



# Early Learning & Child Care ~Highlights~

Children's Services Program, Peterborough Social Services

Issue 2

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## Whats Happening?

### Awesome Resources...

Parent Central  
[www.parentcentral.ca](http://www.parentcentral.ca)

Child Care Exchange - Great Resources  
[www.childcareexchange.com](http://www.childcareexchange.com)

Canadian Child Care Federation  
[www.qualitychildcarecanada.ca](http://www.qualitychildcarecanada.ca)

Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care  
[www.childcareontario.org](http://www.childcareontario.org)

Centre of Excellence for EC Development  
[www.excellence-earlychildhood.ca](http://www.excellence-earlychildhood.ca)

Ministry of Education  
[www.edu.gov.on.ca](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca)

### Important Dates to Remember...

- January 19 —Business Partners Mtg, 12:30 @ Northview CC
- January 27—Family Literacy Day
- January 31 - Wage Subsidy Grant Utilization Forms due
- February 9—Child Care Network Mtg, 12:30 @ Northview CC
- March 1—Evening with Deb Curtis (details to follow)
- March 4 & 5—Reflective Teaching Institute—contact KCCS @ 749-3488 for details
- March 23—Business Partners Mtg, 12:30 @ Northview CC
- March 31—RTB Binders Due for Silver Level Submission

Happy New Year Everyone! Well it's hard to believe that Christmas holidays have come and gone for another year. It always amazes me how fast life seems to speed by. I hope everyone had a wonderful, rest-filled holiday with family and friends—I know I did!

As we settle into the familiar rhythm of busy schedules and hectic winter routines I want to remind everyone to keep your eye on the professional development opportunities being offered in our community throughout the winter months. If you are looking for some excellent reading materials and resources to support your work in the classroom or in your role as a leader, take some time to check out all the great new books that have been purchased by the Investing in Quality Committee. All resources can be taken out on loan—call Trish Bucholtz for more information at 775-2811 x 23.

**Exploration of Community Hubs...**in Nov and Dec many individuals had the opportunity to tour several Best Start Hubs in Sudbury and in Hamilton.

### Fee Subsidy Waitlist Update

Wow...I am so pleased to report that since September the Children's Services staff have made some awesome gains in steadily reducing the volume of children on our waitlist! As of Dec 17 they have released a total of 504 children from the waitlist. Of those children released, the staff have met with parents and approved subsidy for 268 children. They have removed 210 children who no

longer required child care and 26 children have been put back on the waitlist for care required in the future. Currently there are 176 children on the waitlist. The breakdown of the remaining children on the waitlist according to their age group is:  
Infants 43 /Toddlers 23 /Pres 42  
JK 14 / SK 13 / SA 41  
City 136 / County 40

**Ministry of Education(EDU)** In December, EDU provided an update on the transition of child care responsibilities from MCYS

to EDU. The first phase to transfer child care policy from MCYS to EDU's Early Learning Branch is now complete. The second phase includes the transfer of child care funding and contract management. Effective Jan 1, 2011, EDU will assume responsibility for these functions. All licensing responsibilities will remain with MCYS at this time with no indication of when this transfer will occur.

**Phase 3 School Selections** for our local Catholic and Public School Boards were approved by Trustees at the end of November. The list of all schools will be made public in the Spring. Impacted child care agencies will be notified in confidence in January.



When we do our next release we will be offering subsidy to parents who placed their name on our waitlist in October, 2010. Please continue to provide your vacancy information each month when you submit your fee subsidy claim forms. This information allows our Case Managers to provide up to date and accurate information to families who are still searching for child care.



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Coming Soon—refreshed and updated  
 Children's Services Web Site!



## Are You in Compliance with Bill 168?

On June 15, 2010, Bill 168 came into effect. Bill 168 is an amendment to the Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Act and is designed to reduce workplace violence and harassment. While licensed child care centres are not generally considered a high risk environment, because they are employers they too are obligated to comply with this legislation. Many of you may have already taken steps to ensure that your workplace policy manuals have been revised to include procedures for reporting, investigating and responding to incidents of violence or harassment and are reflective of the new amendments. If this is something that you still need to complete don't be discouraged, there is help available. Trish Bucholtz, the Raising the Bar Coordinator has collected a few samples of this policy to share with agencies who still have to develop this policy. You can contact Trish at 775-2811 ext. 23 or by email at [trishb@raisingthebarptbo.ca](mailto:trishb@raisingthebarptbo.ca)

### Fast Facts

**Workplaces with 5 or more employees are required to have their Violence and Harassment Prevention Policies and Procedures in writing.**

**All guests, suppliers, off-site workplaces, cars and travel associated with your workplace are covered by Bill 168.**

**All incidents of workplace violence requiring medical attention must be reported to the Ministry of Labour.**

*"We must become the change we want to see" Ghandi*

## Community Hubs – Reaching Out

With the recent development of the Prince of Wales Community Hub and the Otonabee Valley Family Hub many folks are wondering what exactly is a hub and why they are so important for communities? As we move toward a model of integrated services for children and families, community hubs have been identified as a safe gathering place in the heart of a community, and play a key role in providing families with easier access to a variety of services that help them to be successful. Community hubs are not only a strategy to change the way services are organized and delivered, but also to build community strength and capacity through a unique community-driven implementation approach.

Community hubs bring together a variety of integrated services for children, youth and families in one convenient location. Hubs are also a key priority in putting the words 'service integration' into action. As hubs bring together core and specialized services for children, youth and families,

the result is that service providers work together to jointly plan, modify and offer services to families in the communities where they live and work. Greater integration allows families access to a mix of quality services that effectively meet their needs. Hubs are also important because they help to remove barriers that limit a family's ability to access or participate in programs and services. Traditionally, services have been delivered in a centrally located office, often outside of a family's neighborhood and in an environment that can feel intimidating. All too often families requiring services have to make many trips to several different agencies to receive the services they require. This can be both costly and time consuming for the family.

**A Variety of Models...**In the report, *With Our Best Future in Mind*, Dr. Charles Pascal recommends the development of Best Start Child and Family Centres (ie. Otonabee Valley Family Hub), which have a close resemblance to

community hubs. These centres would provide families with timely, one-stop access to less clinical and more family friendly services, such as full-day learning for four and five year old children, flexible child care and connections to community resources. The Ontario government has committed to ensuring that every community has access to an integrated system of services that support children's earliest development. As part of Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy, community hubs are also being developed as a means of responding to community needs related to poverty reduction and student achievement (ie. Prince of Wales Hub). The purpose of this program is to bring together a variety of community partners to better coordinate social and education support services so that the needs of those who are using them are met. These community hubs encourage children and families, in areas of concentrated disadvantage, to reach their full potential by providing them with the social and educational supports necessary to succeed.