



Community Child Care ~ December 2017



Happy Holidays are Approaching

Are you planning to take time off while the children are out of school for the holidays? What about the children in your care? It is important that you and your families discuss holidays early so there are no surprises and no panic to change plans or find another provider at the last minute. Please call the office with your plans.

Plan ahead for days when your school aged children will be home. The more you think ahead, the less likely you are to have conflict from the "there's nothing to do" crowd. During quiet time the older children could learn to play checkers, chess, snakes and ladders or other board games. If you don't know how to play, they will love to teach you. Or bring out one of those 500 or 1,000 piece puzzles and see how many days it takes to complete. Older children can work on a complicated puzzle at the table while the younger children put together simpler ones on the floor.



Winter Clothing: Ask parents to provide extra mitts and socks and at least one complete change of clothing. That way you can take advantage of any snowfalls and sunshine to get outside and play and not worry about the children getting wet. Children love to shovel driveways, sidewalks and patios, if they can make a mountain of snow in the middle of the yard or design roadways with piles of snow for the curbs. Even the youngest children can shovel using small sand shovels or wooden spoons.

Metal Outside in Winter: Avoid using anything metal outside with children, especially ones who still put things in their mouths. If the temperature is below 0°C a metal object will freeze to a wet mouth almost instantly. It can be difficult to detach an object that is frozen to a child's mouth or wet hands. *Do not attempt to pull the object off, or the child off the object.* If you can, bring the child inside with the object in place. The warm air of the house will begin to thaw the bond. Pour warm (not hot) water over the stuck area to gently thaw it. If a child is stuck to something you can't bring inside (a lamp post, for example, get another adult to fetch warm water for you. If you have a mouth-on-metal incident, please remember to write up a report for the parents and your advisor to sign.

PD Days

There is no school from December 25, 2017 to January 5, 2018.

The last day of classes in 2017 is December 22.

The first day of classes in 2018 is January 8.



Statutory Holidays

December 25 and 26, 2017 and January 1, 2018 are statutory holidays. Providers are not obligated to work on statutory holidays. If families need care on those days they should call the office.

Office Closure

Community Child Care's office will be closed from December 25, 2017 to January 2, 2018.

We are always available in the case of an emergency. Call our emergency call service at 613-594-2779.

The emergency is not to be used for alternate care or other situations that are not true emergencies.

The emergency number is not to be given to parents. It is for providers to use in case of an emergency that affects the children or your ability to care for them.



Winter safety tips for kids

adapted from an article in *Parenting Times*
www.OttawaParentingTimes.ca
By Dr. Paul Roumeliotis



Winter can be lots of fun, but unfortunately, there are some potential dangers. Here are some facts and tips about keeping children safe during the winter months:

- **Children can easily succumb to frostbite**, so during cold weather, make sure that children's clothing, shoes, boots and gloves stay dry. If these items get wet, change into dry ones.
- **Make sure children do not play in snow that is piled up for clearing** on the street or sidewalks. Some children have been killed by snow clearing equipment while playing in these banks.
- **As ice and snow melts, it may fall from a roof or side of a home or building** and injure someone seriously. Make sure that your home or building is free of this hazard.
- **Whenever sledding or tobogganing**, go down shallow slopes free of obstacles such as trees and never slide toward a road. Avoid sliding down a crowded slope.
 - **Helmets are standard equipment** for biking, hockey, inline skating, etc. and should also be worn for tobogganing, skiing and other activities that pose a threat of head injury.
 - **Snowmobiling is particularly risky for children and young adults.** Children under six years should never ride on snowmobiles. Only children older than 16 years of age should drive snowmobiles, and drivers and passengers should always wear the proper protective equipment, including an approved helmet.
 - **Fireplaces are fun, warm and cosy, but should be used safely.** Always use a screen to prevent sparks from igniting items around the fireplace such as newspapers carpets, furniture and curtains. Only use the fireplace when you can supervise the children closely. The surfaces near your fireplace may be hot. Teach children to stay away from it even when it is not lit.
- **Never leave children in a running parked car.** There is a real danger of carbon monoxide poisoning, which can be deadly.



December Pay

Your December pay goes in your bank account December 31, not January 8. Please call the office by December 15 with your attendance. We hope to be able to pay the Provincial Home Child Care Enhancement Grant for both November and December with the attendance pay for December, but that depends on you getting your information in to the office for both your agency AND your private children.

We have a Surprise!

In January we will have a new advisor on staff! She is a provider with the agency, known to many of you who come to Coffee Connections. Can you guess who it is?

Attendance for Private Children

Please send in your attendance for private children. It is a requirement under the CCEYA regulations.

We also need their attendance, to pay you the Provincial Home Child Care Enhancement Grant when your agency children are away but your private children are in care. We are not permitted pay the PHCCEGRT if you have no agency children.

Ministry Update

We have been assigned a new Ministry of Education program advisor as our former advisor has been promoted to supervisor. We are looking forward to working with Monique in the months ahead. We appreciate your continuing cooperation in keeping your paperwork up-to-date.