

EIS In Touch With Families

Early Intervention Services (EIS) provides a transition process for children with special needs entering the school system for the first time. EIS and the school boards worked in partnership to develop the “Early Intervention Services Transition to School Timetable.” This provides the transition activities, time period of each activity and who is responsible.

The Family
+ Early Intervention Services
+ School Board
= a Successful School Transition

In September/October/November of the year before school entry your Early Interventionist will discuss the school options available for your child and provide the “Getting Ready for School” folder. Your child’s options will include: York Region District School Board (YRDSB), York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB), private schools, home schooling, and not attending school. You can decide whether your child will start school in junior kindergarten or wait for senior kindergarten or grade one to make the transition. Formal education is mandatory at age 6 years.

Around the same time, your Early Interventionist will ask for your consent to send a “Transition to School Notification” to your chosen school board. If, at this time, you are undecided about which school board to use, the notification can be sent to more than one board. This provides the school with basic child and family information (name, date of birth, address, etc.), team members involved with the family, and supports the child needs for a successful transition.

In January your Early Interventionist will encourage you to attend the “Parent Information Evenings” held by both boards. These meetings provide an opportunity for you to learn about the board and meet some board staff.

If you have sent a notification to the YCDSB, the YCDSB Special Education Consultant will arrange an information sharing meeting with your Early Interventionist in January/February. Within a few months of that meeting, the YCDSB Special Education Consultant will visit you and your child at your home or child care program.

In February, “School Registration Notices” appear in the local newspaper. To register your child for school you must bring the following documentation to your local elementary school:

- Proof of child’s age (birth certificate, birth registration or baptism certificate – for YCDSB registration)
- Proof of residency and telephone number
- Ontario Health Insurance Plan card
- Emergency contact information
- Proof of legal immigration status in Canada
- Property tax bill indicating “English Separate” (for YCDSB registration)

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Community and Health Services Department
Social Services Branch

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The Early Interventionist completes a “Transition to School Report” with input from team members, and you will review the report and revise it if necessary.

If you register your child for YRDSB, in spring you will attend a Transition to School Meeting either at your home or at the home school. If you register for YCDSB, in spring you will attend an observation visit either at your home or at the child care program. At your Transition to School Meeting or observation visit, the Early Interventionist, school board staff and other team members will attend, and discuss the “Transition to School Report” and other information, to make sure everyone understands your child’s strengths and needs, and the supports he/she needs for a successful transition to school.

We encourage you to put together a portfolio of information describing your child’s interests and abilities. Contact your Early Interventionist if you require assistance.

Support to the classroom and school team during your child’s initial transition period may include: meeting with your child’s teacher, observation, problem solving support and participation in team meetings.

Every parent wants their child’s school transition to be successful. By working in partnership with the school board staff and Early Intervention staff, the chances of a positive outcome increase greatly. As parents moving through the school transition process, you have already started to develop a relationship with school staff, school staff understands your child’s strengths and needs, and school board dollars are available if extra support is required.

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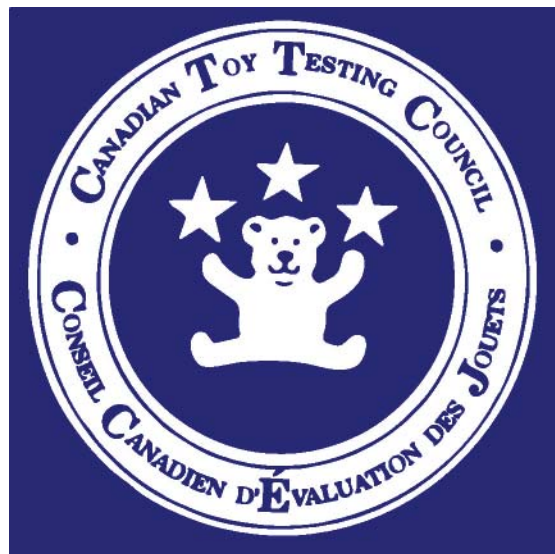
The Canadian Toy Testing Council

The Canadian Toy Testing Council (CTTC) is a non-profit, voluntary, registered charitable organization, working for parents since 1952.

Their job is to test toys and to help you make good toy purchases. Every year, hundreds of toys are selected as representative of toys offered on the market.

The toys are tested by Canadian children in everyday settings, to assess design, function, durability, and play value. The council rates each toy, awarding Three Stars, Two Stars, One Star, Novelty or Not Recommended.

You can find the ratings and a review of each toy tested at www.toy-testing.org under “toy report.”



Seeking Accreditation

To ensure that we consistently provide high quality Early Intervention Services, we have asked for accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) Canada. CARF develops standards of practice for programs in Canada, the United States, Europe and South America, based on input from regional, national and international forums.

In the autumn of 2008, CARF sent a team of three trained “Surveyors” from similar programs in British Columbia to conduct site visits in our local offices. The team was here for three days, reviewing all policies and procedures, visiting each local office, talking with staff, some parents, and staff and management of community agencies in York Region that we work with.

Our services were compared to the CARF Standards for Child and Youth Services in general, and to Case Management/Service Coordination and Early Child Development areas specifically. For these areas the team’s survey covered approximately 1,400 standards.

Early Intervention Services received a three-year accreditation, the longest term possible, and was cited as an “exemplary” practice. This accreditation could only be achieved if each of our six EIS offices individually met the criteria. We are the first early intervention program in Ontario to be accredited in these areas. Even with this high rating, there were 14 recommendations for improvement and we have created a Quality Improvement Plan that outlines how we intend carry out the recommendations.

This accreditation process is an example of how we strive to deliver the best program we can using consistent methods and the best standards available.

Dan Beale, Manager, Early Intervention Services

Fun Activities

Wax Paper Skating

A great indoor activity for getting out excess energy!
If you want, you can teach your child proper ice skating techniques.

- Use two pieces of wax paper larger than your child’s foot
- Put a piece of wax paper under each of your child’s feet
- Skate around the room!

Caution

Red says stop (palm of hand up)
Green says go (hand beckons)
You wait for yellow (palm of hand up)
It says go slow (wave hand in slow motion)
I always wait for Mommy
When I cross the street.
I take her hand & look both ways (look right & left)
And my head tells my feet..... (point to head & feet)

Green Haired Potato

Materials

- 1 large raw potato
- 1 teaspoon of grass seeds
- 2 cotton balls
- Plastic dish, spoon
- Whole cloves

Directions

1. Adult cuts 1” off top and bottom of potato so it stands upright on the plastic dish.
2. Using the spoon and adult help if needed, scoop out a 2” deep hole on the top of the potato.
3. Moisten cotton balls with water.
4. Line the hole with cotton balls.
5. Sprinkle grass seeds over the cotton.
6. Make a potato face with the whole cloves.
7. Keep the seeds moist.

Soon, the potato may need a haircut!

Book Reviews

INFANTS:

EAT!

by **Roberta Grobel-Intrater**

All the fun of learning to eat is shared in these delightful photos of adorable beginners.



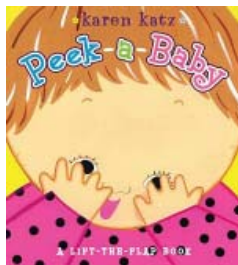
It's Time for Bed!

by **Dawn Sirett**

A board book for sleepyheads who fight bedtime.



PRESCHOOL:



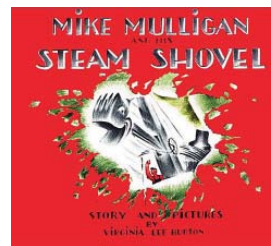
Peek-a-Baby

by **Karen Katz**

Fun and interactive with flaps that reveal who is playing peek-a-boo.

Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel

by **Virginia Lee Burton**

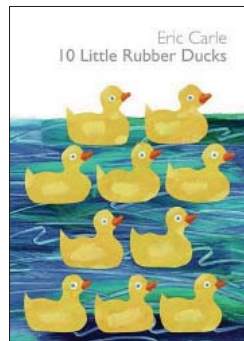


This book has been read to many generations of children. Delighted by the inseparable duo and their friendship, children continue to love this classic story of ingenuity and hard work.

10 Little Rubber Ducks

by **Eric Carle**

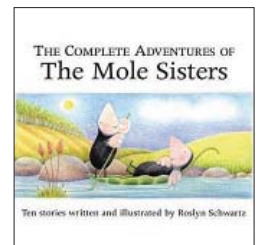
A board book that has a surprise at the end, sure to delight infants.



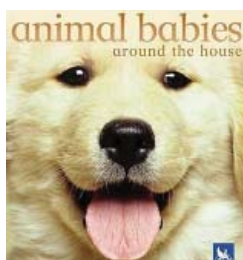
The Complete Adventures of the Mole Sisters:

Ten Stories, by **Roslyn Schwartz**

The irresistible Mole Sisters turn any situation into pure fun. From their moonlight nights to their rainy days, rediscover the irresistible enthusiasm of this lovable pair in this complete collection of all 10 Mole Sisters tales.



TODDLERS:



Animal Babies Around the House

by **Kingfisher Publications**
(edited by **Vicky Weber**)

Woof! Woof! Looking at picture and word clues, can you guess who these animal babies and their mommies are?

Olivia, by Ian Falconer

Olivia is a pig with attitude! Follow Olivia through her day as she dresses up, dances, sings, paints on the walls and takes a nap - sort of. Her exuberance is contagious. The illustrations are delightful and the story will leave everyone laughing. Also in board book format.

The Rainbow Fish

by **Marcus Pfister**

An award-winning book about a beautiful fish who finds friendship and happiness when he learns how to share.



EIS In Touch With Families is a newsletter for families who receive service from York Region's Early Intervention Services. For more information on any aspect of this newsletter please contact Linda Leveiller-Wheeler at 905-830-4444 ext. 2351 or toll free at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 2351. For more information about York Region's Children's Services and the Community and Health Services Department, go to: www.york.ca