



Community Child Care ~ March 2018

Next Coffee Connections will be early in April, likely on a Tuesday evening. We have asked some providers to come and share their licensing visit experience.

Thank you!

Our advisors from the Ministry of Education spent a few days with us in the middle of February and we want to thank all of you for the hard work you have done in preparing for licensing.

The providers the Ministry advisors chose to visit did us proud. As always, there were a few things to adjust, but they were minor and taken care of quickly. Well done!

The agency also has a few things to adjust in our forms and publications, but again, they are minor and will be quite quick to fix. Of course that means you can expect changes to a few forms or pages in your reference binder in the next few months, so thanks in advance for your cooperation.

We also want to thank our Ministry advisors Monique and Lilly for their positive, respectful attitude and their supportive recommendations. This process will help make us an even better choice for parents and children.

We have the best providers in the world. We feel very fortunate to work with you.

Do you have Pets?

The Ministry of Education advisors mentioned that one of their current focuses is on the safety of children around pets in a child care home. On the back of this newsletter you will find an article about dogs around children.

In introductory meetings with parents, be sure to discuss your pets and come to some agreement about when and where children will have contact with them and whether the pet may be crated for some of the time when children are in care.

The important thing to remember is that no matter how well you know your pet, no matter how well trained it is, you can never completely trust an animal around children, or children around a pet.

Supervision is obviously the priority in keeping children safe, but it is just as important to teach children that pets deserve respect just as people do. Be gentle in your touch. Leave the pet alone when it eats or is resting. If the pet walks away, let it go. If the pet does not want to play, leave it alone.

Underpayment

A few providers will notice they have been paid an unusually large amount for the Provincial Home Child Care Enhancement Grant. It is because those providers were underpaid in January. Sorry for the confusion, and thanks for your patience.

If you have read this newsletter call or e-mail to have your name entered in a draw for a small prize.

Spring Means Science!

You are never too young or old to learn through play

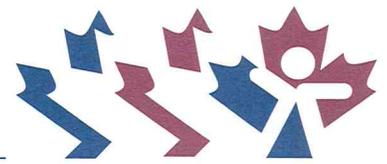
It's a wonderful time of the year, with rain, puddles to splash in, sunshine, leaves sprouting on the trees, birds singing and insects beginning to fly about. Take a walk and have a science lesson with even the youngest children in your group.

Children who are properly dressed and have a change of clothes at their provider's home can play – with supervision, of course, in the shallow puddles on the drive way or the side of the road. Let them jump! If it is not slippery, let them run!

See how high they can make the water splash or how far out from the puddle it can go. Does it make a difference where in the puddle they jump? Or if they run through? Does a bigger child make a bigger splash? Its a science experiment in measurement and physics! You don't have to be able to read to know whether one splash went farther than another, but if you have school-age children in the group, they could record the results – and be doing statistics.

Did you hear the birds scolding while you played? Those bright red ones are cardinals. Their voices are so clear! The big black ones with the loud raspy voices are crows. That's another science lesson, this time in animal studies.

At our office there is a selection of science books for children that providers are welcome to borrow, or explore what is available at the local library.



Teaching Children to Respect Dogs

Dogs can make loving, gentle pets. Through simply knowing a dog in the neighbourhood, children can learn about empathy and caring for others. But whether it's your own family dog, a neighbour's or a stray, dogs can harm under certain situations. Children — especially those nine and under — are most at risk of dog-bite injury causing serious physical and long-term emotional trauma. Teaching children to respect pets is the first step in guarding against bites from dogs.



Why do dogs bite? Most dogs are safe, reliable companions, but even a friendly dog may bite if threatened, angry, afraid or hurt. Some dogs who are trained to be aggressive may chase and attack a fleeing child. Dogs are generally protective of their food, puppies or toys. They may also be protective of their spaces and owners. Commonly defended places include eating and sleeping areas, yards, porches and parked cars. A child reaching through a fence or arriving unexpectedly at the door can turn a neighbour's warm, loyal pet into a growling, aggressive protector. Children must learn not to frighten or anger a dog.

Other Reasons Dogs May Bite

- Cornering, crowding or standing over a dog (particularly a small one) may make him feel defensive. Children should stand back and never put their faces close to a dog's mouth.
- Stray dogs may be very dangerous. Any dog that is loose may be lost, frightened or injured and therefore more likely to bite.
- Sick or injured dogs may be afraid or irritable.
- Elderly dogs may have impaired vision or hearing which can cause them to be more easily startled.
- A dog that is excited or nervous may bite by mistake.
- Dogs can feel left out, especially when a new baby or pet joins the household. Give a dog extra love and attention when this happens.

Dogs living with or around children need to be able to tolerate a degree of rough treatment without resorting to biting. Children should only be around dogs that don't "play bite" and family pets should be chosen carefully with this in mind. Small children and very young puppies are not suitable companions. A toddler sees the puppy as a cuddly toy to be pushed and poked, and a puppy might nip in defence. In the end, the child may grow up afraid of dogs or the puppy may mature into a nervous, irritable dog. An older pup, about 12 months of age, is much more suitable for young children. Never leave an infant or young child alone with a dog.

SAFETY DOS AND DON'TS

Teach children to observe the simple rules of safe and considerate behaviour around dogs — their own and others.

Don't

- tease dogs (pull tail or ears, throw things at, ride or chase them), even dogs behind fences;
- go near dogs chained or tied up in yards;
- touch or play with a dog while he is eating;
- touch or scare a dog while he is sleeping;
- approach or touch a dog that is on the loose;
- run and scream if a dog comes near you;
- stare into a dog's eyes;
- take a dog's toys or bones away from him.

Do

- ask the owner if it's okay before petting a dog;
- let a dog sniff your closed hand before petting him;
- tell an adult right away if you see a stray, injured or scary looking dog;
- stand very still (like a tree) and be very quiet if a dog comes near you;
- lie face down (like a log) and cover the back of your neck if a dog attacks you;
- act kindly and gently towards dogs and other animals.