
Pinocchio Creche



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Introduction

Pinocchio Crèche is a project branch of the Domestic Workers Association Educational Trust – a non-profit organisation - run by Ms Helen Shongwe and a team of committed caregivers. Pinocchio Creche caters to age groups 2yrs to 6yrs, Monday to Friday, 7am to 17:25pm. Our facility operates throughout the year, closing once a year between December and January, weekends and all public holidays.

Well-rounded learning opportunities: The children enrolled at Pinocchio Crèche are encouraged to expand their appreciation and understanding of themselves, of others and of the world around them. Knowledge is viewed as a network of ideas, and because children learn through interactions with their environment, Pinocchio Crèche offers a physical setting where they are encouraged to interact with a variety of indoor and outdoor activities. We subscribe to the philosophy that children learn best through play.

Our invaluable extra programs, namely; organic vegetables gardening and violin music program – is also offered to the children . These two programs have proven to be vital in the development of the children cared for.

School Readiness: The school readiness program includes ways parents may assist the child to reach self-sustained independence. The list includes many ways in which to meet this goal, but should be implemented gradually. It is also important to review previously achieved tasks frequently so the child will not forget the skill that was mastered. Of equal importance is to ensure that the child does not stay home from pre-school unnecessarily. The objective we strive for is to help each child develop to their fullest potential in all seven of the major developmental areas: mental, spiritual, cognitive, emotional, social, creative and physical. Activities are designed to help children develop social skills, a sense of self-esteem, problem solving skills, creativity and a spiritual foundation.

*** Violin Music Development Program**

The aim of this program is to stimulate development for children between the age of two and a half

(2yrs6months) years and six (6) years. 35 children currently partake in the program – with an expected increase in 2015. This violin program has offered invaluable musical training to children who may not have the opportunity. The programme is also an attempt by our organisation to positively influence the children's learning experience, in order to better equip them for the education system, thereby, giving them a fighting chance to succeed in primary school, high school and post-secondary education.

Many studies suggests exposure to music at an early age, may benefit a child's educational development, IQ and the development of certain parts of the brain. Learning a musical instrument brings added benefits, namely; teaching discipline, relieve stress by calming the mind, it instills the sense of achievement, and most of all it is a lot of fun once the instrument is understood.

*** Organic Vegetables Gardening Project**

There is a natural magnetic attraction between children and the earth, whether it's making mud or discovering a germinating seed emerges from the earth. Gardening with children, from toddlers to adolescents, opens new windows in a world dominated by technology. Pinocchio Crèche is pioneering for children to first learn how to take care of the earth before being taught to conquer the world. Our future decisions are heavily influenced by what was instilled during the foundation phase of our lives, the first 9 years. Our subconscious mind is most vulnerable during this time – and it is this window period that we should seize.

Children learn practically and teaching them to grow rather than breakdown – is easier established with hands on active learning. There's nothing like seeing children touch and inspect an earth worm, or dig in the soil to plant their first seed.

Memories last longer than one season. Adults who fondly remember a childhood spent in a garden often recall a parent, grandparent, school or neighbor who guided and encouraged them to explore the natural world. We need to bring these experiences and lessons back to our way of living and learning.

For more details, please visit <http://connectingkidz.co.za/pinocchio-creche>
