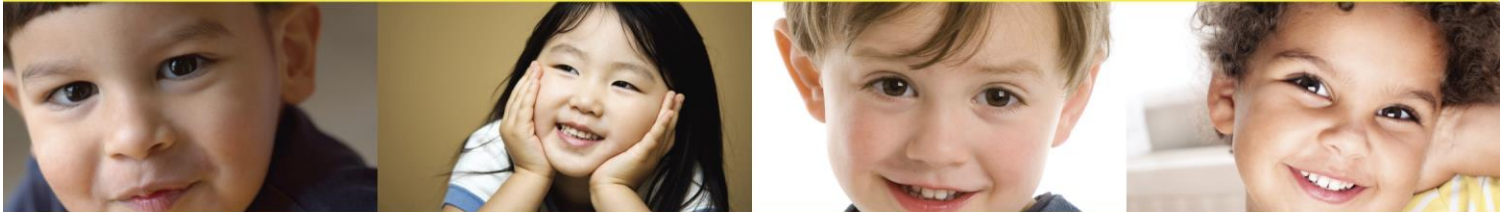


NEWS CHILD CARE



SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE MANAGER OF CHILD CARE SERVICES

As I sit here it amazes me that it is December already. What a busy year it has been here at Child Care Services. Our office has been so busy but in a good way. We have been witness to lots of growth in our community. It is evident in so many ways. Growth in Child Care spaces, growth in the capacity of our staff, and growth in the numbers of centres participating in Raising the Bar. All of these things are so good for Brantford and Brant.

Here are just a few of our accomplishments this year

- Supported existing child care operators and Private Home daycare with the ongoing implementation of Full Day Early Learning
- Seventh annual Best Start Parent Information Fair-new location Civic Centre. Attendance of over 450 people, and served the families we were looking to service

- Created a Capacity plan to support the professional development opportunities that build the capacity of licensed child care operators and their staff. Dollars were used to support staff and their professional development including First Aid /CPR, Triple P and Handle with care, and now offering a new On-line learning program
- Implemented **Onelist**, an online centralized child care registry and Waitlist Management System- July 2013
- Health and Safety dollars supported over 17 child care programs with their Health and Safety needs and
- Through our General Operating dollars a commitment to quality was made and over 31 programs this year are participating in Raising the Bar!

We've attached a chart in a separate document that shows the increase in capacity of licenced child care spaces from 2005 to 2013.

Be sure to check it out!

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

As most of you are aware the Recruitment and Retention Committee has been very active in Brantford and Brant. We have been working with the local high schools and talking to the Guidance councillors about getting the right students to enter the field of Early Childhood Education.

There is quickly becoming a shortage of qualified Early Childhood Educators and we are trying to be proactive in providing the resources for students considering a career in ECE as well. As part of our role in being proactive we have developed a Facebook page, it is called ECE Recruitment and retention and you will recognize it by the lime green ECE in a cube. **Share and Like** our Facebook page for your chance to win a **gift basket** including an OEYC Membership. Winner will be drawn January 30th at the Brant's 3rd Annual Early Childhood Educator Job & Education Fair



RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

The OEYC: Brant in partnership with the City of Brantford, Child Care Services and the ECE Department of Mohawk College invite you to Brant's third ECE Job and Education Fair on Thursday January 30th from 5pm to 8pm.

Join us at 30 Bell Lane and visit agency booths, drop off your resume, inquire about current job postings, learn more about local early years agencies and early years post secondary courses.

If you are an agency interested in having a booth please contact the OEYC: Brant.

If you are a current or future ECE or in a related field then mark your calendars for this event and help us spread the word.

Early Childhood Educators are needed in Brant for our expanding field- ***"Bringing Out the Best in All of Us!"***

THINGS WE ARE WORKING ON...

A new purchase of service agreement with our operators. Stayed tuned for more information in the new year.



BEST START MAGAZINE

By now everyone has received their fall copy of the Best Start Magazine.

This edition includes a special pullout section on the Best Start Early Learning and Parenting Centres

To learn more about Best Start in Brant and to share with your day care families visit:

www.ourbeststart4brant.ca

If you would like to or write an article or place an ad for the next issue of the magazine please contact our office for more information.

Or...if you require additional copies please call Child Care Services at 519-756-3150.

CHRISTMAS CLOSURES

Child Care Services office will be closed December 24, 2013 until January 1, 2014. Office will reopen on January 2, 2014.

We hope everyone has a safe, wonderful Christmas and a fantastic, healthy New Year in 2014.

MANY THANKS...

Many thank yous go out to The Polka Dot Palace, Holy Family Child Care and Sacred Heart and Paris Child Care who welcomed Kim, Tia, Melanie and Tina to their programs. We appreciate the time you set aside for us to visit your centres.

Thank you.

SAVE THE DATE!



The **Best Start Parent Fair** will be held Saturday April 12th, 2014 from 10am-2pm at the Brantford Civic Centre, 64 Market Street.

THANK YOU... FROM KIM

Once again this year, I want to thank each and every one of you for working together with our office. It has been a great experience for me personally to listen to each centre, talk about your goals for your program and see many of them come to reality.

With Christmas comes the new year and new goals to attain, the end of one book and the turning of the page of a new book.

I look forward to continuing to work with such great community partners and achieving even more goals this year.

I thank you for all your dedication and commitment and wish you, your families and your team a very Happy, Healthy, Holiday Season, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!