

Child Care Connections

Winter 2011

Establishing strong professional relationships in the Peterborough child care community.

Moss Can't Grow on a Rolling Stone

The snow is gently falling as I pull my chair closer to the computer in preparation to write this edition of the Child Care Connections Newsletter. There is a quiet stillness about and I am sure it will help me focus on the task at hand.

I hope that you have had a busy and fulfilling autumn and I am sure that you are all looking forward to a nice break as we head into the holiday season.

Over the last year, we have seen many big changes to the early learning and child care field in our community. We wished our Manager of Children's Services, Joyce Hawthorne, a fond farewell at her retirement and gave a warm welcome to Sandra Robinson when she took the reins. We saw the first phase of Raising the Bar come to fruition with 27 centres participating and receiving their bronze certificate. We also recognized over 110 Early Childhood Educators for participating in over 20 hours of professional education in order to meet the needs of the children they care for.

The Full Day Early Learning and Kindergarten Program began its first phase, and centres are preparing for the second and third phase impact on our programs.

With all of these changes, and celebrations, the daily needs of the children and their families remained constant, and we continued to provide for those needs. *Wow, what a year it has been!*

As I look to the coming year, I am filled with mixed emotions about what is to come. I am apprehensive about the things we don't know yet, however I am excited about the new supports that are being put into place for our child care community.

Many of you may be aware of the new **Professional Learning Coordinator** position put in place for the coming year. After putting a proposal into the municipality, the Investing In Quality Committee (IIQ), was excited to hear that we were successful in securing funds to support the ever-growing needs of our community.

This coordinator's job will be to organize relevant and interesting professional education for the entire early learning and child care community throughout the year, as well as provide one-on-one support to child care centres and teams when they identify a need. The coordinator will be someone skilled at mentoring and coaching, in a supportive and professional way. It is the Investing In Quality Committee's hope that programs and educators will access this excellent opportunity in the new year.

Some Examples of how you could benefit from the Professional Learning Coordinator (PLC):

- Attend the many great workshops, forums and symposiums that will be planned for the late winter, spring, summer and fall.
- Have the PLC attend a staff meeting to facilitate a topic of interest to your team.
- Have the PLC come to your program to meet with a team or individual educator to provide side by side coaching and mentoring.
- Access the professional resources available to borrow through the Professional Resource Library set up by the PLC and the Raising the Bar Coordinator.
- And so much more!

I am looking forward to working with this person in their new position and am excited about what our community can accomplish with even more support!

2011, here we come!

Professional Development

Reflective Teaching: Learning Together With Young Children

This institute is a unique learning opportunity offered by Kawartha Child Care Services in collaboration with Deb Curtis, co-author of Learning Together with Young Children: A Curriculum Framework for Reflective Teachers.

March 4 & 5, 2011

Join us in developing a Framework for Reflective Teaching:

- Engaging in self-reflection and awareness
- Bringing yourself to the Teaching and Learning process, while coaching children to learn about learning
- Understanding the role of the educator in the environment to provoke wondering, deeper engagement and inquiry
- Analyze the relationship between the environment, materials, observation and documentation to deepen learning

**For more information or to register, contact Kawartha Child Care Services at
info@kawarthachildcare.com 749-3488**

or

Visit the Raising the Bar website for the registration package. www.raisingthebartbo.ca

Introduction to Ontario's Early Learning Framework (OELF)

Have you been wondering what this "framework" is? There has been lots of talk about the importance of implementing the OELF into early learning programs, but how to do that has left us baffled. Come to this workshop to learn about the OELF (formerly ELECT).

Tuesday, January 25th

or

Tuesday, March 8th

James Strath Public School: Library

6:30 - 8:30

**To register call the RTB office, space is limited.
778-2811 or trishb@raisingthebartbo.ca**

Devereux Early Childhood Assessment DECA

Have you missed the DECA workshops at your centre? Looking to refresh your memory on how to complete the assessment?

Wednesdays, February 16 & March 23

**Trent Child Care
Administration / RTB Office
236 Parkhill Rd. E.**

6:30 - 8:30

**To register call the RTB office,
space is limited.**

**778-2811 or
trishb@raisingthebartbo.ca**



Coming Soon..... watch for details in the coming weeks.

An Evening with Deb Curtis

Tuesday, March 1st

Come and join your colleagues as we spend the evening listening to renowned author Early Learning Professional and renowned author, Deb Curtis (*Learning together with Young Children, Designs for Living and Learning, The Visionary Director*). Details on location and keynote topic coming soon.

Spring Conference

Change is coming.

In Support of the Association of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario's annual conference happening in Peterborough, there will not be a spring conference in 2011. Keep your eyes and ears open for news on the 2012 conference. We are excited about a new format, great speakers and so much more!

Spring Symposium

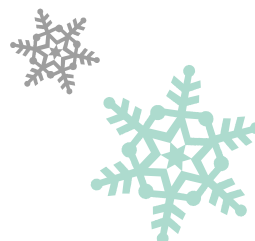
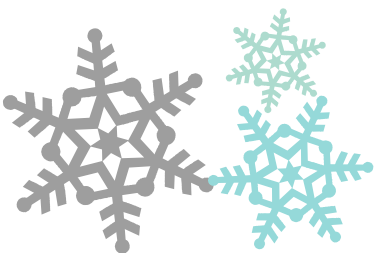
In lieu of the annual spring conference, watch for details on a spring symposium set for early April. Preliminary plans include a guest speaker with relevant break-out sessions.

Annual AECEO Provincial Conference

June 9 - 11th

This annual conference is making it's way to Peterborough in 2011. The conference will be held at Trent University. Visit www.aeceo.ca for more information.

Look for full details on the above professional education opportunities as well as many others once the new Professional Learning Coordinator position has begun! Information will come to centres as well as postings on the Raising the Bar website.



Child Care Networks

All Network Meetings: 6:30 - 8:00

School-Age Network:

January 13th, Trent CC - Monsignor O'Donoghue
2400 Marsdale Dr.

Meeting topic: creating consistent behaviour in children when working with a team of teachers.

Infant/Toddler:

January 19th, Trent CC - Campus
1600 Westbank Dr.

Topic: Creating exciting dramatic play experiences with the very young. Bring your best ideas.

Preschool Network:

January 27th, RTB Office
236 Parkhill Rd. E.

Topic: Block Centres. What do you add to make it exciting and fresh?

Cook's Network:

February 8th, RTB Office
236 Parkhill Rd. E.

Topic: Bring your favourite cookbook to show.

Apprentice Network:

February 10th, RTB Office
236 Parkhill Rd. E.

Topic: juggling your work and assignments.

Science Network:

February 15th, Nursery Two - St. John's
746 Park St. S. Entrance at the back of the school off Braidwood Ave.

Topic: Injecting science and nature into the program environment.

New members are welcome!

Visit the Raising the Bar (RTB) website for January to June network meeting dates.
www.raisingthebartbo.ca



Raising the Bar!

As we begin the new year, we get closer to the submission deadline for the Early Learning and Child Care profile. Many of you have been attending a variety of workshops and networking groups to work on your profile while a number of you have been trucking along on your own or with a group you feel comfortable with. I hope that you are feeling like you will be ready to submit your profile at the end of March.

I am available from Monday to Friday to offer any support I can to help you accomplish your goal. I would love to set a date and come to your centre and help you put all your papers and documents in their sleeves, help you write a policy, or help you determine what is left to be done.

If you would like to book some time with me, give me a call or send an email and we can set some time aside.

Silver Phase Additions (along with bronze standards maintenance):

Section #4: Staff Work Environment Surveys

Section #5: Both Supervisor and staff complete the Environmental Assessment for all program rooms.

Section #10: Include in your profile, samples of your programming that captured the children's interests.

Section #11: Identify your strategies to communicate with parents as well as identifying your strategies to engage parents in education or networking.

Section #13: Identify 2 dates when each staff was observed for overall performance.

Section # 14: enter dates for 9 meetings (staff and or team)

Section #15: Identify strategies to support the organization's connection with the community as well as identifying how the organization has collaborated with community partners.

Section # 16: Provide confirmation that all staff have completed 3 events or 6 hours of PD.

Section #17: Supervisor/Owner/Executive Director is a member of a professional association (not including the College of ECE's)

I hope that you have been working on your profile over the last year and that you will feel ready for submission in the next three months! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give me a call or send out an email.

Don't forget the submission deadline:

Final Submission: March 31, 2011

Questions, comments or suggestions? Contact Raising the Bar - Peterborough
775-2811 or trishb@raisingthebarptbo.ca

Building Your Bounce!

Devereux Adult Resiliency Checklist: Internal Beliefs # 1 - My role as a caregiver is important.

How do you feel inside about your role as a parent or a caregiver of a young child impacts how you respond and relate to that child. In order to be as caring and responsive as our children need us to be, we need to be kind and nurturing to ourselves.

Reflection - Caregiving Counts

Take a few minutes and find a quiet place. What are all of the things that you do in your role as a caregiver of a young child? You probably give lots of hugs, wipe noses, and clean up messes. What else do you do? List some of those things on the lines below:

Now take a look at your list of things you do as a caregiver and think about what the positive payoffs are for you. What do you get out of your role? For example, if you give lots of hugs and comfort throughout the day to children, how does that make you feel? Do you feel loving, nurturing, joyful, and helpful? List some of the benefits to your work below:

Caregiving counts! Your role in the lives of children is very important. Not only does caregiving bring safety and joy to children, it can bring benefits to you as well, every day. What we have to do is remember the benefits. How will you remember the benefits versus the barriers? Some simple ideas might be to:

- Take a minute to reflect on the benefits list you generated, repeating them out loud.
- Write your benefits on a sheet of paper and display it where you can see it every day.
- Share your list with a friend or colleague.
- Have your fellow educators write their own list to see the similarities and the differences.

***A hundred years from now, It will not matter what my bank account was,
The sort of house I live in, or the kind of car I drove.
But the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child
- Forest Witcraft.***