

The WEE NIPPER Years

A monthly column about learning for parents and caregivers of pre-schoolers.

Infants are Capable & Confident Learners

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The more we observe our babies the more we understand and appreciate the speed

of learning that happens during the early years of their life. I think that as parents and teachers we have become more humble, more appreciative of their intelligence. As a result we teach less but provide an environment for learning, seeing them as intelligent humans by noticing their cues and their need to explore safely.

We are very lucky that there is fantastic research and information readily accessible to parents and teachers about the importance of respectful and high-quality education programmes and environments for infants and toddlers.

Families need and deserve exceptional early childhood centres that play a partnership role in the upbringing of their child. When a sense of trust is established between the parent and teachers there is mutual respect, and that respect passes onto the child. A respected child is one who feels secure, autonomous and competent. "Somebody is deeply interested in me, by the way they look, listen, interpret my communication and allow me to explore".

Putting Great Ideas into Practice:

✓ **Enjoy and laugh with your baby:** We gain a lot of enjoyment out of our babies at Wee Nippers because we are relaxed, smile and laugh with them. We have a great deal of fun and our teachers are specialists who adore and appreciate their little individual quirks, personalities, interests and passions. We slow down our actions, create a calm predictable place for babies to learn and develop.

✓ **Babies love to experiment with their sensors:** The things we do at Wee Nippers with body paint, noodle painting and natural resources helps the children's love of exploration and experiencing squishy, slimy objects. Being able to discern textures helps babies explore and understand their environment and recognise objects. It's not always something you want to prepare at home BUT it's fantastic learning for their motor skills.

✓ **Getting involved:** Even the youngest baby can become an active participant rather than passive in the day-to-day activities (feeding, bathing, changing, and dressing) at home and at the centre. If they are unhurried caring experiences then your baby knows his/her needs are understood and feels secure.

✓ **Giving babies time:** Giving babies time for uninterrupted play shows we appreciate and admire them. Instead of trying to teach babies new skills, we notice what babies are actually capable of, learning to master and wanting to explore.

"Do less, observe more, enjoy most." Magda Gerber

WEE NIPPERS

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Pre-enrolment visits welcome

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