

CHILD CARE PROVIDER CONNECTION

www.thechildcareproviderconnection.com

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

CONNECTION NEWS....

Child Safety Seats Save Lives

Submitted by Affiliated Services for Children and Youth

Did you know, by law, drivers are responsible for ensuring passengers under 16 years of age are secured properly? It is mandatory for anyone transporting children to make sure they are properly secured in a child car seat or booster seat. This applies to all caregivers, from babysitters to grandparents. Failing to do so may result in a fine, plus two demerit points and a victim surcharge.

It is our responsibility to make sure all children are safe and secure, and buckled up correctly. All new car seats sold in Canada are safe, but if the seat does not fit properly in your vehicle, you could be compromising children's safety. Remember that the perfect seat is one that fits your vehicle, fits the child, and is used correctly 100% of the time.

In Ontario, child safety seats are required for all children up to the age of eight.

- Infants face the rear until 20 lbs. (9 kg), use away from any active air bag
- Toddlers face forward from 20 lbs. to 40 lbs. (9 kg - 18 kg), use with a tether strap
- Children use booster seats until they are 80 lbs. (36 kg), or stand 4' 9" (145 cm) tall or turn 8 years old, use with lap and shoulder belt
- Youth use the rear seat and seat belt over 80lbs. (36 kg.), 4' 9" tall or 8 years old

(until 13 years old, children are safer in a rear seat)

A child safety seat that is properly installed can reduce the risk of serious injury or death by as much as 75 percent.

In Canada, car crashes are the number one cause of death for children. Research shows that over 80% of child safety seats are not used properly. The most common errors include not tightening the seatbelt and harness enough, and not properly using a tether strap when required.

Important tips to keep children safe and secure...

- Use the right seat for the child's weight and development.
- Check the expiry date (found on the car seat or in the instruction booklet)
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for correct child car seat installation and use.
- Be sure to secure the child correctly! Make sure harness straps are snug and tight. Use a tether strap with a forward-facing child car seat. Keep children away from all active air bags. Children under 13 years of age are safest in the back seat.
- Use extreme caution when buying or using a pre-owned child car seat. Buy new, or from someone you know, and check it carefully.
- Make sure the car seat has:

the instruction booklet and all necessary hardware never been in a collision

a Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (CMVSS) sticker (American standards are not the same as Canadian, therefore, seats purchased in the USA are not approved in this country) not expired or is not older than 10 years (ensure if expiry date, the time frame will cover your needs- some seats may only be for a 6 year warranty)

no discoloured (stress) marks or cracks and the harness is not worn or torn.

make sure the seat is compatible with your vehicle.

Information for this article was collected from the Ministry of Transportation website. For more detailed information and tips about child car seat installation and safety, please contact: www.ontario.ca/smartlove or Ministry of Transportation - MTOINFO - 1 800 268-4686. Web: www.mto.gov.on.ca

For additional information on child car seat safety and car seat recalls, please contact: Transport Canada 1-800-333-0371

yours in caring, donna

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 its regulations

Ontario Ministry of Community Family & Children's Services:
737-1311

Volume 7 Issue 2

Winter 2009/2010

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

Contact: Donna Cherutti
734-0753

Inside this issue:

Suggested Themes/Outings

Winter/Holiday Theme
Resources

Professional Development
Opportunities

Home/Family Daycare Focus



Keeping the friendship & heart in home daycare

WINTER THEME IDEAS

December	January	February
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time to Decorate • Hanukkah • Christmas • Kwanza • It's a New Year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snow & Ice • Winter Sports • Winter Animals • Chinese New Year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground Hog Day • Valentine's Day • Family Day • Heart Health

WINTER OUTING IDEAS

December	January	February
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit Local Seniors Home • Simcoe County Museum • Local Mall to Visit Santa • Local Party Store 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Park for Sledding • Local Skating Rink • Springwater Park • Tour a local Chinese Food Restaurant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit Local Winter Carnival • Tour of Postal Station • Visit Local Seniors Home • Visit Local Fitness Centre

CONTACT NUMBERS FOR LOCAL OUTING IDEAS

City of Barrie: 1-705-726-4242

Barrie Postal Station: 1-705-728-2173

Springwater Provincial Park: 1-705-728-7393

Ontario Early Years: 705-792-7878

Simcoe County Museum: 1-705-728-3721

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 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 required.

This service is not available during the summer, but does resume in September.

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

- *Thursday, December 10, 2009: **C.C.P.C. Christmas Social**: meet at Kings Buffet 6:00 drinks , 7:00 dinner & social, to attend contact Donna by December 7, 2009, for reservation needs.*
- *Saturday, January 2, 2010: **Family Child Care Training Level 2 Online begins**: registration deadline December 26, 2010*

NEW !!!!!

- *Tuesday, January 5, 2010: **C.C.P.C. Network Meeting**: come on out to the OEYC from 7- 9 pm to socialize and share resource ideas and chat about our home daycare businesses needs, coffee and tea will be served donations of munchies greatly appreciated. This will become our regular time to meet on the first Tuesday of each month at the OEYC.*

To register or more info for any training/workshops or CCPC events please contact Donna

Phone: 705-734-0753

Email: childcareproviderconnection@sympatico.ca

website: www.thechildcareproviderconnection.com

WINTER RESOURCE IDEAS

Language:

Here's A Hill

Here's a hill,

(Tilt left arm so that it forms a hill.)

And here's a hill,

(Tilt right arm so that it forms a hill.)

All covered with snow.

(Raise hands above head. Bring down toward ground, wiggling fingers like falling snow.)

I'll jump on my sled,

(Pretend to jump on sled.)

And ZOOM! Down I'll go.

(Clap hands together, sliding one hand off the other. Continue downward motion.)



Math:

Play Memory using snow themed cards

(juice can lids work great with stickers)

Music:

Dance Like Snowflakes

(Sung to the tune of "Frere Jacques")

Dance like snowflakes. Dance like snowflakes.

In the air. In the air.

Whirling, twirling, snowflakes.

Whirling, twirling, snowflakes.

Here and there. Here and there.



Recipes: Snack Ideas

Snowman Soup Recipe

3 cups powdered sugar

1 cup nonfat dry milk

2 cups instant NesQuik

3/4 cup non dairy creamer

1 large (6 oz.) box instant chocolate pudding

Mix all ingredients in a large bowl and store in air tight containers. To enjoy, add 3 T to a cup of boiling hot water. (Use more or less mix depending upon size of mug and your taste buds).

Recipes: Craft Ideas

Icing Painting

Materials: icing sugar, water

Directions: Mix ingredient together. Let children fingerpaint. Great for toddlers or anyone who likes to eat paint!

Science

Children are naturally curious and have questioning minds. Why is it still dark when we get up in the morning? Explore different plants and animals during the winter season. Observe all but the evergreen trees are bare. Why are some animals flying south and some hibernating? The fur of some animals changes colour to camouflage them in the snow.

Crystal Balls

What you need: Bubble solution (or one part Joy or Dawn dishwashing liquid to 10 parts water), glycerin and sugar.

Bubble blowers, wire shaped into a circle, or try a straw with 4, 1 cm slits at the end.

What to do: On a cold day with light wind, form a bubble, but do not let it escape. As the bubble freezes, watch the formation of ice crystals. If you leave it long enough, it will form a crystal ball.

Sensory: Water Play

Arctic Ice Play

Fill the water table with comfortably warm water. Add several trays of ice cubes, one tray at a time, to the water. Ask your children to observe what happens to the water temperature and the ice cubes. Ask them to explain the difference between temperature of the water and the temperature of the ice cubes. Then let the children float toy boats through the ice cube "icebergs."

CHRISTMAS RESOURCE IDEAS

Art

Christmas Place Mats

Supplies: Construction Paper, Old Christmas Cards or Templates, Markers, Glitter, Glue, Contact Paper

Be creative and design a Christmas masterpiece out of old cards of crayons and markers. When finished, cover your creation with clear contact paper for a Christmas place mat!

Fine Motor

Make a stocking, or other Christmas related object into lacing cards. Make two of the same object for each child. Use laminated construction paper, hole punch and yarn.

Provide red and green pipe cleaners for the children to twist into various shapes to hang on the tree.

Games

Paint a large picture of Santa with his toy bag onto a piece of cardboard. Cut a hole at the top of the bag. Tape the picture in front of a trash can, making sure the hole at the tip of Santa's bag extends above the top of the can. Have the children throw bean bags into "Santa's bag".

Language

Here is the Chimney

Here is the chimney
(make a fist with thumb hid
inside)

Here is the top (place other palm over fist)

Open the lid (remove palm)

And out Santa will pop!

(pop out thumb)

Music: Songs

Reindeer Pokey

You put your antlers in, you put your antlers out
You put your antlers in, and you shake it all about
You do the reindeer pokey and you turn yourself around
That's what its all about!

(additional verses: hooves, red nose, fluffy tail,
body)

Recipes

Applesauce cinnamon ornaments

1 large jar applesauce (cheap kind from dollar store)

1 large container cinnamon

Mix together in a bowl until it is thick like dough. Roll out just like pie crust using cinnamon instead of flour. Use cookie cutters and a pencil to poke a hole in the top of the ornament. Let dry. Tie a ribbon through the hole to hang. They smell wonderful.

I give each child a round ball of dough and show them how to roll and cut.

Science

Have smelly jars with Christmas scents; such as cinnamon, vanilla, chocolate, peppermint, etc.

Sensory

Sensory Gift Box

Gift wrap a box, to use for your sensory activity. Use packing peanuts for "snow". Place small ornaments, packages, canes, etc; for children to find in the "snow".



A brand new year begins on January 1! The night before, December 31, is called New Year's Eve. On that night, there are celebrations, parties, and other special events to mark the end of one year and the beginning of the new one. Here are some ideas to help make your celebration a success!

Make Happy New Year Banners

Cut a very long piece of butcher paper. Use black paint to print the title "Happy New Year!" on it. Use assorted colors of paint, confetti, and art/collage materials to decorate the banner. Once the paint and glue dry, hang the banner across the room for everyone to see.



Make Homemade Confetti



Have lots of fun while developing small motor skills! Provide hole punches and assorted construction paper scraps. Punch, punch, punch to make piles of confetti. Your child can put a small amount of confetti in a zipper-top bag. On New Year's Eve your child can throw the confetti.

New Year's Shakers

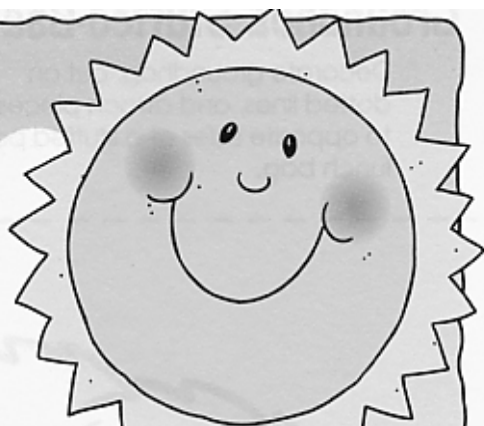
These snazzy shakers would be a great addition to your New Year's celebration! Trace a star on posterboard or lightweight cardboard. Then have your child follow the steps below.

1. Decorate a paper-towel roll with crayons or markers.
2. Trace the star template on a piece of construction paper and cut out.
3. Tape or glue the star to one end of the paper-towel roll.
4. Cut lengths of curling ribbon to tape onto the points of the star.

Then shake, shake, shake the shakers to bring in the new year!



According to legend, on February 2 the groundhog wakes up from his winter hibernation and comes out of his burrow. If the day is sunny, the groundhog sees his shadow and becomes frightened. He then returns to his burrow to sleep for six more weeks as a sign that winter will last for six more weeks. However, if the day is cloudy, the groundhog won't see his shadow and will not become frightened and return to his burrow, meaning spring will come early. The official groundhog of the United States is Punxsutawney Phil. He lives in a burrow on Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania.



Groundhog Day



Make Hand Shadows

Shine a bright light (flashlight or lamp) on a bare wall. Show your child how to hold his/her hands in front of the light to create shadows that resemble animals.

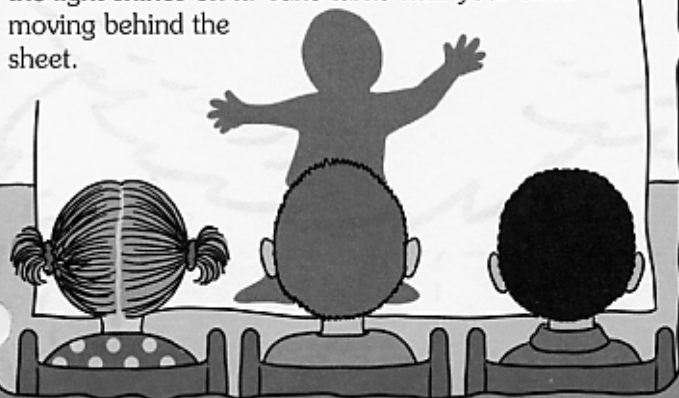
Search for Shadows!

Go outside and look for shadows. The best times to do this activity are early in the morning and late in the afternoon.



Body Shadows

Hang a white sheet in a doorway or from the ceiling. Place a bright light behind the sheet so that the light shines on it. Take turns with your child moving behind the sheet.



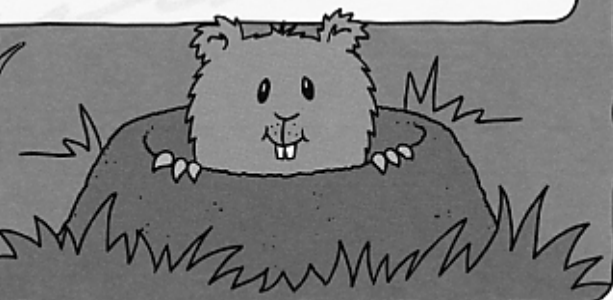
Groundhog, Groundhog

(tune: "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")

Groundhog, groundhog, don't be shy!
 Won't you come outside and spy?
 If your shadow you should see,
 Winter weather there will be.
 If your shadow isn't there,
 Spring is surely in the air.

Little Furry Groundhog

Little furry groundhog, sleeping in his hole.
 Safe and warm from the winter cold.
 One day in February, out he peeks
 And looks for his shadow. What does it mean?
 Winter will last for six more weeks!



Valentine's Day



You Are My Valentine

(tune: "You Are My Sunshine")

You are my valentine,
My special valentine.
You make me happy
All through the day.
You'll never know dear,
How much I love you.
Be my valentine
All through the day.



Fix The Broken Hearts



Cut an assortment of hearts from construction paper or wallpaper scraps. Then cut each heart into two pieces. Mix all the pieces in a box. Try to fix the broken hearts!



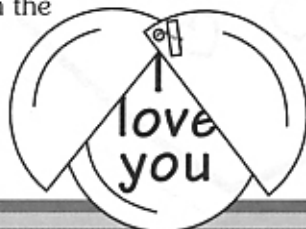
Heart-Shaped Cookies

Roll out refrigerated sugar cookie dough and cut into heart shapes. Bake according to the package directions. Decorate the cookies with pink frosting and cinnamon candies. Share them with someone you love!



Love Bug Cards

These valentines are as cute as a bug! Have your child dictate a short message for you to print on a large paper plate. Cut another large paper plate in half to make wings. To attach the wings, punch a small hole through all three sections of paper plates as shown. Tape a short piece of yarn near the hole on the back of the full paper plate, pull the yarn through the three holes, and then secure with another piece of tape. Attach a circle of construction paper for a head. Draw facial features with crayons or markers and add small sections of chenille stems to make antennae. To complete the cards, draw hearts on the love bug's wings or attach several small heart stickers.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ONLINE FAMILY CHILD CARE TRAINING

About F.C.C.T.

The Family Child Care Training Course is a collaboration of six provincial family daycare organization, two national organizations and a prominent Canadian university, supported by the Child Care Visions Program, HDRC. The course represents an important first for the family day care community. It is the first time that provincial associations representing both regulated and unregulated family child care sectors and national organizations have had an opportunity to work together on a project that will enhance, support and enable the delivery of training for family child care providers across Canada.

The Family Child Care Training Course will provide you, the caregiver, with an understanding of young children and the skills to work more effectively with them and their families. Consideration is also given to legal and business matters which serve to protect you from unnecessary expenses and liability.

Individual benefits:

- Strengthen your confidence as a family child care provider
- Teaches you the skills to operate your own business
- Prepare you to meet the care giving needs of families in your community

Family Child Care Training consists of three levels, each level contains 12 units of study. Each unit is designed to equate to approximately 3 hours of class time. Each of the assignments for evaluation requires an average of 2-4 hours of independent work. Completion of each level, with an evaluation component, would equate to approximately 60-80 hours of training.

Who was the program designed for?

Level 1 is intended for individuals who are currently, or who are interested in becoming providers of family child care in both the regulated and unregulated sectors. It is primarily intended for those who have had little or no previous training related to family child care. However, even experienced, trained caregivers will find the opportunity to review and reinforce their knowledge, and the sharing of experiences with others, helpful and worthwhile.

Level 2 is intended for individuals who are currently, or who are interested in becoming providers of family child care in both the regulated and unregulated sectors. It is primarily intended for those who have participated in an introductory level training program, (e.g. Level 1 of the Family Child Care Training Course, Step Ahead, Good Beginnings) and/or have experience as caregivers and participated in some training/professional development opportunities.

Level 3 is intended for individuals who are currently, or who are interested in becoming providers of family child care in both the regulated and unregulated sectors. It is primarily intended for those who have participated in an introductory level training program, (e.g., Level 1 and /or Level 2 of the Family Child Care Training Course, Step Ahead, Good Beginnings), and/or have had experience as caregivers and participated in some training/professional development opportunities.

About the training

You can take training from anywhere with access to the internet!! The training is also available for you to take any time of the day, whatever fits your schedule. Each unit allows you to go at your own pace within the time frame for completion. If you have a question or comment about the unit you can email your instructor! Or, if you'd like to discuss the unit with others you can use the Child Care Provider Connection member's chat forum.

The Child Care Provider Connection provides you with the verification you need. When you successfully complete all 3 Levels of training you will receive a printable certificate for your records.

Questions/Comments to Instructor will be replied to within 24 hours via email.

Access to Online Training Chat Forum is available 24/7 after registration to C.C.P.C. Message Board

Next Starting date for Online Training is Level 2 on January 2, 2010 *(must have completed Level 1 FCCT)*

If you are interested in registering for any of these free online training courses contact Donna at 734-0753 or by email at childcareproviderconnection@sympatico.ca

Level 1 is offered in **Sept.**, **Level 2** is offered in **Jan.**, and **Level 3** is offered in **April** each year.

HOME/FAMILY DAYCARE FOCUS

Caregiver Asks:

The Parent Handbook - Why Do I Need It and What Should It Include?

Submitted by Affiliated Services for Children and Youth

Your home child care is your business and, therefore, requires careful consideration to ensure it runs smoothly while maintaining positive relationships between yourself, the children and the families. Your Parent Handbook is one of the most effective communication tools to use with the parents to ensure and maintain a smooth business relationship. It provides parents with the information about how you run your program and the policies and procedures that they can review whenever needed. This is an important step to maintaining clear guidelines about expectations and ensuring the most consistent care for the children. Should a situation or conflict arise, being able to direct the parent to the Parent Handbook that they received will help them better understand their responsibilities. It also reinforces that the expectations of the policies and procedures apply to all families in your home childcare program.

A Parent Handbook should include but is not limited to the following:

- Your Philosophy - A written statement that outlines your beliefs pertaining to caring for children, values and behavior guidance practices.
- Your Program Plan (daily routine)
- Roles & Responsibilities of the Caregiver (you)
- Roles & Responsibilities of the Parent(s)
- Confidentiality Agreement
- Emergency Procedures
- Releasing the Child to Unknown Person(s)
- Illness Policy
- Administration of Medication
- Anaphylactic/Severe Allergy Policy
- Behavior Guidance Policy
- Arrival/Departure Procedures
- Snack & Lunch Routine
- Rest/Sleep Time Routine
- Toileting
- Outdoor/Indoor Play
- Payment/Receipt Procedures
- Late Pick-Up Policy
- Vacation Agreement
- Field Trips/Community Outings
- Parental Involvement
- Termination Policy
- No Smoking Policy
- Suspected Child Abuse Procedure
- Notification of Changes to Policy Handbook

The following are some additional items you may want to include in your parent package.

- Parent Handbook Agreement - a statement that parents sign and date to verify they have read and understand the information provided (this could be included in your contract of service with the parents)
- Several copies of your business cards
- The latest copy of your newsletter, if you have one
- Brochures e.g. the most recent safety information for parents (available free from Safe Kids Canada, Transport Canada)

Having a well-prepared parent handbook, along with good initial orientation meetings with your families, will be time well spent in the long run. The time you have committed to prepare families joining your home child care will go a long way to ensure that everyone is happy and satisfied with the child care arrangement!

To obtain more information, contact Child Care Provider Connection for a free copy of the Home Child Care Start-Up Kit.

**CHILD CARE PROVIDER CONNECTION
CHRISTMAS SOCIAL**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2009

6:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Kings Buffet: Dunlop Street, Barrie



AGENDA

6:00 pm

COCKTAILS

7:00 pm

DINNER

8:00 pm

**Donna's Christmas Story presenting
SECRET SANTA (gift exchange \$10 max)**

If you wish to attend please contact Donna at 734-0761

So I can arrange enough seating for the whole group