



## Community Child Care ~ February 2018

### Coming

#### Did you guess? Have you met her yet?

Our new advisor is Nadia!

During January, Eve, Donna, Bridget and Lise have been taking Nadia out to providers' homes so she can meet everyone while she settles in to her new responsibilities. Many of you will recognize her from Coffee Connections and the Merry Mingle in past years.

Please join us in welcoming Nadia to the team.

#### Equipment Assistants

You may also have met our new equipment assistant Matt. He will be helping Rita with equipment assembly, delivery, repair, pickup and inventory. Matt and Rita help us when they can on an on-call basis.

### Going

Eve has decided to retire at the end of January 2018, but may help us occasionally in future.

We will miss her sense of humour and perspectives on issues. A long-time contributor to licensed home child care committees (Ottawa Quality Assurance, *Early Learning for Every Child Today*, to name just two), children and families, child care advisors, managers and providers across Ottawa have benefited from her hard work.

**Well done, Eve. We wish you the very best.**

## Looking forward to 2018

The past few years have been difficult for the child care community – from parents to providers to children. With changes in the legislation, paperwork required and the freezing of subsidy dollars, some providers have had to leave the field and some parents have not been able to work because they could not pay for child care.

We are optimistic that 2018 will be better. The city workers are doing their best to clear up the backlog of subsidy reviews and approve children quickly. We are seeing a trickle of children being placed in our homes, and we hope that will increase as the year goes on.

The requirements from the ministry seem to have stabilized and the most recent changes have been tweaks to process and paperwork rather than wholesale changes. Although we have not yet had our licensing inspection, it will happen soon and we know that you will be ready.

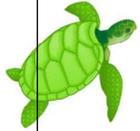
All our advisors have reported the amazing job their providers are doing, not only with the children and parents, but also in organizing their paperwork and keeping up their log books. Thank you for sticking with us and doing us proud through the dark times. We appreciate the burden of responsibility you carry and will continue to do our best to support you with it.

By this time next year we hope to look back on 2018 as a journey from darkness into light. Thanks for continuing the journey with us.

## Who can look after your daycare children?

You can, of course! But other than you, only adults over the age of 18 are *ever* permitted to care for the children. Those adults need a police check for the vulnerable sector and all the other required signed paperwork on file with you *and* with the agency.

**Only in an emergency can anyone who does not have paperwork on file look after the children, and even in an emergency the person *must* be over the age of 18.**



## Ideas for reluctant hand washers

### Wash the germs away!

Want to make germs disappear? Try this!

1. Put a small amount of hand lotion or petroleum jelly on hands. This represents body oils.
2. Sprinkle with a little bit of cinnamon. This represents germs.
3. Then have your child try to wash with just cold water (no soap), and...
4. Then just warm water (no soap).

What happens when you wash with cold water and no soap?

What happens when you wash with warm water and no soap?

Now add soap and warm water, then scrub, making sure all parts of the hands are washed—the backs of hands, and in between fingers, etc. Watch the germs disappear!

Sing the ABC song or Happy Birthday while washing. When the song is finished, it's time to rinse!

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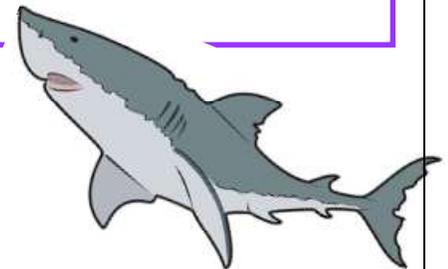


### Scuba dive!

Get a selection of plastic sea animals or deep sea divers. Put warm water and soap in the sink. It is more interesting and fun if the soap is foamy on top of the water.

Let your reluctant hand-washer play with the animals and divers, making sure they use both hands. Without realizing it, they will be cleaning their hands just by playing.

When they are done, let them dry the toys, and in the process dry their own hands. If you keep a container of the plastic toys near the sink where they can see them, your reluctant washer may be asking you to wash hands, rather than resisting!



### City update

We have been assigned a new city child care specialist to support us in meeting administrative requirements much the way our advisors support you in meeting legislative and regulatory requirements. We feel positive that we will be moving ahead in partnership with the city.

You may not be aware that all provincial (and thus federal) money for child care is funnelled through the municipality. It can sometimes be confusing for us all in how to apply for grants, what the restrictions are on the money we receive, and how we have to account for the spending of that money. Being able to call and meet with our assigned specialist will certainly help us with those processes.

### Ministry update

Our agency is probably next for licensing! We appreciate your continuing cooperation in keeping your paperwork up-to-date.