

The Project Approach to Learning at

**RisingOaks**  
Early Learning

| Saint John Paul II

**Project Name:** Doctors

**Age Group:** Preschool 2 (2.5 yrs – 4 yrs)

**Project Start Date:** February 2022

**Project End Date:** June 2022



**RisingOaks**  
Early Learning

**Growing minds through play**

## Background

We started the project on Doctors in February 2022 and finished it in June 2022. There were 19 children that took part in the project, who are 2.5 to 4 years old. The educators involved in the project were Lisa Erb RECE and Christina Byrne RECE.

## Phase 1: Beginning the Project

In January, we began to notice that the children's interest had started to really peak as they began to play with some doctors kits we received for Christmas. After Christmas we had some children off sick, as well, several of them have had to have Covid-19 tests taken. Children and educator's temperatures were taken before attending for the day. By then, flu shots were happening for some children too. We observed many of the children began role-playing doctors and nurses, providing their peers with lots of flu shots, Covid tests, taking temperatures and providing diagnoses of "you are sick". They were reflecting and engaging on the experiences in their lives right now and expressing those experiences through Play.

The Children have been interested in doctors and wanting to help each other. We have a doctor set in the room for the children to play with and for the children to explore. The children use stethoscopes to listen to each other's heart. They use thermometers to check each other's temperatures; they also use tools to check each other's ears, eyes and throat, and a box to carry all of their tools. We have been observing the children pretending to be doctors and patients. "Sit down we need to make sure you're not sick" said Joshua to Audrey. The children will also often use the babies as their patients as well. The children take the babies to a table or couch and give them a check up to make sure that they are okay and not sick. As pictured below, Hope brings her baby to the doctor for a checkup and a flu shot, that way the baby stays healthy. With doctors being the new interest in the classroom, we have decided to start a project. We will investigate alongside the children as we learn about doctors, the tools that they use, where nurses and doctors work and the types of machines that they use.



*Figure 1 Here the children are making sure they have all the instruments*

Before we started our investigation portion of our project we creating a learning web of different ideas that we could explore further to learn more about doctors.

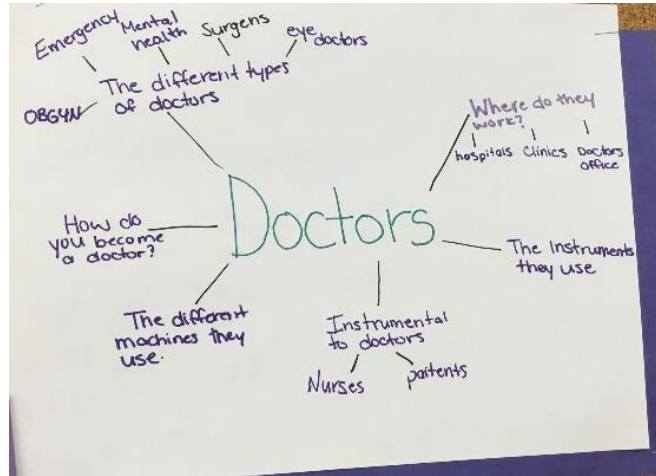


Figure 2 Doctors web compiled by Preschool 2 children

### Googles definition of a doctor:

- A qualified practitioner of medicine; a physician

### Child's definition of a doctor:

- Somebody who helps someone get better-Addy

### 1. What do we know?

- That they can fix people- Nathan
- They check you, x-rays- Zoey
- They go in an ambulance- Ariana
- He checks my tummy- Eli
- They help you- Addy, Audrey, and Joshua
- They work with nurses- Hope
- They check you- Kinley

### 2. What do you want to know?

- About x-rays and tools (instruments)
- Why they check our hearts? – Arianna
- How they fix people? – Nathan
- How to be healthy? – Addy

### 3. Who can we ask?

- The teachers- Nathan
- Our moms and dads- Arianna
- A doctor- Zoey
- Our friends- Addy

## Phase 2: Developing the Project

Over the duration of Covid 19, the children and their families had visited the doctor's numerous times, which they began, to role-play through our dramatic play area. The preschooler's began to give out Covid shots and flu shots, as that was a big part of our world at that time. One day we decided to follow their interest and provided an activity that might peak their interests even more. We brought in a bunch of books the first three books were by Don L Curry. How Does Your Brain Work? How Do Your Lungs Work? How Does Your Heart Work? As well as, Where Does Your Food Go? By Wiley Blevins. Alyssa the Conestoga College student on placement in the room at the time brought in a resource book on the human body. The children loved this book and soaked up all the knowledge, and learning like little sponges. These books were crucial in our investigation and research on doctors, what they do and need to learn. We talked about how the doctors have to go to school for a long time and learn about all the parts of a body. These books created a lot of interest for our preschoolers. Nathan became fascinated with learning about the colon. Nick, Kinley and Arianna were interested in learning about the heart and many times over the project span; they would use our stethoscopes to check the teacher's hearts and sometimes their peers as well. We read these books on a daily basis, often more than once until the children could almost retell the story. Along with the books, Christina and I had done some research on YouTube and along with our special guest Dr. A, we were able to answer the preschooler's questions. One video we found very Informational to help answer some of our questions was "Take a trip to the Doctor's Office" by Kidvision Pre-K.

### First Drawings:

Arianna and Nathan use drawings to represent their current knowledge of doctors.

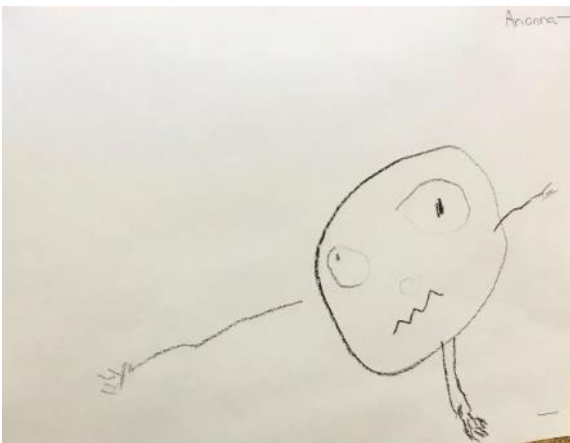


Figure 3 First Drawing by Arianna

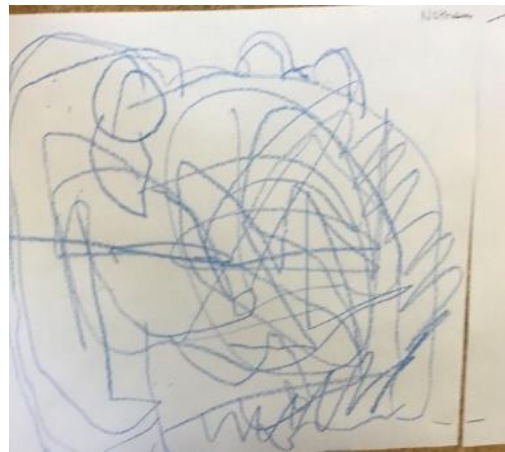


Figure 4 First drawing by Nathan

### Transforming the Kitchen into a doctor's office:

To enhance opportunities for imaginative play, we started transforming our kitchen center into a doctor's office. She added a couple of doctors kits, with instruments, dolls, stuffed animals and bandages made from a cut up sheet, plus eye charts with an Occluder. We also created checklists and placed them on clipboards with dry erase markers for the children to use. The children used these materials in their imaginative play and we observed them caring for the babies as well as using the medical instruments. In the photos below, Evan can be seen taking care of his baby; he was listening to

the baby's hearts "my baby has two hearts," he said. A little while later, he was operating on his baby, using tongs and a scalpel to fix the babies nose. Sam used the Otoscope to look at the eye chart.



Figure 5 Evan fixing the baby's nose



Figure 6 Sam doing an eye exam

As the children's interest furthered, we continued to add to the doctor's office over the next few weeks. We placed X-rays on our window, one if a human Skelton and others were of animals, a snake, a turtle with eggs in its belly and a monkey. We discussed that there are people that take care of animals, caring for them when they are sick or giving them checkups just like doctors do with people, we call these animal doctors veterinarians.

We created a survey and invited our families to answer a few question.

#### Survey questions:

1. **Have you or your child been to the doctors?**
  - Six children
2. **Has your child had an X-ray?**
  - Five children
3. **Are there any doctors in your family?**
  - Pediatrician-Nick and Sam
  - Respiratory Therapist- Clara
  - General Practitioner- Matthew

Throughout our exploration and learning about doctors, we created a vocabulary list. As our knowledge grew and we learned new names for tools/equipment used or parts of our bodies, we added to the list.

### Vocabulary List:

- X-ray
- Spine
- Mandible
- Frontal Bone
- Arteries
- Colon
- Stethoscope
- Optometrists
- Stadiometer
- Otoscope
- Intestines
- Liver
- Gallbladder
- Lungs
- Oxygen
- Arteries
- Blood vessels
- Left/Right Ventricle
- Chambers
- Saliva
- Esophagus
- Trachea
- Heart

### Making stethoscopes:

This afternoon for our 3D project, the children made a stethoscope using pipe cleaners and beads. We have been working very hard on our doctor project by doing different activities around the classroom. What is a stethoscopes used for? "To check our hearts", replied Audrey, sharing her knowledge. Audrey than brought up her stethoscope to her ears and started to check her own heart. Nick than brought over the stethoscope that we have in the classroom and checked Christina's heart to make sure that it was still beating.

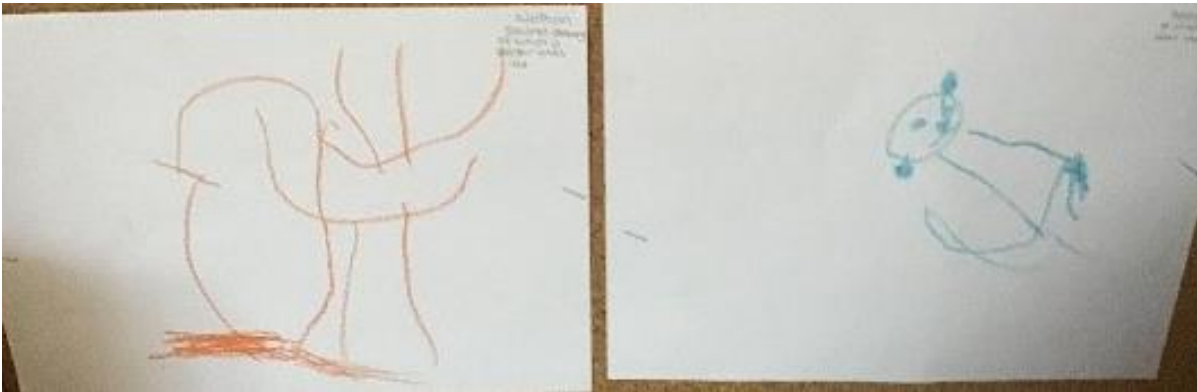


*Figure 7 Kinley making her stethoscope*

*Figure 8 Nick making his stethoscope*

### **Second Drawings:**

After researching more about doctors, what they do and the tools they use, we invited the children to create a second drawing of doctors.



*Figure 9 Second drawings created by Nathan and Arianna*

As we were beginning to wrap up our project, we invited a Doctor to come in to talk to us about what she does in her practice and help us expand our knowledge on doctors. Dr. A is an OBGYN; she came into our classroom, and talked to us about what she does in her everyday practice and what some other types of doctors do in their everyday practice. "I think I have the best job because I get to help deliver babies", said Dr. A to the children. The children were all very excited to hear that she gets to help deliver babies. The children asked what types of interments she uses, "well I use a stethoscope to listen to the heart beat, I also use an ultrasound machine that way I can see the baby from inside the mommy's tummy, but most importantly my hands, my hands are the most important tool that I use", said Dr. A to the children. When Dr. A came into our classroom she brought in some casts' that way we can practice fixing our babies. Some of the babies hurt their arms, their legs, and some of the babies even hurt their heads. The children were able to assist and help put the casts on their baby. Dr. A also brought in scrub caps for all the children to be doctors with her. As pictured in the photos below the children had the opportunity to explore different materials and equipment used by a doctor. Dr. A and the children practice wrapping/bandaging stuffed animals and babies with tape used on the outside of a cast.



### Answers to our questions:

#### 1. About x-rays and tools (instruments)

- Doctors use many different kinds of tools, and there are many different types of doctors. When you go and see your family doctors, they would use a stethoscope to check your hearts and make sure that your heart is beating right. Sometimes different doctors want to check the reflexes in your knees and arms and they use a Plexor, but most importantly, the most important tool is your hands

#### 2. Why they check our hearts?

- Doctors check your heart because they want to make sure that you have a regular heartbeat, sometimes your heartbeat can become irregular and sometimes that can worry a doctor. Dr. A let us know that this is the most important step during a checkup because our hearts are an important organ in our body and we need it to live.

#### 3. How they fix people?

- It depends on what happened to you. If you have any broken bones than you need to get a x-ray to see what bones are broken, than if you have a broken bone you need to get a cast to help heal your bones. If you are sick, you might just need some medicine to help you feel better.

#### 4. How to be healthy?

- You can start by eating all of your fruits and vegetables, washing your hands, staying home when you are sick, getting your flu shot and exercising. You also want to make sure that you are going to the doctors for check-ups and all your shots to keep you extra healthy! we learned how to be healthy in the books that we have read such as, " This is how you stay healthy" by DK
- We were able to answer the children's questions throughout the project through the books we investigated and researched along with educational YouTube videos we watched. Then at the



end of the project, our special guest Dr. A ensured we had all the answers to all their questions along with a few new ones they had.

- Lisa and I also researched different types of information about doctors that way if there was a question that the children wanted to know we could have answered it.

### Phase 3: Concluding the Project

We wrapped up the project in June as the children's interests started to change, some of the children left for the summer and some new children entered our program changing the dynamics and interests within the room.

We used a project board to capture the learning that was taking place as we furthered our knowledge about doctors. As our project progressed and we continued to add to the board, we invited families into the room to look at our research. We also shared the journey of the project through documentation sent to parents through the sandbox app, such as the crafts we did, planned activities, the different types of books and videos we read and watched along with posting that documentation of their learning on the door. We also shared through conversations had with parents pertaining to the project, sharing the knowledge children were gaining.

During our doctor project, we used books such as "The Bernstein bears goes to the doctor" by Stan and Jan Berenstain, "I want to be a doctor" by Laura Driscoll. Using the iPad we watched different videos about doctors and roles that each have such as, OBGYN, surgeons and family doctors. Those doctors can work in hospitals, at different offices and all around the world in all kinds of environments. We explored the different types of tools use in everyday practice. Reading books such as "How do your lungs work?" as well as "How does your heart work?" by Don. L. curry. "Where does your food go?" by Wiley Blevins and "You have healthy bones" by Susan Derkazarian. We learned about the different types of organs in the body, how your lungs work, how your heart works where does the food go after you eat it, and how we can keep our bones healthy. We also had a Doctor come in to give the children more information and answer more questions that we had about doctors. The children were able to learn about the different types of instruments/ tools that Dr. A uses, the type of doctor that she is, and the different types of doctors that there are. The children also asked Dr. A, how we can be healthy, and she let us know that we need to eat healthy, exercise, and get lots of sleep.

### Teacher Reflections

This project was a great way for the children to learn many new things about doctors. The children were very interested in this topic and as we started to learn more and more about doctors, their interest grew and grew. I also have learned a lot more about doctors and the different types of doctors than I did before. It is great to see the children in the classroom, using their imagination and pretending that they are doctors and they are fixing their peers. The children were also able to expand their knowledge during Covid since they had to go and get Covid tests done by the doctors, as well as

going to the doctors if they are sick. It was great to see the children's knowledge expand during the time of the project. Christina Byrne RECE

It was great to see how the children's knowledge grew as they learned about Doctor's and what they do. I brought in a bunch of books about different parts of the body, and they were so curious to learn about the body just like doctors. They learned about brains, heart, intestines big and small, stomach, liver and colon as well as how lungs work. The preschoolers loved these books and were just like sponges absorbing all the knowledge in information from them. We read them daily and they were all eager to learn the new words such as blood vessels, gallbladder and colon. Especially Nathan who was fascinated with all the new words and the job each part did. Maybe he will work in the medical field someday which began with our preschool project! I think what hit me the most was their curiosity and thirst for knowledge in the workings of the body wanting to learn the big hard words, remembering the steps and parts inside your body, for example, how your food travels through your body. The hard and difficult parts that doctors need to learn was their quest for learning through this project too. Nathan was able describe to DR. A how your food travels through your body labelling and the parts, months after reading those books. In addition, the great role-playing that happened throughout the project and to hear them use the knowledge and information they were learning and now using in their play. I received many of flu shots, Covid tests and I was bandaged up more times than I can count. Lisa Erb RECE