



Vancouver Island Cooperative
Preschool Association

Member of Parent Participation
Preschools International (PCPI)

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COVERALL

Fall 2003

V I C P A



A Positive Beginning

Excerpts from an article by Laura N. Sweet.

Submitted by Lyn Brown, ECE, Cordova Bay Preschool

I became involved with a cooperative preschool when I was looking for a “kinder, gentler” way to begin my son’s education. Chris was not comfortable in new situations, and he had separation fears when I left him with anyone – even grandma. I knew that my presence in the classroom on occasion would help give him the security and confidence he needed to stand on his own. It took time, but my patient participation worked; Chris went from being fearful at preschool, to looking forward to his school days.

Even confident preschoolers enjoy having their parents or caregivers in the classroom. For those who are ware of being on their own, it’s a comfort to have a

parent nearby from time to time. Your days in the classroom will ease the transition from home to school for your child, making it a more natural step in the big job of growing up.

Your attitude in the classroom is also important; your child needs to see that you are looking forward to your time at preschool. It’s a way of demonstrating the value you put on his/her education. Your positive attitude also assures your child that you enjoy spending time with him or her.

Positive parents are also encouraging to the teacher who needs the support of the co-op workers. Teachers know when

So often parents approach their co-op time as an obligation that *must be met*, but there are *many unexpected benefits that you may not have considered.*

In general, only a child who feels safe dares to grow forward healthily.

His safety needs *must be gratified.*

He can’t be pushed ahead because the ungratified safety needs will remain forever underground, always calling for satisfaction.

Abraham Maslow

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President's Pen



A new school year has begun. Some of you may be returning to another year of cooperative preschool and others like your child may be walking through the doors for the first time. Whatever category you fit, welcome. I am certain this will be a very rewarding decision. I know it has been for me.

My name is Lindy Templeman and I am the current Vancouver Island Preschool Association (VICPA) president. My fourth child Marcus will be making his first step through the Sidney Preschool doors. I am excited for him and myself. This being my 7th consecutive year with co-operative preschools I have realized that the learning is not just limited to my children. I have learned so much through the years. It probably will amaze many of the parents I knew my first year that I am now VICPA president as it took me 4 months to figure out how to make play-dough. (I am not kidding – 4 months!). After mastering play-dough I moved into various executive positions.

I have continually been amazed at the way parent volunteers have worked together so successfully running such great preschools. I have also loved being around so many like-minded families that want to be a part of their children's preschool experience and who believe in the "learning through play" philosophy. Recently I was shopping at Costco and while perusing the book section I was astonished to see so many educational workbooks to help children (even preschoolers) advance academically. There is a big market for these products nowadays as parents are constantly concerned with their child "keeping up" (or better). Children, especially preschoolers, need opportunities to advance their

social development, which is mastered through play. The learning through play philosophy is primarily why I have moved up to the VICPA level. I want to help preserve this idea. In this hurried society we must not forget to let the children play. VICPA is an umbrella association supporting its co-operative preschool members in continuing this philosophy. Since there is such a high turnover of parents in the co-operative preschool system it is difficult to maintain continuity. VICPA is your support organization helping your preschool continue to run smoothly from year to year.

Some of the benefits provided by the VICPA are:

- Workshops guiding your executive through their job descriptions
- Written portfolios for each executive position guiding parents through their jobs
- Yearly standard visits to ensure high standards are being met
- Valuable monthly meeting to help guide your presidents
- Valuable monthly professional development days for your ECE
- Affordable insurance costs
- The " Making Tomorrow Conference" an informative parenting conference affordably provided for 26 years
- A support network to guide your preschool through any difficulties that may arise

I am very honored to be this year's VICPA president. My children and I have enjoyed every duty day and we both have met so many wonderful friends through co-operative preschools. To all returning families I wish you another great preschool year and to our new families I hope it won't take you long to settle into your new routine and begin enjoying your rewarding choice of cooperative preschool.

Lindy Templeman, President, VICPA

marlin-t @shaw.ca



Vancouver Island Cooperative
Preschool Association

Calendar of Events

- | | | |
|-----|------|--|
| Oct | 17 | ECE Committee Meeting |
| | 21 | VICPA Executive Meeting, 7:00 p.m. |
| | 23 | Marketing / Fundraising Workshop
7-9 p.m. Lakehill Preschool |
| | 23 | Vice-Presidents, Personnel Cttee.
Workshop (Class and E.C.E. Reps)
Lakehill (Fireside) |
| | 28 | VICPA Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. |
| | 28 | Mike Erichsen – Aon Reed Insurance
to attend Board meeting |
| Nov | 1 | Coverall Deadline
UP Island Workshops: Time &
Location TBA |
| | 18 | VICPA Executive Meeting, 7:00 p.m. |
| | 25 | VICPA Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Lochside Elementary Library |
| | 25 | Enrolment/Orientation Workshop,
7- 9p.m., Lochside Elementary |
| | 28 | E.C.E. Committee Meeting |
| Dec | | NO Executive or Board Meeting |
| | 19 | CHRISTMAS BREAK OFFICE CLOSED
- public schools reopen January 5th |
| Jan | 2004 | |
| | 23 | ECE Committee Meeting |
| | 20 | VICPA Executive Meeting, 7:00 p.m. |
| | 27 | VICPA Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Treasurer's Workshop 7:00pm TBA
Negotiating Contracts/Hiring
Workshop 7:00pm TBA |
| Feb | 1 | Coverall Deadline |
| May | 1 | MAKING TOMORROW CONFERENCE |



Helping Hints for Preschool Parents

- 1 Arrive on time to set up equipment and supplied on your participation days.
- 2 Discuss the morning plans with the ECE.
- 3 Be constantly alert to the safety of all children. Station yourself nearby when children are climbing, sliding, etc.
- 4 Count heads frequently.
- 5 Move slowly and avoid unnecessary movement. Sit, watch and listen when you can.
- 6 Help the children to help themselves. Give a minimum of help in speech and action. Avoid making models.
- 7 Give as few directions as possible. Show them as well as tell them. Calmly help the child if they need help in following the directions.
- 8 Go to the child to speak to them. Speak briefly and simply. Speak only when you have their attention. Sit or squat so you can face them on their level.
- 9 Speak on a child's level of understanding, but don't talk down.
- 10 When a conflict occurs, try not to judge it for the children. You may not know all the facts. Don't be too eager to help. Many times children can settle their own conflicts and learn in the process.
- 11 Expect your child to act like a child, not a model. The days you work may not be his/her best days.
- 12 Remember you are here to help; keep conversation between adults at a minimum.
- 13 It helps to warn the children in advance of a change of activity.
- 14 Expect cooperation and you will usually get it.
- 15 Participating may mean being alert rather than physically rushing about.
- 16 Laugh with, never at a child.
- 17 Forget the terms, "big boy, good girl, bad or best" Definitions of these words often change. Be specific in praising behaviour. "I like the way you..."
- 18 Put supplies away neatly and leave the room as you'd like to find it the next time.
- 19 Allow a few minutes at the close of the session to sit down with the ECE to share the experiences and learnings of the day.
- 20 Look forward to your next opportunity to participate!

Reprinted from *Offspring*, Fall 1999

Fundraising News

Thank you to Island Farms Dairy Coop for continuing their UPC redemption program.

We receive .03¢ for each UPC that we clip, collect and redeem.

Thank you to all the families who continue to be so supportive of this program.



Emergency First Aid Course

Saturday
December 6th, 2003

9am - 5pm

Belfry Theatre
1291 Gladstone Ave.

Cost is \$40.00 per person

The instructors are Janet and Stan Anderson (alumni of Lansdowne Preschool) and certified First Aid Instructors. They have been teaching First Aid for over twenty years. Upon completion of the course each participant will receive an Emergency First Aid Certificate and a CPR Certificate.

This eight hour course meets the requirements for Early Childhood Educators.

To register please call Kristin Scott at 381-6651.

Registration deadline is November 23rd 2003. (space is limited to 20 participants)

There will be a 30 minute lunch break; please bring a lunch and a mug for tea or coffee.

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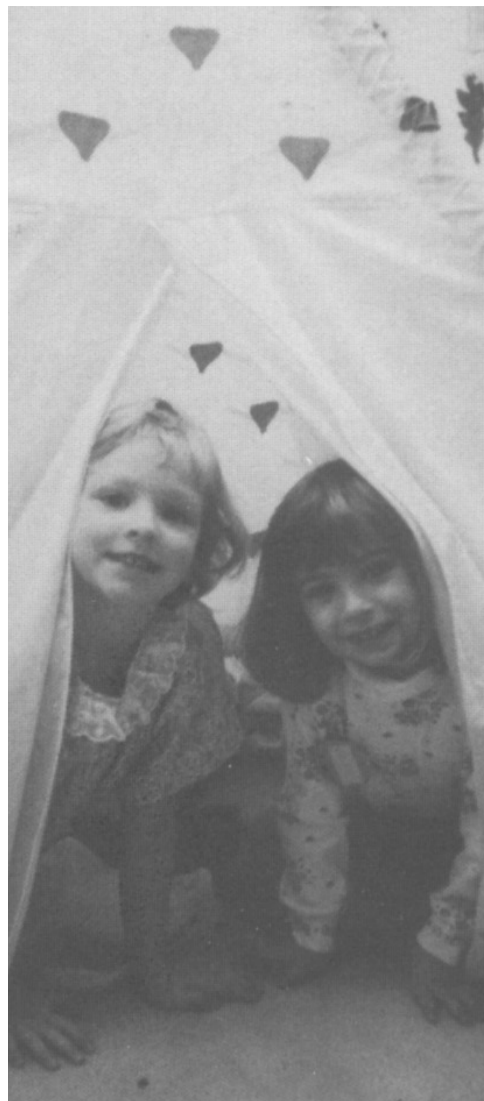


Working at preschool forces you to slow down and spend time in your child's world

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someone really doesn't want to be there, and that can be a morale buster. A smile and a can-do spirit will make the difference between a good day at preschool or a difficult one.

One of the greatest benefits from working at your preschool is the chance to watch your child interact with others.



Because each child has his/her own "inner" schedule of development, this will give you insight into many different areas, from appropriate behaviour to kindergarten readiness.

Also, you'll see areas where your child shines! Your preschooler may amaze you by working all morning on a city of blocks, or putting together a floor-length puzzle. Your "shy" child may reach of another's hand when it's time to dance; your "rowdy" child may sit quietly with the classroom pet. By being in the classroom, you'll see facets of your child's personality you never saw before.

A cooperative preschool gives parents a unique opportunity in their child's education process – the chance to be personally involved in the classroom.

For my family it's been an enjoyable time, exploring and experiencing new sights, sounds and activities together. The rewards are many, for both parent and child.

Have a great year at preschool together!

VICPA On-Line Auction a Success

Thank you to everyone who participated in the VICPA May 2003 On-Line Auction. From the people who helped set up and administer the auction to the numerous visitors and bidders. Congratulations as well to those bidders who were successful in obtaining the items they wanted.

Many long hours of work went into setting up the auction and benefits were realized far before the bidding deadline on May 30th.. We had over 6,000 visitors to our auction and the donated items collectively brought in over 650 bids. Each and every visitor to our auction now knows about the VICPA. Of the successful bidders, over 30% of them had not supported our association in the past. Kerry Hall-Jardine, our Office Administrative Coordinator, has the names, addresses and e-mail addresses of all successful bidders so that we might contact them for future events.

Not knowing exactly what to expect from our first On-Line auction, financially the auction was very successful. Funds generated have been used to purchase a laminator for use by all of our schools and we have also been able to purchase a supply of laminator stock at a very reasonable price thanks to the shopping savvy of Goldstream ECE Nicki Liversage. The remaining funds will be set aside to purchase equipment for our future Resource Centre. The auction generated approximately \$4,800.00.

I cannot stress enough the gratitude to all of those persons who assisted with the soliciting of donations for the auction, the schools participation and the support of our Membership. Thank-you for making the VICPA On-line Auction a success.

Joanne Scott

Marketing/Fundraising Resource