



Fall 2004

Child Care Chit Chat

A Newsletter by Family and Children's Services for Child Care Operators



A Message from Child Care Services

Connie Wilson
Manager, Child Care Services

The recent Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) funding announcement has allowed the Region to increase fee assistance in York Region, helping Child Care Services staff to begin addressing the wait list and increase child care fee assistance to an additional 236 children. Our staff have reached the ELCC target for 2004 and they continue to provide fee assistance through Day Nurseries funding. Please report all vacancies to your Children's Services Representative to assist us in directing families to available child care spaces in their community.

Earlier this year, York Region received its portion of the 2003/2004 ELCC funding to assist non-profit operators in addressing health and safety issues and minor capital needs in their licensed child care programs. This funding allowed operators of:

- 58 sites to address food preparation issues
- 122 sites to address general health and safety issues
- 77 sites to address indoor play area health and safety issues
- 49 sites to address outdoor playground health and safety issues
- 31 sites to address washroom health and safety issues.

Summer Camp Programs

The 2004 National Child Benefit (NCB) Summer Camp program funded 411 children of Ontario Works participants and York Region Housing program residents. The program provided school-age children with the opportunity to attend recreational summer camps. These NCB Summer Camp programs are provided in partnership with the nine Municipal Recreation Departments in

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Important Dates

December 27 to December 31, 2004 - The offices of the Regional Municipality of York will be closed for the holidays.



December 27 and 28, 2004 will be considered statutory holidays for billing purposes. Operators will be paid their approved daily rate for those days.

December 31, 2004 or January 3, 2005 will be considered a statutory holiday for billing purposes. Operators will be paid their approved daily rate for the day.

Web Based Record of Attendance Forms will be available on **Tuesday January 4, 2005.**

Year-End Record of Attendance Deadline

Our Finance Department will be closing the 2004 books on January 7, 2005 and requires all invoices to be processed and paid. The cut-off date for submission of your December Record of Attendance forms is **Friday January 7, 2005.**



Web Enabled Record of Attendance

Q -What is it?

A - A convenient, secure and flexible way to complete your monthly record of attendance.

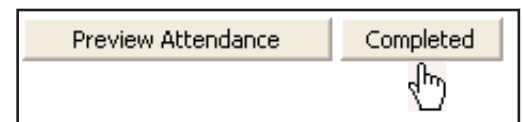
Q - How does it work?

A - You are assigned a secure password and you can log in to OCCMS to review, process and complete your Record of Attendance and view your Payment Detail Summary Form.

If you are interested in learning more, call to register for the next Web-Based Record of Attendance training session. Contact Connie Wilson at 905-830-4444, ext 2050.

Important reminders if you use the Web to submit your record of attendance:

- Click Completed once you finish entering your attendance. If you do not click Completed, we do not receive your attendance.
- Always have a back up person trained to process the attendance if you are on vacation or become ill. A delay in submitting your attendance forms delays your account payment.



Snow Day Reminder

Operators who provide full-day care to approved school-age children who cannot attend their regular school board program due to school closure or bus cancellation will be reimbursed for their approved full-day school-age rate.



Early Learning and Child Care

The Ministry of Children and Youth is committed to working in partnership with service system managers like York Region to further stabilize the regulated child care system. One way this can be achieved is by expanding and increasing the level of child care services for children from birth to 5 years of age.

In October, Regional Council approved an increase in funding through the Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) initiative. An increase in Child Care Fee Assistance, Early Intervention Services and Wage Subsidy programs will increase the quantity and quality of services for residents and child care agencies in York Region.

Family and Children's Services hosted two information sessions with local child care operators in York Region. Although York Region was directed to use a portion of the funding to increase fee subsidy spaces by 236, operators identified that funding should also be used to increase funding:

- for wage subsidy
- for the Enhanced Funding program
- to the Special Needs Resource program.

York Region also received additional one-time funding to support health and safety issues and to increase the number of licensed non-profit child care spaces available to families in York Region with children from birth to 5 years of age.

Non-profit agencies received their funding amount based on \$100 per licensed child care space for children from birth to 5 years of age.

Licensing and Program Management Update

The Licensing and Program Management Unit has been preparing agreements and budget amendments to allocate the Pay Equity Settlement and the funding received through the Early Learning and Child Care initiative.

Pay Equity: Agencies that were eligible for pay equity settlement dollars received the second installment in November. This payment is 1% of the agency's 2002 payroll and 1% of the agency's 2003 payroll. This base funding was paid to staff according to the requirements of the pay equity legislation.

Retro base and retro one-time pay equity funding has not yet been distributed. We are waiting for provincial approval.

Wage Subsidy: Some of the Early Learning and Child Care funding will be allocated to eligible operators for wage subsidy funding. This funding will support staff in programs with children 0 to 5 years of age. In 2004, this funding is considered a one-time allocation. In 2005, funding will be considered during the regional budget approval process.

This is great news for child care in York Region!

Howard Dayton
Manager, Program and Licensing Management

"A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove...but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child."



A Message from Child Care Services

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York Region.

Learning Earning and Parenting - LEAP

LEAP is an Ontario Works program that provides parents 16 to 21 years of age with the supports they need to obtain their high school diploma. Prior to September 2004, the LEAP program was offered by our Social Assistance Division.

Beginning this September, Social Assistance and Child Care Services have integrated their resources to enhance this valuable service to the community. Social Assistance continues to support LEAP participants with the earning and learning components of this program. Child Care Services provides funding and support in selecting quality child care and will provide participants with a Parenting and Child Development curriculum beginning this fall.

Staffing News

I am pleased to announce the following staffing changes:

- Monica Bissett has accepted the position of Community Program Coordinator with the South Child Care Services Team. Monica is responsible for the Ontario Works and LEAP caseloads as well as future NCB Ontario Works Summer Camp Programs.
- Shelley Gagnon has accepted a permanent full-time Children's Services Representative position with the South Child Care Service Team.

Please post and use the enclosed Child Care Services Staff Directory as a quick and easy reference if you need to contact any staff member of the Child Care Services Team.



Community Resource Fair

In August, Monica Bissett and Bernice Landry participated in the Toronto Chinese Community Services Association Community Resource Fair. They provided information to the community about family strengthening programs.

Photo: Monica Bissett (left) and Bernice Landry (right).

Child Care Chit Chat is produced by the Community Services and Housing Department's Family and Children's Services Division. For more information about any of the articles within, or about any issues relating to Child Care Fee Assistance, call Connie Wilson, Manager of Child Care Services at 905-830-4444, ext. 2050. You can also access more information about York Region's Children's Services at:

www.york.ca