

# NEWS CHILD CARE



September 2015



## GREETINGS FROM THE MANAGER OF CHILD CARE SERVICES

Can you believe the back to school rush is here already? Soon it will be time for fall fairs, apple picking and Thanksgiving.

We have already begun to plan some professional development opportunities. We asked what you wanted more of and your response was workshops to engage families. To support this, a half day session will be offered on Wednesday October 7<sup>th</sup> entitled Engaging Parents. This is a follow up to the How Does Learning Happen? document. We are also working with our school board partners on an “unconference” workshop. Here you decide the topics in the early learning field that you want to focus on. Stay tuned for more information to follow.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter. It is chalk full of interesting facts and tidbits.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the information shared in this newsletter please contact me at 519 756-3150 x 5677. Kim Romano, Manager of Child Care Services.

## DID YOU KNOW.....

Cost is one of the main barriers to parents accessing licensed early learning and child care programs.

Please continue to refer families to our office.

## CHILD CARE AND EARLY YEARS ACT

The Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014(CCEYA) will come into effect on August 31, 2015. This legislation will replace the outdated *Day Nurseries Act*. The Act will apply to licensed child care centres and home child care agencies, licensed home child care operators and unlicensed child care. Many of the new provisions will strengthen compliance and health and safety in child care settings, and help parents make informed choices about their options.

There are many resources available to operators and child care providers. Check out the link below.

[Information sheet: What providers and Parents Need to Know](#)

More general information for Child Care providers including recent changes from the Ministry of Education can be found here.

[www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/)

## WAGE ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

The application deadline for wage enhancement was June 30, 2015. Fifty seven programs submitted an application with a total of over 267 full time equivalent staff eligible for wage enhancement funding. Approximately \$607,500.00 will be distributed to child care program staff in Brantford and Brant County in 2015. As soon as we find out about Year 2 we will keep you informed. For more information or assistance on wage enhancement, please don't hesitate to contact Tina Bloomfield or Melanie Mears at 519-756-3150.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY (REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE)

Applications for Health and Safety Repairs and Maintenance have been received and approved. At this time we have been able to support 21 programs through this funding. We have allocated approximately \$85,000 to cover the various expenses. If you have received approval for Health and Safety funding please remember that an invoice and proof of payment is needed in order for payment to be made from our office. Please get that information to us as soon as possible to ensure prompt payment.

We understand that issues can arise at any time so please remember that applications are accepted throughout the year and can be sent to Child Care Services c/o Tina Bloomfield.

## QUALITY INITIATIVES IN BRANT

Raising the Bar on Quality (RTB) is a valuable and successful program. It has been in Brantford for over ten years. However it is time for a change...

Introducing **Fostering Brant's Growth in Early Learning (FBG)**. Fostering Brant's Growth in Early Learning builds on a foundation in Brant of quality programs in early learning and child care. The tool is used to encourage reflections, and pedagogical documentation as a way of practicing and learning in the early years. Fostering Brant's Growth is based on the *Four Foundations of How does Learning Happen?*

The four foundations are **Engagement, Expression, Belonging and Well Being.**

It also focuses on Promising practices, Promise of Excellence, Continuous learning and Network of Practice.

At Child Care Services we are looking forward to the exciting growth in our licensed child care programs.



Child Care services will be closed on the following dates:  
Monday September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
Monday October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015

## ONELIST UPDATES

The safe, fast and convenient waitlist for local child care.



We are currently investigating two exciting features that OneList offers, which will assist in keeping waitlists current. **Prioritization** allows parents to rank their applications from 1-5 from an overall limit of 10 applications. Once their child is placed, all applications of a lesser ranking are automatically removed. The **Inactive Account notification** alerts parent at 60 and 90 days if there has been no activity in their account. If parents do not log into the system after 120 days to affirm their continued interest, their program applications are removed.

We will let you know if /when we are moving forward with this option. Please refer to link below for Onelist Best practice Tips on waitlist management.



CC-OneList-Tips-Aug 2015 copy.pdf

For more information on Onelist contact Tina Bloomfield at Child Care Services.

### CONTACTS FOR CHILD CARE SERVICES

Kim Romano: Manager Child Care Services ext. 5677  
Cathy Medway: Administrative Assistant ext. 5678  
Nancy Blackburn: Fee Subsidy Coordinator ext. 5468  
Melanie Mears: Child Care Representative ext. 5452  
Tina Bloomfield: Child Care Representative ext. 5689

## BEST START NEWS



The next edition of the Best Start Magazine will be coming out just before Thanksgiving. Be sure to get this exciting resource into your families' hands

Why don't you consider submitting an article on behalf of your agency or licensed child care?

### BEST START PARENT FAIR

Save the date for the 2016 Parent Fair located again at the Civic Centre on Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016.

### BEST START ABORIGINAL WORKSHOPS

The Aboriginal Advisory committee will be hosting workshops at the Ontario Early Years Centre. The workshops are designed to assist child care providers to engage with families that are accessing their child care services. The workshops will focus on Onkwehonwe traditional teachings including parenting, discipline, language, creating a welcoming environment for parents and children, Creation story, Longhouse activities, Traditional Funeral practices, as well as question and answer time.

More information to follow. These workshops be half day sessions on Wednesdays running from September to December, 2015.

