

# NEWS CHILD CARE



Summer 2016



## GREETINGS FROM THE MANAGER OF CHILD CARE SERVICES

Welcome Summer!

Finally it is beginning to warm up. As always we continue to be very busy in the Child Care Services office.

A quick look at our accomplishments so far in 2016.

-The Wage Enhancement Grant was completed by May 31<sup>st</sup>, all the dollars have been flowed to the agencies to support the up to \$2.00 raise to program staff.

-Summer camp placements are under way!

- We implemented our new online Filesend application

- We have implemented our Capacity building (professional development plan) in our community now flowing over \$100.00 per FTE to program staff.

-We are beginning to gather information to plan for the future Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres (OEYCFC's) which will be an exciting time for the Early Years Centre. More information to come!

These are just samples of the good work happening. Hope you have a safe summer!!

## DID YOU KNOW.....

Child Care Fee Subsidy provides financial assistance to families to help pay for child care costs. The level of assistance is based on the family's income.

- An average of 638 children received child care subsidy for March 2016
- The majority of families that receive child care subsidy have a net income of \$40,000 or less per year (39% are less than \$20,000).
- 81% of families receiving Child Care Fee Subsidy are single-parent families and 19% are two parent families.

## MORE DID YOU KNOW....

Research has demonstrated that children who have access to **high quality** licensed early learning and child care (ELCC) have higher scores on achievement and language tests, demonstrate better social skills, and exhibit fewer behavioural problems than children who experience low-quality care. **Cost** is one of the main barriers to parents accessing licensed early learning and child care programs.

### Parent Fees:

#### Licensed Centre-Based Care \*

2016 rates for full-day care in Brantford/Brant County:

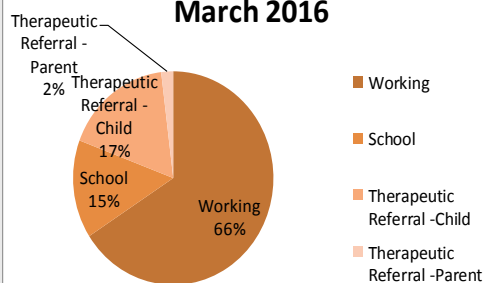
- \$44.88 - \$51.70 for an infant (birth to 18 months)
- \$34.18 - \$46.75 for a toddler (18 to 30 months)
- \$31.00 - \$42.00 for a preschooler (2.5 to 5 years)

#### Licensed Private Home-Based

- Infant: \$48 per day
- Toddler: \$39 per day
- Preschool: \$37 per day
- School Age: \$37 per day

Full day up to 10 hours

### Reasons Families Receiving Subsidy are Using Child Care- March 2016



## **FEE SUBSIDY CO-ORDINATOR NEWS**

We have been very busy in the Child Care Services office working on placing children in summer camps. We have expanded our camp options for the parents adding the Wayne Gretzky Camp through Parks & Recreation and adding extended care for YMCA Camp Chippewa.

There are a lot of families on the waitlist for summer and it is our goal to get them in and provide subsidy for the camps they require as quickly as we can.

We will be working on Capacity reimbursement forms this summer as well. The first reimbursement will be from January 1 to June 30<sup>th</sup>. Centre operators have until July 15<sup>th</sup> to submit their Capacity (professional development) forms for reimbursement.

I hope everyone has a fun and safe summer.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE**

Health and Safety Play Based and Transformation funding requests were due April 30, 2016. We will be sending out approvals soon. As in the past these funding types will be ongoing throughout the year should funds be available. Don't hesitate to send in applications. If you need an application they can be found in filesend.

## **WAGE ENHANCEMENT NEWS**

Once again it was a transition year for the Wage Enhancement Grant initiative and we are proud to report that it went very smoothly. We had 22 agencies who successfully applied and will be receiving the Wage Enhancement Grant.

The total Wage Enhancement funds Brantford/Brant agencies received was over 1.3 million dollars. The total number of eligible RECEs was over 276 FTE (Full time Equivalent) and over five partially eligible FTE positions.

Funding was also provided to one home day care agency where 36 home child care providers received the funding as well.

We would like to thank you for your patience with the application process of the Wage Enhancement Grant. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Melanie Mears or Tina Bloomfield at Child Care Services.

## **INTRODUCING ...**

You may have heard a new voice when you call us at Child Care Services. Megan is our returning summer student. She is a third year student at the University of Guelph and we are thrilled to have her back. She will be with us until September 2nd. Welcome to the team Megan.

## **BEST START NEWS BEST START PARENT FAIR**

Thank you to all the agencies, service providers and families who joined us for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Best Start Parent Fair on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Civic Centre.

We had a total of 639 visitors, 374 adults and 265 children.

The entertainment and the variety of activities and information that was provided for the families was very well received and enjoyed by all!

Please feel free to click the link below to read the article outlining the event in the Brantford Expositor <http://www.brantfordexpositor.ca/2016/04/24/parents-get-advice-about-early-learning>.

The Parent Fair task force is always looking for new active members. If you would like to join our committee please contact Melanie at 519-756-3150 or via email [mmears@brantford.ca](mailto:mmears@brantford.ca)

## **HERE WE GO AGAIN....**

The Best Start Magazine committee is putting a call out to you our community partners for ads and articles for the summer/fall edition. Please put your creative hats on and let us know what's new in your program, share a success story, or a strategy that works for you. Ads and articles will be due June 15, 2016. Thanks for your contribution we appreciate your time.

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