

CHANGE

from ACORN 10/11/23

A fundamental concept for children (and all people, for that matter) is change. Children are learning about the changes in the seasons, the temperature, day to night, weekends, holidays and school times, loss, and the excitement and disappointments that come with change.

With change comes transition, adapting from one situation to another. Just as children learn that animals adapt to their changing environments one of our jobs is to provide safe and ample opportunities for our friends to learn to adapt and transition within their own worlds.

Granby Nature Preschool and Kindergarten is presently undergoing changes. This year we have added more children, we have implemented a kindergarten program and we are adapting to the needs of a larger group of young children. We are also adapting to the (hopefully temporary) loss of one of our founding teachers - Olivia - who is leaving us at the end of this month to attend to family.

We will miss Olivia who helped get our school off the ground, who has created meaningful long-range projects and who has helped so many children to grow and thrive. We wish her well.

In addition to losing a member of our staff, we are also looking for a teacher. Many thanks to parents who are helping out as they can. We are aware that different adults in the classroom is in itself change. In addition, Amanda, along with her teaching responsibilities, is now doing double duty with the administrative tasks of change.

Your children are responding well to our changes. They thrive doing what children should be doing - spending a lot of time outside getting fresh air, playing group games and in fantasy play. Indoors they continue their fantasy play, they work together, enjoy listening to stories and are learning to engage in circle time.

Some of the ways we have been helping children deal with change are:

-We maintain our routines as much as possible to give a sense of stability during change and transitions.

-We acknowledge that change is happening. We balance the need of keeping children informed with the appropriate time to do so. ***We have not yet shared the news about Olivia. We will do that together when we feel the time is right.***

-We keep parents informed so that they are aware of transitions.

-We help children find words for their feelings.

-We give children an opportunity to express themselves - in words, discussions, pictures or gestures.

Thank you to all our families and children for supporting us through our own growth and development.