

# CHILD CARE PROVIDER CONNECTION

www.thechildcareproviderconnection.com

Coming together is a beginning, Keeping together is a progress; Working together is success. ( Henry Ford )

## CHILD CARE PROVIDER FYI.....

### The Isolation Factor

One of the hardest things Home Child Care Providers face today is the feeling of isolation. Often, the case is that a provider is alone with five children in her home five days a week. The only adult contact comes from the arrivals and departures of the parents. Finding ways to fight the feeling of isolation is important if you want a lasting career in home child care. The remedy will not be the same for everyone; you must find something that works for you. Here are some ideas submitted by Home Child Care Providers that help them deal with the isolation factor:

### Field Trips

If you are a provider who takes the children in your program out into the community, try to connect with other Home Child Care Providers and plan a field trip together. This gets you out of the house and around other adults. The children in your program will love the experience and you will enjoy the companionship with other providers.

### E-mail Group

Connect with other Home Child Care Providers by e-mail. This can be done during the day while children are napping or during the evening when you have time to relax & reflect. Share programming ideas, concerns and ask questions. This is perhaps the quickest and easiest way to connect with others. This idea has proved effective especially for providers in rural areas.

### Networks

Take part in Home Child Care Networks. Small groups of providers often meet in each others homes or at a central location such as an Ontario Early Years Centre (OEYC) either once a month or once every other month. Contact your Child Care Provider Connection Coordinator to find out what network opportunities are available in your neighborhood.

### Professional Development

Attending workshops, conferences or other forms of professional development will put you directly in touch with others doing the same job. Your Child Care Provider Connection Coordinator can advise you of upcoming professional development.

### Community Activities

Call around to community agencies, such as the libraries and Ontario Early Years Centres, and find out what's being offered in your area within walking distance or perhaps would require a short drive or bus ride. Be sure to ask about playgroups, drop-in programs, story time, local activities in the park, and other special activities or events. Many of these are free or offered at a low cost.

### Choose a Hobby

Choose a hobby that gets you out of your house at least once a week; something that allows a little "you time".

yours in caring, donna

Submitted by: Ontario Early Years Centre: Brant

## An Informal Caregiver Is.....

In the province of Ontario, you may provide care for up to 5 children under 10 years of age in addition to your own children at any given time in your home.

**Example 1.** If you care for 1 infant plus 2 preschool children during the day, you may also

provide after-school care for 2 school-age children in addition to your own.

**Example 2.** If you provide care for 1 infant, 2 toddlers and 2 preschool children during the day, you are at your maximum number of children, hence you

cannot care for any additional school-age children after school. Should you wish to care for more than 5 children plus your own at any given time in your home, you would require to be licensed under the **Ontario Day Nurseries Act** and meet all of it's regulations

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SPRING 2009

### Frequently Used #'s

OEYC - Barrie 792-7878

OEYC -Bradford (905) 775-3039 x229

Public Library 728-1010

Poison Centre

1-800-461-1716

Simcoe County Health Unit  
721-7330

CHILD CARE PROVIDER  
CONNECTION Coordinator:

Donna Cherutti

734-0761

### Inside this issue:

Suggested Themes/  
Outings

Spring Resources

Professional Development  
Opportunities

Home Daycare  
Focus



Keeping the friendship & heart in home daycare

## SPRING THEME IDEAS

March	April	May
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lamb or Lion</li> <li>• Mardi Gras</li> <li>• Everything Green</li> <li>• Spring Is Here</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maple Syrup Time</li> <li>• Easter</li> <li>• Our Earth</li> <li>• Spring Flowers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mother's Day</li> <li>• Down on the Farm</li> <li>• Pond Life</li> <li>• Planting Time</li> </ul>

## SPRING OUTING IDEAS

March	April	May
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit a Weather Station</li> <li>• Visit a Party Store</li> <li>• Visit Springwater Provincial Park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit a Sugar Bush</li> <li>• Visit a Pet Store</li> <li>• Visit a Recycling Facility</li> <li>• Visit a Local Greenhouse</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit a Seniors Home</li> <li>• Visit a Local Farm</li> <li>• Visit the Pond at Heritage Park</li> <li>• Visit a Local Garden Centre</li> </ul>

### CONTACT NUMBERS FOR LOCAL OUTING IDEAS

City of Barrie: 1-705-739-4223 (Greenhouse)

A Channel TV: 1-705-734-3300 ( Weather Station)

Big Curve Acres: 1-705-487-2000

Shaw Maple Sugar Shack: 1-705-325-4347

Springwater Provincial Park: 1-705-728-7393

City of Barrie: 1-705-739-4219 (Recycling & Leaf & Yard Waste)

Don't forget to check out what's happening at your local Ontario Early Years Centre or on their website at [www.ontarioearlyyears.ca/oeyc/en/Location/Simcoe/Barrie-Simcoe-Bradford/centres.htm](http://www.ontarioearlyyears.ca/oeyc/en/Location/Simcoe/Barrie-Simcoe-Bradford/centres.htm) then click on calendar to see what workshops and programs are currently taking place.

The Barrie Public Library offers a drop-in Preschool Story Time at 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. on Friday mornings. Each session is 30 minutes and children must be accompanied by an adult. There is no cost or registration

### IMPORTANT C.C.P.C. DATES TO BOOKMARK

- *March 28, 2009: Childcare CPR/First Aid: registration deadline March 13, 2009*
- *April 4, 2009: Family Child Care Training Level 3 Online begins: registration deadline March 28, 2009*
- *May 8, 2009: Provider Appreciation Day, Walk Around the Bay: meet with your daycare group at the South Shore Community Centre at 9:30 am and proceed to the Centennial Beach Playground to play and socialize with fellow care providers.*

**To register for any of the above dates please contact Donna at 734-0761.**

# SPRING RESOURCES

**Circle Time Discussions:** (develop an awareness of weather conditions)

Talk about nice and wild weather. Flannel board activity using weather symbols. Introduce rhyme March is in like a lion and out like a lamb. Sort the weather symbols according to whether they are wild like a lion or nice like a lamb

**What Kind of Day?** (sing a portion every day when graphing weather)

The cold wind blows around; (Swing arms back and forth above head)

It makes a whistling sound. (Cup hand around ear)

Its a lion kind of day (Make scratching motions with hands)

When the cold wind blows around.

The sun is shining down; (Make a circle w/arms above head)

Its warming up the ground. (Touch the floor)

Its a lamb kind of day (Make lamb ears w/cupped hands)

When the sun is shining down.

The thunder booms and roars (Clap hands loudly)

It shakes the windows and the doors. (Wiggle body)

Its a lion kind of day (Make scratching motions with hands)

When the thunder booms and roars.

The sky is blue and bright; (shield eyes with hand)

A bike ride seems just right (Pretend to pedal bike)

Its a lamb kind of day (Make lamb ears w/ cupped hands)

When the sky is blue and bright.

## **Mardi Gras**

We make jester's hats with green, yellow and purple triangles (big) stapled on a sentence strip, so they kind of flop over.

We also make mardi gras masks. Class cuts out the mask from white construction paper or tag board and they decorate with feathers and sequins, whatever you have, staple a straw to the side for the holder. They turn out really cute. You could also dye macaroni purple, yellow and green and string on a necklace or use the same color pony beads. Make sure and show the kids where France is on the globe and what a Jester looks like and what they do.

## **St. Patrick's Day**

Paint a shamrock green.

Paper tear shamrocks- tear up green construction paper glue onto a precut shamrock.

Have the leprechauns visit while kids are outside or out of site- tip chairs over, spraed jewels around, have gold candy coins spread out. Have a note pretyped saying you have been visited by leprechauns. The kids love it and they help clean up.

Make a paper quilt of Irish/St Patrick Day things - take a large sheet of white paper and draw off squares let the children draw or make a picture from green things or rainbows, pots of gold or even leprechauns on squares. Have them each sign their quilt square. They can use crayons, pencils, markers or stickers, cloth or anything to make it like a quilt square.

My young children in my home daycare really enjoy making paper plate flyers. We do them for all occasions and holidays.

For St. Patrick's Day, you will need:

paper plate

green construction paper

shamrock template

green and white crepe streamers

glitter

glue

scissors (or precut shamrocks depending on child's age)

Simply glue the shamrock or shamrocks to the paper plate. Spread glue on shamrocks and apply glitter. Glue several 12 to 18 inch long streamers to the bottom of the plate. Attach a string to the top. Now, the best part:

take the kids outside and let them run around so they can see their streamers flying.

## **A Branch of Spring**

The first spring-like day, collect broken branches with buds on them and put them in a vase of water. What better way to bring a little springtime into your house (and maybe trigger a spring cleaning)?

## **Mobiles**

Since spring is typically a wet season have the kids make an umbrella mobile and hang blue raindrops from the umbrella or maybe a collage with a rainbow, raindrops, umbrella, ducks all those spring things. OH and don't forget spring flowers

## SPRING RESOURCES

### Maple Syrup & Snow Candy

Recipe

1 cup real maple syrup

1/4 cup salted butter

Fresh snow, vanilla ice cream, or shaved ice

Optional: Dill pickles and saltines

1. Heat the syrup and butter in a medium saucepan over medium-high heat, stirring to avoid a boil over. (Heating syrup is strictly a parent's job.)
2. The mixture is ready 6 to 7 minutes after it boils (220 to 234 degrees on a candy thermometer). It should stiffen when dripped onto a plate.
3. Remove from heat and cool for 2 minutes before pouring over the snow, ice cream, or ice. It cools so quickly that kids can taste it right away.
4. Finish by nibbling some pickles or saltines — a sugarhouse tradition "for getting taste buds back to normal," because sugar on snow is so sweet, says Martha Boisvert of the North Hadley Sugar Shack in Massachusetts.

### Easter Bonnet

Cut out the centre of 9" paper plates. Punch a hole on two sides opposite each other on each plate rim. Tie about an 18 inch piece of pastel color yarn through each hole. Gather and provide a variety of pastel color materials such as paper cup cake liners, tissue paper, punched paper shapes, crayons, feathers, foamies and ribbon. Decorate a paper plate rim bonnet then have an Easter Parade around your home or neighborhood.

### Egg Window Hangers

Use washable markers on flattened coffee filters. Color the entire surface of the filter. When done, fold in quarters and dip them individually into cold water just for an instant. Open the wet filters and lay them flat on a wire rack (like a baking cooling rack) to dry. Then cut out egg shapes, poke a small hole in the top of each one and thread a string for hanging.

### Easter Bunny Key

Make a craft foam key or use a child's teething ring key that has been painted with glue and sprinkled with glitter, then attach this poem.

### Dear Easter Bunny

We don't have a bunny door

for you to come in through.

And if you miss our house

I don't know what I'll do.

Mom says you work magic

And can use just any old key.

If we hang it outside

in a place you can see.

So I'm placing this old key

right beside our door.

Say my prayers and jump in bed

And I won't worry anymore.

### Litter Bug

Misc. Craft Items such as

Paper Towel Rolls

Stickers

Markers

Pipe Cleaners

String

Buttons

Glue

Scissors

Using your misc. craft supplies and your imagination create your own Litter Bug. Be sure to make it an ugly little bug. Use this bug to show that this is what you look like when you don't through your trash away.

### Popcorn Flowers

Supplies:

Popped Popcorn

Powder Tempera Paint

Green Construction Paper

Glue

Tag board or Cardboard

Pop popcorn. Put handfuls of popcorn in plastic baggies and add powdered tempura paint to each one. Shake well to distribute paint all over the popcorn Cut stems and leaves out of green construction paper and glue them to tag board. Glue on the colored popcorn to make spring flowers.

## SPRING RESOURCES

### **Mother's Day Gift Idea**

Cut out butterfly and mount on a contrasting piece of construction paper with the following poem:

This isn't just a Butterfly  
As you can plainly see.

I made it with my hand  
Which is a part of me.  
It comes with lots of Love  
Especially to say

I hope you have a very  
Happy Mother's Day

### **Make a Farm Book!**

Farmer, Farmer, What do you see?

For the total book you will need --- pages of construction paper of your choice. This will be the main pages to the book. Your child will create different farm animals and they will be placed on these pages. You will need to write at the TOP of each page...

Farmer, Farmer, What do you see?

At the BOTTOM of each page you will need to write...

I see a \_\_\_\_\_ looking at me. (Fill in the animal on the pages in blank)

You can connect these pages many different ways either in a binder, punch holes in paper and tie back with yarn or connect with rings. Choose what works best for you.

### **Farmer**

Print out Farmer page

Water colors

Let your child use the water colors to paint the picture of the farmer. I recommend that you take the black and brown out.

### **Pig**

Print out pig shape

Pink Chalk

Have your child color the pig with the pink chalk.

### **Cow**

Print out cow shape

Black washable stamp pad

Have your child place finger prints all over the cow for spots.

### **Hen/Chicken**

Print out hen/chicken shape

Q-Tips

Yellow Paint

Let your child paint the picture of the hen using the q-tips and the yellow paint.

\*Ask your child what the picture is, if they say hen call it a hen. If they say chicken call it a chicken.\*

### **Horse**

Print out the horse picture

Different shades of Brown and Tan Crayons AND Colored Pencils

Let your child enjoy using the different kinds of coloring instruments to color the horse and her mare. It is important to supply different things for our kids to use while they do their art projects. This we inspire them to be more creative.

### **Goat**

Print out the goat picture

Old Toothbrush

Gray Paint

Paint Smock

Have your child dip the toothbrush into gray paint next over the goat picture rub your finger on the toothbrush bristles. This will cause the paint to shuck off the toothbrush onto your goat picture.

Your child has now created many farm animals cut each one out and glue them to the construction paper you chose before you began. Add the wording to your book and create the book explained above.

### **Finger Print Frogs**

Need: finger paint paper, green finger paint, scissors

Directions: Cut a piece of finger paint paper into the shape of a Lilly pad. Have

the children pretend that their fingers are frogs jumping on the Lilly pad making frogs with there finger prints. Use a green marker to add frog legs and a black marker

### **Seed Collage**

Need: paper, seeds, glue

Directions: Make collages using all types of seeds and beans. This activity can also be used by cutting pictures from seed catalogs



## **Child Care First Aid & CPR**

**WHERE: ONTARIO EARLY YEARS CENTRE,  
VICTORIA VILLAGE  
72 ROSS ST., BARRIE**

**WHEN: SATURDAY, March 28, 2009**

**TIME: 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

**MINIMUM 10 & MAXIMUM OF 19 PAID PARTICIPANTS**  
*PER CLASS*

**COST: \$50.00 must be paid in advance**  
**(payment must be received by March 13, 2009) to guarantee your**  
**space**

Cheque payable to: Donna Cherutti  
Mail to:  
Donna Cherutti  
1771 George Johnston Road  
Box 80 Minesing, Ontario  
L0L 1Y0

**To register contact Donna at 734-0761**

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### Welcome to the 11th Annual Child Care Conference

Welcome to the 11th Annual C.H.A.N.G.E. Child Care Conference! We are pleased to offer more space for participants and more workshop choices for this year. Community Living Brant and the OEYC: Brant would like to extend our appreciation to the estate of Ralph Swanson whose generosity has sponsored the sessions for parents and child care providers supporting children with special needs.

### Take Advantage of Our Early Bird Rates

Registration postmarked **before** February 12, 2009

Early Bird 2 Day Fee \$110.00

Early Bird 1 Day Fee \$ 70.00

Registration postmarked **after** February 12, 2009

2 Day Fee \$130.00

1 Day Fee \$ 80.00

- Payment is due with registration.
- Registration and refund deadline is March 12, 2009. There will be no refund for the conference after the deadline date. You are welcome to substitute someone else in your place only upon notification to Ontario Early Years Centre: Brant and prior to the conference date.
- 2 day conference fees may be shared by 2 participants - one participant per day.
- Sharing conference space in one day is not permissible.
- Child care is not available; adult only conference.

### Friday & Saturday Agenda

#### **8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Registration Vendor Shopping Continental Breakfast**

*Continental Breakfast: Pastries, Fresh Fruit, Coffee/Tea/Juice*

#### **9:00 - 9:30 a.m. Welcome and Morning Address**

#### **9:30 - 11:45 a.m. Morning Workshops (15 min. break)**

#### **11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. Lunch & Vendor Shopping**

*Buffet Lunch: Relish tray, Chef Salad, Coleslaw, Marinated Vegetable Salad, Tomato/Cucumber Salad,*

*Potato Salad, Bread, Roast Chicken (Friday), Roast Beef (Saturday), Potatoes, Vegetable, Assorted Desserts, Coffee/Tea*

#### **1:15 - 3:30 p.m. Afternoon Workshops (15 min. break)**

**Lucky Loonie** - In addition to the vendor door prizes, we are going to have a —Lucky Loonie raffle. Tickets will be available to purchase at the registration table.

### Hotel Information

**Best Western Phone: 519-753-8651**

Use the Best Western phone number if you need to get a message to Ontario Early Years Centre: Brant staff on the day of the event, only.

### Accommodations

If you require accommodations, contact the Best Western, Brant Park Inn at 1-877-341-1234 and state that you are attending the Ontario Early Years Centre: Brant CHANGE Conference to get the special rate. A block of rooms are held for this conference until February 19, 2009 at an **additional cost of \$114.99** plus taxes for a 1- 4 occupancy standard room.

**Ontario Early Years Centre: Brant is Administered by : Community Living Brant Funded by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services**

**Please make cheque payable to OEYC: Brant and return registration form with payment to: Ontario Early Years Centre: Brant, 330 West St., Unit 1, Brantford, ON N3R 7V5**

**Ontario Early Years Centre: Brant** 330 West Street, Brantford, ON N3R 7V5  
Phone: 519-759-3833 or 1-888-332-4453  
Fax: 519-759-0173 Email: [oeycbrant@execulink.com](mailto:oeycbrant@execulink.com)  
Visit: [www.eycbrant.ca/oeyc.htm](http://www.eycbrant.ca/oeyc.htm)

## COME CELEBRATE WITH US!

*Friday, May 8, 2009 Is....*

### **CHILD CARE PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY**

Child Care Providers will be honored province wide by child care leaders, organizations, elected officials and, most importantly, parents on this special day.

Locally, *The Child Care Provider Connection* will commemorate this event with a walk along the bay.

Everyone is welcome to participate in the celebration.

If you would like to join us in this event, please meet at the South Shore Community Centre for **9:30 a.m. on Friday May 8, 2009**. From there, we will proceed with a walk along the bay that will conclude at the Centennial Beach Playground. Please note that no snacks are provided and that no rain date is scheduled.

Be sure to celebrate the childcare professional in your life by making this a memorable day.

- Get together with other parents to create a surprise
- Send flowers, cards or a handwritten note
- Bring her a special remembrance from your child
  - Bake some muffins
- Order lunch for your provider – and the children
  - Volunteer to help out
- Whatever you feel is appropriate!

Do not let this day go by without a special thank you to this person who is so important to your child and your family!

**The Child Care Provider Connection**

[www.thechildcareproviderconnection.com](http://www.thechildcareproviderconnection.com)