

NEWS CHILD CARE



Fall 2014 Issue



GREETINGS FROM THE MANAGER OF CHILD CARE SERVICES

As I am writing this, I am looking out to the rain soaking all the beautiful leaves and looking forward to the sunshine that they are forecasting later in the week.

At Child Care Services we are very excited about Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years, "How **Does** Learning Happen?"

It is truly one of those documents you read, then read again, then pick up and read one more time, and each time you discover something new or something you knew all along...

I knew all along, that Educators in the Early Learning and Care field, are diverse in their knowledge. I want to highlight some of the Pedagogy in regards to Educators.

- They are knowledgeable, caring, reflective resourceful professionals
- They collaborate with others to create engaging environments and experiences to foster children's development
- They take responsibility for their own learning
- They integrate theory, research, and their own experiences into their work with children and families

Educators in the Early Learning and Care field are well rounded individuals who help to make our early learning and care system what it is today!

For this reason we celebrate October 29th as Early Childhood Educator day.

Thank You for your dedication!

Kim Romano, Manager of Child Care Services.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission is to maintain a leadership role in planning and management of the child care system in both the City of Brantford and the County of Brant by:

- Putting the needs and best interests of children first
- Promoting standards of excellence in early childhood education, care and support
- Meeting the needs of children and their families for quality, flexible, accessible, and affordable services
- Planning and managing services that are responsive to community needs

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PROGRAMS

We would like to welcome the new programs that opened this September and have signed agreements with our office:

Blessed Sacrament Before and After School Program, and YMCA School Age Programs at Fairview, Cedarland and Greenbrier schools.

Child Care Services staff plan to continue our site visits to our child care centres. We appreciate the time you set aside for us to visit your programs.

You are most welcome to visit our program, here at Beryl Angus, as well

WE LOVE TECHNOLOGY!! SAVE THE DATE

Attention: Child Care Centres

We will be having training for a new process on OCCMS. Staff entering what Child Care Services calls Special Purpose Expenses i.e Health and Safety/Transformation /Play Based Equipment and Capacity requests will be asked to join us on

Thursday January 22nd from 2:30pm-3:30pm at the OEYC.

Training will be on a conference call with a visual demonstration on the large screen computer through York Region.

We would like each program to complete the space vacancy on the online billing component of OCCMS. This will help us in getting a true picture of numbers in the community. Remember to only complete for full time spaces.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT QUARTERLY REPORTING

The Professional Development Quarterly Reporting form for October 1 to December 1, is due December 6, 2014.

When completing your capacity form, please do not submit any further requests for staff members who have reached their maximum amount of \$65.00 per FTE.

DID YOU KNOW.....

We have over 3,196 Licensed spaces in the City of Brantford and Brant County

These are located in 56 sites plus two licensed Home child care agencies

- 82 Infant spaces
- 320 Toddler spaces
- 757 Preschool Spaces
- 784 JK/SK spaces
- 1253 School Age Spaces

2014/15 is the final year for Full day kindergarten implementation. Many child care programs have changed their programs to accommodate the younger age group.

We have increased our funding to serve more children in Recreation programs. We were able to service over 143 children this summer alone.

GENERAL OPERATING GRANT

We are continuing to make changes in an effort to make it easier for programs to see the financial supports they receive.

Effective 2015 programs will begin to receive one payment each month that will include; legacy wage grant, general operating grant, and pay equity (if entitled).

A new appendix A has also been created which will show exactly what your program is entitled to annually and monthly for each funding, as well as your monthly grand total.

The goal is to make it easy to understand so when programs are receiving payments they have something to reference.



REVENUE AND EXPENSE FORMS

With one form under our belts, let's take a look at what worked and what we can improve on. The intent of the form was to create an easy to read, clear layout of all financial supports given to your program, as well as a user friendly format to fill in what dollars were spent. We believe this was achieved. One thing we noticed a bit confusing was the process in returning the form to our office. The easiest way to do this is to complete and sign the form then scan and email it back to us. If you do not have access to a scanner you can email, hand deliver or fax it. If you choose to email it you will also need to complete an operator's declaration, since you are unable to sign the form. The declaration must be filled out each time. As always feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

BEST START NEWS

If you would like to view the fall edition of the new Best Start Magazine please visit the best start website below.

www.ourbeststart4brant.ca

Also if you would like to advertise your program or write an article for the Spring 2015 magazine please contact Cathy Medway at 519-756-3150 and we will be happy to send you the information.

We always welcome your ideas.

BEST START PARENT FAIR

The Parent Fair was held at the Brantford Civic Centre in the conference room on April 12, 2014. We had a great turnout of 517 people! I would like to invite all of you to this year's event which is being held April 25, 2015 from 10:00 – 2:00pm.

We are excited to announce that the event is now going to be held in a much larger area the ARENA FLOOR OF THE CIVIC CENTRE.

If you are interested in joining our committee please contact Melanie Mears at 519-756-3150 extension 28.

WORKSHOPS & INFORMATION

Child Care Services continues to monitor and manage the child care system and any new initiatives.

Most recently the new document entitled How Does Learning Happen: Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years was released.

We hosted an introductory full day workshop/information session to our operators and partners in the Early Learning and Care field. We had over 79 attendees

Thank you for all your feedback.

We look forward to more upcoming workshops where we can build on what we have learned and keep igniting the flame that was rekindled!

On the horizon for the Best Start Network, we are looking ahead to 2015 where our plan is to gather our Best Start Network together again to work on our strategic plan.

'TIS THE SEASON

The Child Care Services office will be open Tuesday November 11th (Remembrance Day) as usual from 8:30am until 4:30pm.

The office will be closed December 24, 25, 26, 29, 30 & 31st. and January 1, 2015.

We will reopen as usual January 2, 2015.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the information shared in this newsletter please contact our office at 519 756-3150.

