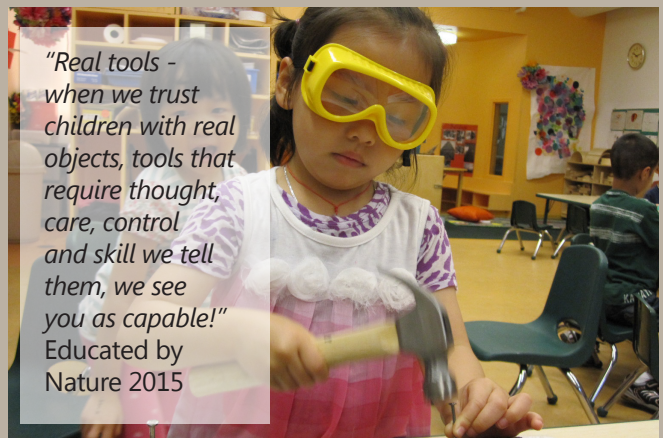


Cultivating Natural Playgrounds that Nurture Children's Curiosity and Wonder:

Workshops Winter 2015-16

Back by popular demand, join the team from Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds for two workshops in the series: Down and Dirty; and If I Had a Hammer - Woodworking at Your Centre!



If I Had a Hammer: Woodworking At Your Centre



Woodworking with young children is a lost art. Many educators cringe at the thought and begin to visualize cut fingers and flying hammers. This fun, hands-on workshop will help you to get past your fears and learn some woodworking skills. Participants will discover how woodworking uses math, problem-solving, fine motor, and social skills, while fostering creativity and imagination. In this workshop we will review the importance of woodworking, understand where to start, the tools to use, safety protocols to implement, and will try a dozen hands-on activities you can bring back to your centre.

The presentation will have four learning outcomes. Participants will:

1. learn how to use tools appropriately and safely for the age and development of preschool children. We will explore the following tools: saws, manual hand drills, hammers, and vegetable peelers (whittlers);
2. sample woodworking projects including: wood creatures, nail boards, peg boards, beading, wooden cars, stick people, and mobiles;
3. engage in the process of whittling with the use of a vegetable peeler;
4. learn strategies for designing a woodworking centre for their program (indoors and outdoors) and how to set up your workbench, tool shed and provide safety goggles and gloves.

9:00 am - Exploring how to use tools and associated materials and getting to know your tools

- **Saws:** Cutting different materials with different types of saws including sticks, scrap 2x4s, plywood and dowels. The saws that will be explored are the hack saw, dry wall saw, and a d-handle saw. Participants will be able to keep their cut pieces and use them for the afternoon portion of the workshop.
- **Drills:** Drilling different materials with different types of drills including recyclables, bottle caps, sticks, blocks, driftwood, and 2x4 scraps. The drills that will be used include Fiskars, Lee Valley, old fashion hand drill, and smaller hand drills. Participants will make a necklace with wooden beads.
- **Hammers:** Using various types to hammer nails into different surfaces, including sticks, driftwood, stumps, 2x4 scraps, and hard Styrofoam. Participants will have an opportunity to experiment with different types of nails: using roofing vs. finishing nails and different size nails. Participants will make a letter board.
- **Vegetable Peelers:** Participants will learn how to whittle using a vegetable peeler and will use freshly cut wood and dry wood. There will also be different types of soft and hard woods to whittle. Participants will make a mud pencil and try it out

12:00 to 1:00 pm Lunch

1:00 pm Making Stuff: Participants will use their skills learned in the morning and complete four woodworking projects. Supporting children in investigating how a tool works is the foundation to woodworking in any classroom. Exploration and experimentation needs to be valued and supported before introducing more structured types of projects. Group 1 will make cars, people, and animals using a hammer, drill, and vise. Group 2 will make a peg board using a drill and saw. Group 3 will make stick people using a vegetable peeler, drill, saw, and vise. Group 4 will make mobile creations using a drill, vise, and darning needle.

3:30 pm - Review and Conclude

Saturday February 20, 2016 • 9:00 am to 4:00 pm • District School Board of Niagara, 130 Louth Street, St. Catharines • \$65 includes lunch and all workshop materials

Down and Dirty

The workshop 'Down and Dirty' is perfect for those who love to play in the mud and want to get the scoop on the dirt below. With the rise of mud kitchens and muddy play this is a perfect opportunity to explore the many attributes of soil. The workshop will focus on what's in soil, why it's important, and the little critters that live in it. Activities include exploring the different shades of soil through mud paintings and making your very own dirt shirt. Experiments include soil's ability to act as a filter and the importance of flow and drainage for our plant life. We conclude with making worm composters and snail terrariums for your classrooms. It will definitely be a day of getting dirty and mucky. Please bring in soil samples from your home and workplace. Besides learning about theory and importance, participants will engage in lots of fun, hands-on activities.

Learning Outcomes

1. To understand the importance of dirt for a healthy immune system. Research from around the world will be shared.
2. Having fun with the mess of playing in the dirt and learning how to make it work at your centre.
3. Understanding some of the science behind dirt; the different layers, colours, nutrients, filtration systems, and the little critters that live in it.
4. Taking the mystery out of composting to make your own great garden soil.
5. Creating snail terrariums and exploring their efficient composting abilities.

9:00 am

- Participants will have an opportunity to hear about related research by Mary Ruebush and others and will discuss the rise of mud kitchen popularity and the science behind it.
- **Activity 1: Let's go explore what's in soil.** In groups of four, participants will dig holes and collect soil. Discussions will take place regarding what is in the soil, and what are the layers that everyone talks about? Individuals will participate in a scavenger hunt and will take soil comparisons.
- **Activity 2: Shirt soil-dyes** - promoting the different colours in the soil.
- **Activity 3: Making Mud Bricks, Mud Sculptures, and Mud Painting**

12:00 to 1:00 pm Lunch

1:00 pm Afternoon Session

- Reviewing the components of soil and their functions
- Engaging in Fun Science Experiments including; Berlese Funnel, Soil and flow, Soil as a filter, Making Bird Seed balls, Making Worm composters, Making Snail Terrariums
- Finish up the t Shirts

3:30 pm - Closing and Review

Saturday April 16, 2016 • 9:00 am to 4:00 pm • District School Board of Niagara, 130 Louth Street, St. Catharines • \$65 includes lunch and all workshop materials



Cultivating Natural Playgrounds that Nurture Children's Curiosity and Wonder: A Series to Deepen our Thinking is presented by Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds and hosted by the Early Childhood Community Development Centre in partnership with the District School Board of Niagara.

To register, contact the ECCDC at 905.646.7311 extension 304 or eccdc@eccdc.org or visit www.eccdc.org



The Bienenstock Story

Bienenstock Playgrounds creates play spaces that connect kids to nature and inspire optimal child development. They are a leader in the development of natural playgrounds and are passionate advocates for this movement worldwide. The Bienenstock team includes award winning designers, architects, planners and educators who are united by their belief in the need to create outdoor spaces that support child development through immersive experiences with nature.



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