

Bear Park from Home

Dear Parents of Bear Park,

As the weather appears to be cooling we thought that it maybe the right time to introduce some activities that can take place easily both inside and out for example - finding ones shadow can be adapted within both environment settings and still produce the same amount of wonderment and excitement.

So enjoy, keep safe and have some fun with your families and of course have a very HAPPY EASTER!

Keep safe
Sue & the Bear Park Team

The goodness of rain

“To nurture ecological identity in young children, we invite them into relationship with the world beyond walls and with the creatures that live there. We invite them into ethical thinking anchored by the compassion that comes from caring and engaged relationships. We invite them to come home to the Earth, and to live honourably in that home” (Ann Pelo).

Children love the rain. They love the feeling of it on their skin, the taste of it on their tongue, and the sound of it as it touches the earth. Consider this, the next time it rains, and take your child outside:

What is their initial reaction? What emotions are present? What senses are engaged?

Don't worry about getting wet. Dance and embrace the experience with one of the earth's natural elements.



Online Resources

For great ideas to do within and around your garden.

<https://tuigarden.co.nz/ideas-and-inspiration/8-garden-boredom-busters/>

Digital Drawing

Digital art is extremely relevant in our lives, and while there is no replacement for working with real tools and mediums, digital drawing provides a wonderfully rich alternative when needed. Gaining an understanding of digital drawing at a young age is a wonderful opportunity for children to experience how the worlds of art and technology can work together.

Supplies needed:

- iPad or Android tablet, or a phone
- with a large screen
- Stylus (optional)

Applications:

There are many to choose from but Tayasui Sketches (available on both iOS and Android) is a personal favourite with Anna from Pod 4 at Bear Park Remuera

This app. has a wide range of drawing tools and paper types that do a great job of representing the real thing. It is extremely simple to use, and while you will likely certainly enjoy exploring this app alongside your children it is entirely possible for preschoolers to use with little support from an adult.

Whilst this app is fantastic just for playing around with different styles of mark-making it is also unique in that it provides a way for children to revisit their work. By using the “record screen” feature, you can effectively play back each mark as it was made, in real time, so this is a great tool for reflection, as well as a dynamic way to share more than just the ‘finished product’ with others.

For younger children who aren't yet comfortable holding a pencil, or simply prefer to use their hands, finger - tip drawing with this app is also available. For older children (and parents!) who would like to refine their drawing a bit more with the use of a tool, a stylus is perfect. If you don't have a store-bought stylus, don't worry! If you have some tin foil at home, you can turn an ordinary pen, pencil or stick into a home made stylus by simply wrapping the foil around the tip.

We hope you have a lot of fun exploring your creative expression using this app, and please upload your digital masterpieces onto StoryPark, as we would love to see them!

Link to how to make a stylus at home:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8intLIYZ8w>



Make a magic potion

Kids love to make potions and the garden provides the perfect collection of ingredients! Below are some suggestions to pick or plant for potions. Kids can be as creative as they want! Add some glitter or food colouring for extra fun.

Potion ingredients (pick or plant):

- Flowers: nasturtium, marigold, pansy, calendula, lavender, daisy, geranium, sweet pea, borage.
- Herbs: rosemary, mint, lemon balm, dill, pineapple sage, oregano.
- Leaves: nasturtium, ferns, spinach, beetroot, lamb's ear.

Make a potion:

Mix up your selection of colourful and smelling ingredients with some water in a bowl, glass jar or plastic container.



A Wednesday Dinner Invite

Our kids planned a special dress up dinner for our family. They creatively made invitations for Andy and I, made a poster for the house advertising it and decorated the outside table.

They even made a Spotify playlist!

It took them the majority of the day to prepare all of this and to ensure everyone had accepted and were keen to come

We had to be ready and dressed up (in bright colours) by 4pm sharp. We all made dinner together, listened to their playlist and just had fun.

We are going to do this every Wednesday.....it and it does help that we have a big dress up box.

Thanks Aimee and your family for such a neat idea.



Light & Shadow

Light plays an important role in all of our lives. It can transform everyday shapes and colours, can have an effect on our senses and emotions and offer us a sense of wonder. When exploring the combination of light and shadow, children are experiencing a whole range of theories from reflection, size, transparency and colour, to positioning and shape.

To begin with, consider what aspects of light already exist in your home. Perhaps you have a window that projects a strong source of light at certain times throughout the day, or maybe you have a lamp, or a torch that you could use to reflect upon a dark wall or space.

There is also the wonderful opportunity of the natural light that you can encounter whilst you are outside, even when it is maybe a cloudy day.

Invite your child to discover their shadow and through posing various questions encourage them to explore and delve deeper within this idea.

Some questions you may wish to pose:

- Where does your shadow come from?
- Where does it go?
- How can we create a shadow?
- What type of shadows can we create?
- How can we make these shadows larger or smaller?
- Can you catch it?
- What colour is your shadow?
- How do you know your shadow is happy? Is sad?
- And so on.....

This investigation can include our younger children also, where you may move your hands around to see if they notice this movement on the wall or on the ground. Perhaps you could encourage them to create their own movements and see if they make the connection between their movement and the shadow.

