales. This theme is always exciting and fun to teach because we get to observe the children as they re-enact the different stories.

One of the stories we're learning about is the "Three Billy Goats Gruff". While not one of my favourite fairy tales, I recently came across a related photo on Pinterest that I knew I could turn into a fun activity with the children.

I collected some wooden popsicle sticks, small wooden stumps, rectangular craft wood, and wooden blocks. The only instruction I gave them was "create a bridge for the three goats to cross over". There was no "correct" way to build a bridge. Some children decided to put one popsicle stick and let the goats cross, while others gathered some uneven small stumps and blocks to create the bridge. While they were building the bridge, there were many interesting comments throughout the activity that I was able to overhear, such as:

- "Look at my goats! They are hopping on the stumps."
- "The troll is jumping on the bridge to scare the goats."
- "The troll is blocking the goats to eat the grass."



This activity really brought me back to my practicum days in Melbourne, Australia. The educators I trained under incorporated the use of natural resources in the curriculum, a common practice among educators across Australia. By natural resources, I am referring to items like twigs, rocks, leaves and other objects found in nature.

During my practicum I learned about the benefits of playing with natural resources. For instance, children can enhance their creativity, sensory exploration, environmental awareness, imagination, problem solving, and resourcefulness when playing with natural resources! In addition, children and adults can go on a nature walk together to collect the materials - it is cost effective, and creates excellent opportunities for conversation and vocabulary building.



Playing with Natural Materials Continued...

As I circulated the room observing the different bridges, I acknowledged the creativeness of their work, but I wanted to challenge the problem-solving skills of those children who put either a popsicle stick or a piece of rectangular craft wood on the table. The challenge was to see if they could build a hiding spot for the troll. Some children quickly gathered some blocks and built their own version of the bridge. One child was assertive and content with using just a popsicle stick (because really, why does the troll have to hide under the bridge? It can also hide beside the bridge. Or maybe this troll is so flat that he can hide on a very flat surface). This activity allowed children to retell the story but also be creative with the story, allowing for their own embellishments.

Among play experts in the field of early childhood education, there is a concept known as “affordances of play”. Basically it refers to the multitude of ways a loose part can be used in play.² Materials can be categorized as having either high or low affordance?

For example, if we were reading the “Three Little Pigs” and I gave the children 3 plastic pig figures, these objects would be defined as having low affordance because they are manufactured materials with defined faces on them, and therefore restrict the children's imagination. However, if I gave them three wine corks, that would be considered high affordance materials because they are loosely defined objects and the children would have more opportunities to use their imagination and creativity in their play and storytelling. According to Megan Zeni, if you want children to be creative in their story telling, higher affordance materials, such as twigs, blank wooden pegs, and pebbles are preferable materials?

It takes some practice for educators and parents to incorporate natural materials into children’s play, but you will find many positive outcomes in their play. In addition, by playing with natural materials, you will be amazed watching the children develop ownership of their learning and creating a sense of place when they connect with their communities and local environment.³



References:

1. Busybees. (2021, March 31). The Benefits of Using Natural Resources in Children’s Play. <https://www.busybees.edu.au/the-benefits-of-using-natural-resources-in-childrens-play/#>
2. Zeni, M. (n.d.). Storytelling in Nature. <https://meganzeni.com/storytelling-in-nature/>
3. B.C. Ministry of Education. (2019). British Columbia Early Learning Framework. Victoria, B.C.



Book of the Month: Can Bears Ski?

by Raymond Antrobus, Illustrated by Polly Dunbar

Little Bear is struggling to understand his friends in conversation. He is having difficulty grasping his friends' jokes, and ignores them when they say hello. He is also wondering why everyone around him is asking him "can bears ski"?

One day, his dad takes him to see an audiologist who identifies that he has a hearing loss. As a result, Little Bear will have to start wearing hearing aids. It takes time for him to adjust to his new amplified world as things are much louder now. It is difficult and exhausting sometimes for Little Bear, however, with the support of Dad Bear, in time he finds his way.

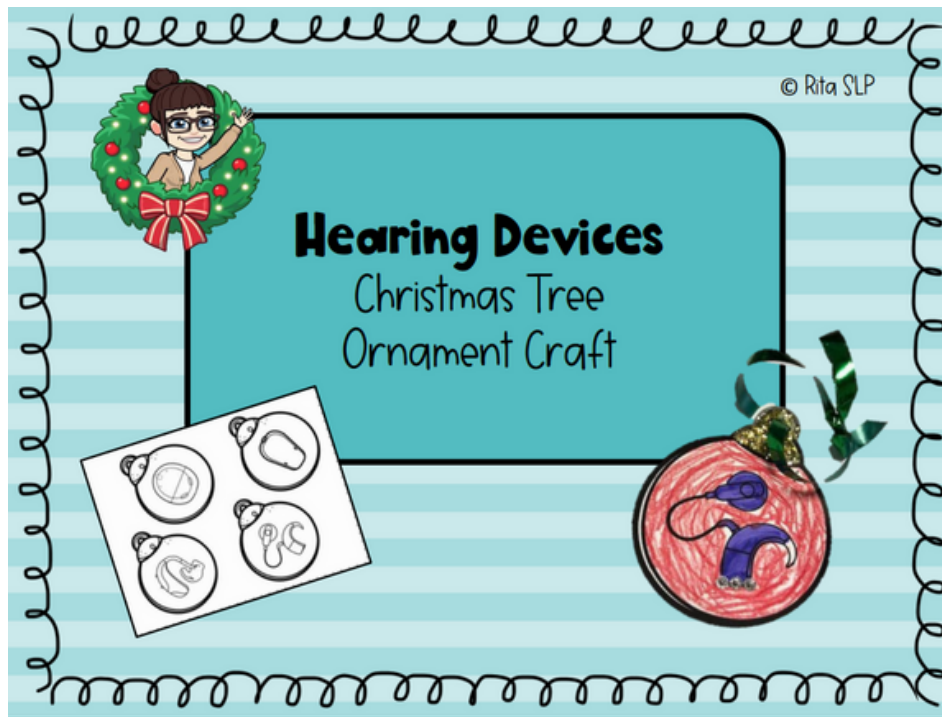
Key Takeaways:

This story helps capture the transition a child with hearing loss goes through. It also helps illustrate what hearing loss may look like. Although Little Bear gets his hearing aids he needs to adjust to them and learn how to use them, but with the support of his Dad and his interventionists he makes great strides in his listening and spoken language development.



Hearing Device Ornament Craft

by Rita Francis



Make your own Ornaments!

- Print out the paper ornament page on cardstock (optional, print out two copies so that you can make double-sided ornaments)
- Gather your supplies to decorate the paper ornaments. You could use:
 - Crayons
 - Markers
 - Stickers
 - Glue - glitter
- Colour and decorate the ornaments however you like!
- Get some scissors and cut out each ornament (glue them back to back for a double-sided ornament).
- Use a hole-punch to make a hole at the top of each ornament.
- Slide some ribbon through the holes and tie it into a knot.
- Hang your ornaments on your tree, or anywhere else you want!
- Have fun!

[CLICK HERE](#)

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60th Anniversary Committee

Hello CHSC Community!

Next year marks the 60th anniversary of CHSC and we want to make it our best year ever!

We are putting together a committee of family, friends, staff, and alumni to help plan events and activities that will take place throughout the year!

You have ideas and we want to hear them! If interested please email our Marketing and Development Officer, Elysha Cohen, at ecohen@childrenshearing.ca.

Let's put our heads together and plan a great 60th Anniversary year!

