

Mud Glorious Mud – Trillium Woods Mud Kitchen Challenge

The learning benefits of a mud kitchen for children is endless. It allows for the use of their imagination and the use of creative expression because mud can be anything!!! They can get messy and honestly what child doesn't want to get messy. All while learning to problem solve, co-operate, communicate and learn to express themselves. The children become the directors of their own play and they will learn to take turns, share and roll-play. Children will copy what they see at home, school or what they see on television. And what better place to do this but in a mud kitchen outside!! When children are outside they learn to relax and connect with nature. Being outside is a stress reliever for some children and also being outside helps to build a stronger immune system. The learning opportunities can go on and on for children when outside in a mud kitchen.

As for our set-up our mud kitchen has many moving parts. There are a whole lot of amazing things for the children to investigate and explore. We have an oven, single sink and cupboard, double sink with lattice attached, hooks for utensils, colanders, spice crushers, pots and pans. We also have plastic bowls, cups, stainless steel bowls, trays, a coffee maker and a microwave. We also have tree stumps, pine cones, rocks, sticks, tubes, tires, twigs, leaves, sand, wood cookies, and of course mud!!



This day was a green suit kind of day. As it's been raining all night, so a really damp kind of day. So in other words a great day for a play in the mud kitchen. Avery and Arabella were in the mud kitchen playing together. Avery had the pot full of mud and a spoon. She was mixing it up when her brother came over with another spoon, some pears, banana and a piece of bread. She said "Hunter help me mix the soup I was making for Daddy" They both began stirring the soup when Avery said "Oh we need some good tasting things" She looked around the yard and came back with some twigs. She put it in the pot and began to stir again. She looked in the pot again, lifted up spoon, smiled and said "Hunter, it's done!" Avery turned around and picked up the bowls she had set aside. Avery then saw Arabella and she began talking to her. Arabella had the bowl, and colander along with the cupcake tin. Avery asked her what she was making and Arabella said "I am making chocolate and red cupcakes." Arabella added sand, water, sticks and leaves into the bowl. All the spoons were being used by her friends so Arabella found a red plastic lid and began swirling it around in the water. She then began filling the cupcake tins with the water using the plastic lid. Arabella said "Now they need to cook in the oven." She put them in the oven and said "we have lots of time for them to bake, let's go!" Then Arabella and Avery went to ride the bikes. I don't think the cupcakes ever made it out of the oven!!! That's how we roll in preschool!!!

