



Community Child Care ~ July 2017

Welcome to **SUMMER !**

Summer means...

- Hats (set a good example and wear your own)
- Sunscreen (got your forms signed?)
- Drinking water
- Skinned knees (remember your First Aid kit!)
- Rain
- Bug bites (do you have signatures to use insect repellent?)
- Holidays
- Picnics
- Splash parks
- Mud puddles

Keep your cool and have lots and lots of fun! We'd love it if you could take pictures and get permission for us to use them for the 150 Faces project we are doing for the fall provincial Home Child Care Conference.

Holidays

Please let your advisor or the office know if you or your families are taking holidays. The more notice we have, the easier it is for us to arrange alternate care for the children or to fill your spaces for a while.

If the parents want you to be paid while their child is not in care the office needs to know. If they are not using alternate care we can pay you only if we have their permission. Families may have a limited number of days each year that you can be paid when they keep their children out of care for sickness or vacation and they have to plan the use of those days carefully.

Your Pay Statement

With your June pay you are also receiving your Provincial Home Child Care Enhancement Grant for the care you provided in May. You received the amounts for January and February with your March pay; for March and April with your May pay.

From now on you should receive your PHCCEGRT every month, but for the days worked in the previous month. The province has guaranteed this grant only until the end of 2017 and we have not been informed what may happen in 2018. We'll let you know when we know!

The GOG bonus payment for the second quarter of 2017 will go out before the end of July.



Emergency Phone – for emergencies only!

Remember that the Emergency Phone Number is for true emergencies *only*. Call it when the office is closed or anytime you do not get an answer at the regular office number.

The number is *not* to be used for anything that is not an emergency. The number is for providers and is not to be given to parents.

If you need to find out about things like alternate care or to check PD days and statutory holidays, leave a message on the regular phone number and someone will get back to you.

Call the emergency number *only* if you have a real emergency like a serious occurrence or injury to a child or flooding or a fire, etc.

Ministry Update

Our licensing visit from the Ministry of Education has not yet happened. While we wait, please continue to make sure your paperwork is up-to-date and your working binder is in order. We appreciate your patience and cooperation.

We have some of the best providers in the city – and maybe the world – and we know you will do us proud if the Ministry chooses to visit you. We are looking forward to showing you off!

Now is the time for MUD!



Let them play in the mud? Are you crazy?

Playing in mud can be a wonderful activity for children. Not only is it a sensory banquet and a dramatic play tickle trunk, it can also boost immunity, provide opportunity for vocabulary enrichment and be an enjoyable social occasion.

Working with mud and natural items helps children be creative, learn about the world around them and problem solve. Children will see flowers bud and open, the petals wilt and fade and the seeds grow where the flowers were. They can watch the bees and other insects go flower to flower, spreading pollen as they feed themselves. Science!

Build a mud kitchen

Find a corner of your yard where the children can make a real mess. It is better if the area is clearly defined so the children get a sense that this is a special place for mud cooking. If you don't want the children actually digging up your yard, fill buckets with mud and sand and anything else you like.

Collect old plastic bowls and utensils just like you use in the real kitchen for the children to use in the mud.

Using real tools enhances the reality of the experience, and helps the children learn so they can effectively help with the real lunch making and baking.

Create some sort of table for the children to work at. It doesn't have to be fancy or expensive, especially since it is going to get full of dirt. A board on a couple of boxes would work.

Have children forage for ingredients and build imaginary recipes for mud pies and leaf salads! Your yard will soon be dandelion-free! This type of dramatic play helps to solidify children's learning about food while using their imaginations and learning social skills.

Collect food items that have historically been used as dyes, e.g., spinach, moss, sunflowers, onion skins, beets, berries. Soak these items separately in water and use the dyes to paint on rocks and paper in the outdoor or classroom. Experiment with the water from the item and with using the item itself. Can you paint with a beet? Heating onion skins in water and cooking and mashing the beets will intensify the colour, but simply soaking them will colour the water and does not need as much adult supervision.

The main role adults need to take is of **facilitator and enabler** – making the kitchen available by helping the children to create it and supporting the play. Other adults may not understand why this is valuable and may have objections, so supporting adults need to **interpret** what is really happening and **advocate** for mud play in all children's lives.

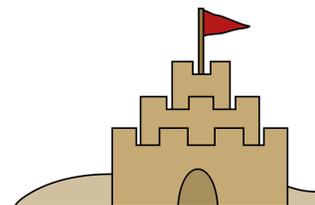
Play in the mud with the children and support the development of our future scientists, artists, chefs, systems designers, authors – the list is endless. Get dirty and have wonderful learning time.

Adapted from Making a Mud Kitchen by Jan White.

Private Children

As of September 1, 2017 you are required to have all the same information for your private children as you have for agency children:

- emergency information,
- immunization records
- outdoor supervision agreements,
- individual medical or anaphylaxis plans,
- attendance sheets,
- a contract setting out the days and hours of care, and so on.



You may use your own forms, but feel free to base them on agency forms. Please do not use forms with the agency logo since the parents do not have a relationship with the agency. Remember that by law you *must* give the parents of your private children a receipt for their payments.