

Bear Park from Home

Dear Parents of Bear Park,

Sometimes it's important for us to do a check on how we work and live life. One thing we have found that has been a useful tool over the years for getting back on track and remembering the things that are important is by reading and practicing The FISH! philosophy.

The four main principles are:

Be There

Being present for people.

Play

Tap into your natural way of being creative, enthusiastic and having fun.

Make Their Day

Find simple ways to delight people in a meaningful, memorable way.

Choose Your Attitude

Take responsibility for how you respond to what life throws at you. Your choice affects others.

You can google FISH to find out how this fish market in Seattle became world famous for changing their work environment and lifestyle.

Wishing you all well and keep safe.

Sue & the Bear Park Team

Music at home



Children have an innate love and desire to create their own sounds and music, no matter their age group.

Music can be made using everyday objects within the home such as pots and pans, spoons, water bottles, food containers filled with different foods and different surfaces throughout the house.

Take advantage of all types of weather and venture out onto your own property to find things within the garden, driveway or deck that create sounds. Perhaps you could try rubbing the bark of a tree, splashing in a puddle of water left behind by a rain shower, running something along the decking boards or tapping different rocks or other ground coverings. The possibilities are endless! We look forward to hearing about some of your compositions!

Forgotten to stock up on art supplies?



The essence of an atelier are the materials that are on offer. Artists as well as children need choices in order to find a suitable medium to express their ideas and keep developing their creative process. Don't worry if you haven't stocked up on art-supplies.

Creative processes can be rich even with simple tools such as a pencil or black felt tip. The importance is to find ways to keep the creative process open and experimental.

Have a look around your house in your office or your kitchen for different types of papers, cardboards and plastics. Offer or let your child choose one pen to begin with. As you child will explore and experiment you might notice he/she might respond to the materials in different ways. For example while her/his marks might be big and fluid on the white paper, they might become smaller and fractioned on the paper with lines. Again ask you child what encouraged her/him to make this change.

Different materials will provide different surfaces for the drawing process and will alter the aesthetics of the mark. For example, the black felt pen might bleed out and change colour, on the plastic it might smudge and make a sound. Children are fascinated by comparing and contrasting different materials.

They will have very sensitive and curious responses to aesthetic changes and transformations. Through dialogue this will offer a new dimension to express ideas. For example if your child reacts surprise or fascinated by the transformation of the mark, ask "What did you notice?" "What happened to your shape?" "What does it remind you of?"

This will encourage your child to look closer, reflect on what comes to her/his mind and bring this into the consciousness and context of language.

Scavenger Hunt Ideas

Indoor Scavenger Hunt

- A toy with wheels
- A book with the first letter of your name
- A pair of matching socks
- 4 things that are green
- Something very soft
- A toy smaller than your hand
- Something round
- A book with numbers in it
- 5 Legos that are all different
- A photo of someone you love
- An item you can see yourself in
- An item that makes you feel cozy
- A toy that has 5 different colours
- A movie that has "S" in the title
- Your snuggliest stuffed animal

Outdoor Scavenger Hunt

- 5 leaves that look different
- A stick that is longer than your hand
- A rock with spots on it
- A flower
- A flat rock
- 10 blades of grass
- Something you love to play with
- A piece of trash you can recycle
- Something that is brown
- Something that is heavy
- Something that is very light
- Something that needs sun to live
- An item smaller than your thumb
- Something that starts with "M"
- Something that smells good

Online Resources

A link to online to National Geographic Kids Club
<http://www.natgeokids.com/nz/category/kids-club/>

The idea of sticks

Collect a group of ice block sticks or small pieces of paper and write a message on each one, carefully placing these into a bag once written. Invite your child/ren to choose a stick or piece of paper from the bag and discover what activity they are asked to do. These activities could include such things as:

- Make a leaf rainbow
- Go bird watching
- Paint with mud
- Make a nature mandala
- Find a cobweb...watch
- Mead under a giant tree
- Climb a tree, sit in it
- Make a stick fairy
- Make a daisy chain
- Gaze at the stars



Ask your child/ren for further ideas to create more lucky dip sticks and perhaps invite all of the family to join in.

Ephemeral Art

Ephemeral art is a temporary form of art that can be introduced through the use of natural and recycled materials and is one of the most popular experiences on offer at Bear Park. These are spaces set up with a variety of natural and found objects with a space to arrange these objects and create compositions that could represent ideas or images or retell stories.

Invite you child/ren to participate in the collection of these ephemeral objects whilst out on your next neighbourhood walk or collect them from inside your home.

These spaces can be created inside with more delicate items such as shells, buttons, stones, glass pebbles, feathers, string, and twigs, or re-created outside on a larger scale with wood offcuts, pine cones, leaves, larger stones.

The beauty of creating compositional pieces with your child is that there is no right or wrong way to create something interesting and fun together. If you are working from home a composition space can be a brilliant opportunity for children to play independently while still enjoying the benefits of being able to refine their idea of aesthetics and fine motor skills.

For an extra challenge try offering tongs or tweezers to use for placing chosen items or define an area like a tile square or an area of lawn. Due to the impermanent style of this activity, you might like to capture photographs of compositions and post these onto Storypark before they disappear. We would love to see what you and your child/ren can create at home.

For inspiration we recommend googling Andy Goldsworthy's work. Get creative and let your imagination run wild and imagine what you could create in your own backyard!

