

NEWS CHILD CARE



Spring 2012

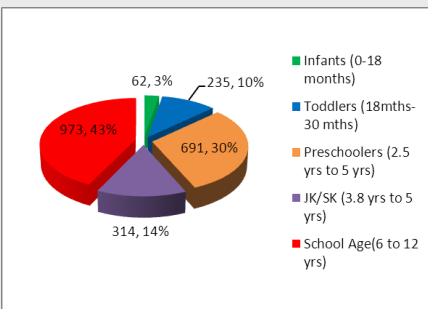


GREETINGS FROM THE MANAGER OF CHILD CARE SERVICES

Happy Spring!

Well it doesn't appear that we have had too much of a winter season but that suits me just fine. Bring on the warm weather and sunshine, Spring and summer are such a period of growth.

Child Care Services continues to grow. We now service over 49 licenced programs as of January 2012. There has been an increase in our licenced capacity from 2010/12 a notable difference of 603 spaces in Brantford/Brant. We have grown from 1672 spaces in 2010 to 2275 in 2012. Below is a breakdown of our child care spaces.



Letters have gone out to all Operators regarding Health and Safety dollars, and also Transition Capital and Operating dollars.

New transitional operating funding has been provided by the Province in 2011 and 2012. The intent of the funding is to stabilize the system while the changes to licensed early learning and child care are taking place. Restrictions on the use of the transitional funding require that it be used for; child care fee subsidies, special needs resourcing and one time start up grants for operators to convert to younger age groupings. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to working together with you throughout a year full of changes.

We continue to focus planning on

- Supporting the Child Care system as they transition to serving children from 0 to 4
- Supporting Best Practice (service system quality)
- Funding sustainability (fee subsidy, start up and minor capital)
- Staff resources/planning support

TRANSITION STEERING COMMITTEE

We are reinstating the Transition Steering Committee to plan for upcoming changes in Child Care.

If you were a previous member or would like to become a new member please contact Kim to sit on the committee.

VISITS, VISITS AND MORE VISITS...

Our Child Care Services team is on the go again...

Tina and Melanie have enjoyed visiting some of our City of Brantford Private Home Day Cares. Thank you to Donna, Kari and Dolores for sharing your homes, the children under your care and your programs with us.

A big thank you to Bellview YMCA Child Care, Noah's Ark YMCA Child Care and Blueridge YMCA Child Care Centres for welcoming Tia into your sites.

It's always great to see quality child care in action.

WELCOME

We are pleased to announce that the GEDSB and the BHNCDSB have opened their new school in West Brant.

St. Basil's/Walter Gretzky will offer before and after school care.

Please contact the YMCA for more details.

WAGE SUBSIDY

Verification forms have gone out for all operators to report their Operating numbers by April 1, 2012 as well as their staffing.

These staffing numbers will be used to determine your Wage Improvement dollars that will flow in July of this year.

THINGS THAT MAKE YOU STOP AND THINK...

Life is about trusting our feelings and taking chances, losing and finding happiness, appreciating the memories and learning from the past.

SPRING IS FINALLY HERE...

Although we haven't had too much of a frosty, snowy winter we can officially say that Spring is here!

With Spring comes some long weekends so here are the Child Care Services office closures:

April 6, Good Friday
April 9, Easter Monday
May 21, Victoria Day

YEAR THREE/FOUR AND FIVE ELP SITES

To view the ELP listings for September 2012/13/14 in the Catholic and Public School Boards please visit the following websites;

www.bhncdsb.ca

www.granderie.ca



BEST START NEWS

Watch for the Spring 2012 edition of the **Best Start magazine**. Our 8th Edition will arrive the week of April 9 to 13, 2012.

The magazine continues to include the Child Care Directory listing all licensed programs within the Brantford/Brant.

A special Thank You goes out to all of our community contributors for their submission of articles and information.

This issue has a special pull out section featuring our Aboriginal partners, neighbours and friends.

We welcome your feedback and comments so we can grow as a magazine and continue to bring out the **Best** in our Brantford/Brant children.

Remember to pick up the copies set aside for your centre at the OEYC during first part of April/May.

Thank you for making every effort to bring copies of this valuable resource to the families that you serve.

Preparations for the **Best Start Parent Fair** are in full swing.

Make sure you stop by Branlyn/Notre Dame Schools to enjoy a fantastic event with many, many interesting displays and tables. Mark your calendars for **Saturday April 14th**, 2012 from 10-2.

