



Community Child Care ~ February 2017



Potluck Thank You

Thanks to everyone who was able to attend the potluck supper for Cheryl on her retirement from Community Child Care. It was wonderful to see so many people at the potluck to wish her well in person. Cheryl started with Community Child Care in 1992. After 25 years it won't seem quite the same without her.

Cheryl was delighted with the surprise recipe book we made. We received a great variety of recipes from many of you and we are sure Cheryl will enjoy trying them. We included photographs from 1992 to this January in the recipe book to remind her of all the good times we have had together. We will miss her.

Where We Go From Here

We are happy that Lise has agreed to be acting Director for the next few months, with Bridget assisting her on the financial and policy end. The rest of the team has offered Lise their full support. Lise will still have providers to visit, so things should continue in much the same way.

To help us through the transition Alison, a retired manager/advisor from Odawa Sweetgrass will work with us part-time, doing safeties and visits. Alison is a very warm person who some of us have known for many years and we hope you will enjoy having her visit your home. We are grateful that she agreed to come out of retirement to help.



Quarterly GOG and Wage Enhancement

In mid-January you received your January quarterly General Operating Grant "bonus" and the November and December 2016 portion of the Provincial Home Child Care Wage Enhancement Grant "PHCCEGRT".

The Wage Enhancement Grant will continue in 2017! The agency will pay it out quarterly with the GOG as long as we receive the funds to pay it.

The 2017 grant is calculated the same way as the 2016 grant. When you have children in care for more than 6 hours in a day you qualify for \$20. When you have children in care for less than 6 hours a day you qualify for \$10. When you have no children in care (e.g. statutory holidays, when everyone is away sick or on holiday, or you are not available) no grant is payable.



You are **not** eligible for the grant for any day when you earn more than \$266.80 a day (working 6 hours or more) or \$133.40 (working fewer than 6 hours). These income limits **include** income from your private children. Please tell us when your income exceeds the limits to avoid having to return money to the province and the city.



Join Us February 15

The next Coffee Connections is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 15 here at the WOCRC in the Board Room on the 2nd floor.

We've got some great ideas for a fun evening together!



P.D. Day

English public schools *only*
Friday Feb. 17, 2017



Statutory Holiday

Family Day, Monday Feb. 20, 2017

Some Winter Ideas

Just because it's snowy out, that doesn't mean you have to stay indoors! We've put together this list of winter outdoor activities for preschoolers to help you start planning and take advantage of what the season has to offer. Of course, before you head outside, you should ensure that all children are properly bundled up in weather-appropriate coats, hats, mittens, scarves and footwear.



Build a snowman. This is a classic winter activity that preschoolers and adults alike can enjoy. Help children roll their snowballs and decorate their snowman with accessories. Encourage children to work together in small groups to build their snowmen and develop teamwork skills.

Create snow art. Fill spray bottles with water colored with food dye and let their imaginations run wild! Create pictures, practice writing names or just have fun watching the snow transform from white to bright colors.

Search for animal tracks. Go on a hunt to identify animal tracks in the snow, and guess which animal left them there. See how many different tracks you can identify.

Experiment. Try freezing different levels of water in a variety of containers. Which freezes the fastest? Which took the longest? Ask children to consider why. Bring the frozen water inside and experiment with how long they take to thaw out!

Make snow castles. Use the same toys as you would in the sandbox in the snow. See who can build the biggest snow castle.

Go on a scavenger hunt. Create a list of items for children to find outdoors, such as pinecones, rocks, sticks, or leaves. Give each child or group a container to collect the items on the list. Work on categorization skills by describing items the preschoolers should find, such as something smooth, something brown, or something hard.

Snowball target toss. Create a target using a hula hoop on the ground, and have children create their own snowball and toss it into the target area. Use different containers or change the target's distance to make the game more challenging.

Go for a winter walk. Experience the sights and sounds of winter with a refreshing walk. Point out animals, birds, icicles and other unique winter features.



These ideas are from www.himama.com.



Winter is for Reading

