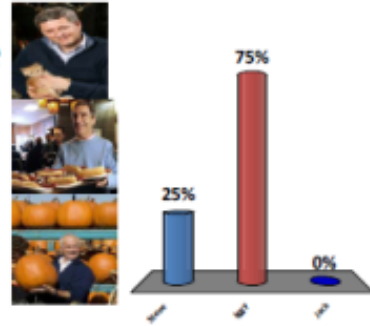


What Stephen Harper, Michael Ignatieff and Jack Harper can learn at the McGill daycare centre



For Whom would you vote?

1. Steve
2. Iggy
3. Jack



No hiding behind big words.

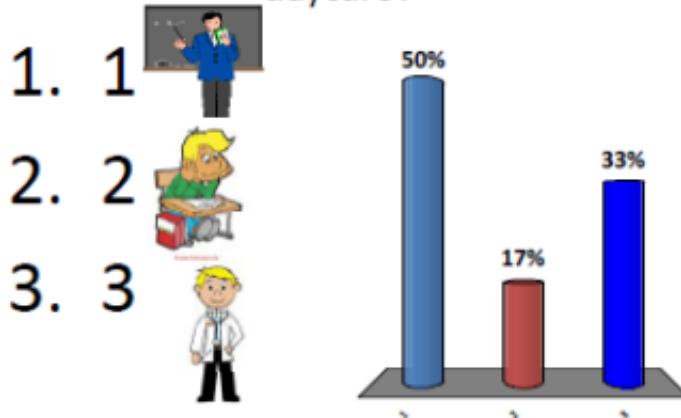
No trying to pretend you are saying one thing when you mean something else, like promising stickers and putting everyone to sleep instead.

Hot dogs are a winner.

Kittens and pumpkins, not so much.

Carrots are hot, lollipops are not.

Who is like the Prime Minister in your daycare?



Dietlind Stolle says she too learned a lot about democracy at the McGill daycare centre.

Stolle, who teaches political science at McGill University, invited a group of four and five year olds to visit her class in political participation last week. Her students were asked to come up with ways to explain the idea of elections, voting and democracy.

I've written a column about that for Tuesday's paper.

Stolle said it was a remarkable experience for the children, who "now understand to a degree how daycare rules and actual politics are similar and different.

"The kids came out knowing something about politics, voting, democracy and they could name the most important politicians in the federal context."



But she said it was also an eye-opener, and vocabulary-tamer, for her own students.

"The ones who volunteered to teach were super-engaged and prepared and full of ideas. I feel that this could emerge as a new teaching tool.

"It demonstrated that you need to think through concepts before you can teach them to small children because you cannot hide behind big new words, you need to get down to basic ideas."

"It was gratifying to see both groups interacting and learning from each other. What

else can one wish for? It was in my view the most special lecture of the entire semester.”