

# Childcaredirectory.com Quarterly News

Canadian Childcare  
Directory

January 2010

Issue 41

## Welcome to all our New Centres & Suppliers!



### Value of Play

You say that you love your children,  
And are concerned that they learn today,  
As am I, that's why I'm providing  
A variety of kinds of play.

You are asking what's the value  
Of having your children play?  
Your daughter's creating a tower,  
She may be a building someday.

You're asking me the value  
Of blocks and sand and clay,  
Your children are solving problems,  
They will use that skill every day.

You're saying that you don't want your son  
To play in that childish way  
He's learning to cuddle a doll  
He may be a father someday.

You're questioning the interest centres  
They just look like useless play.  
Your children are making choices,  
They'll be on their own someday.

You're worried your children aren't learning  
And later they'll have to pay  
They're learning a pattern of learning,  
For they'll be learners always.

-author unknown



## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We'd like to wish everyone a  
happy, healthy and prosperous  
New Year ahead!

This year, let' make 2010 a year  
to remember!

May it be peaceful, but eventful -  
with achievements and success  
in every part of your life!

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## Congratulations!

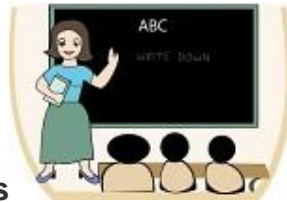
Congratulations to Amy from **Mississauga, ON!**  
Amy is this month's website survey winner! Amy has won a  
gift Certificate to Scholar's Choice!  
Congratulations and thanks for visiting  
[www.childcaredirectory.com](http://www.childcaredirectory.com).

### Canadian Childcare Directory

2178 Marc Lane  
Burlington, ON L7M 3W6  
Toll Free 1-877-319-8941

[www.childcaredirectory.com](http://www.childcaredirectory.com)  
[info@childcaredirectory.com](mailto:info@childcaredirectory.com)

# Supervisor's Corner



## The benefits of staff incentives

Incentives - such as performance-related bonuses - can help boost staff performance. The rewards usually relate to the achievement of certain goals, either personal, team or organizational, or a combination of all of these.

Perks are benefits given in addition to salary as a means of increasing satisfaction at work.

Pay is often the most important staff motivator and incentives and perks must not be seen as a substitute for a good pay scheme. However, they are not always expensive for businesses and some are tax free.

### Benefits to the business

An effective system of incentives could help:

- persuade staff to join your business
- retain existing staff
- increase staff motivation, morale and loyalty
- boost productivity
- link individual and business performance
- focus employees on achieving targets
- build teamwork

### Benefits to staff

Perks and incentives can form an attractive element of an employment package by:

- enhancing the quality of working life
- rewarding staff efforts
- adding value to the employment contract

### Staff Incentive Ideas

- ✓ Movie Tickets
- ✓ Thank you card- simple, but effective!
- ✓ Gift Certificate to book/educational store
- ✓ Extra 15 minute break
- ✓ Front parking spot for 1 week
- ✓ Lunch ordered in
- ✓ Box of chocolates
- ✓ Paid day off
- ✓ Flowers





## In The News

### Education advocates urge Ontario to turn mothballed schools into community hubs

#### EXCERPTS

An education advocacy group called on the province Monday to turn potential school closures into opportunities to deliver community services.

But Education Minister Kathleen Wynn disputed the number of schools the group said were slated to close.

At the same time Wynn said her ministry does not have a solid count of how many schools are on the chopping block, saying that's a moving number.

There are 172 Ontario schools scheduled for shutdown and 163 more under review, according to People for Education.

Instead of shutting them down, consideration should be given to keeping some open, and using the extra space to set up child, family and youth resources and programs, said the group's Executive Director Annie Kidder.

"Children and families are like an ecosystem, that health is connected to education, is connected to poverty, is connected to housing, that mental health is connected to youth engagement, physical health affects kids ability to succeed. All these things are connected but we still don't have a framework."

The report says as well as being used for their traditional purpose, schools could become community hubs providing services such as daycare, parenting centres, community kitchens, public libraries and health clinics.

"That's exactly what we're attempting to do ... we're doing what we can to make it clear to the system that we expect this to happen" said Wynn of the idea to make schools into a "hub" of services for children, families and youth.

Enrolment is down primarily because of declining birth rates and people moving, says Kidder.

Even the substantial number of immigrants calling the province home isn't enough to make up for the shortfall caused by people having fewer children.

The number of new students enrolling in Ontario's elementary schools has dropped by 15 per cent since 1997 and by 14 per cent in secondary schools since 2002, according to earlier figures released by the group.

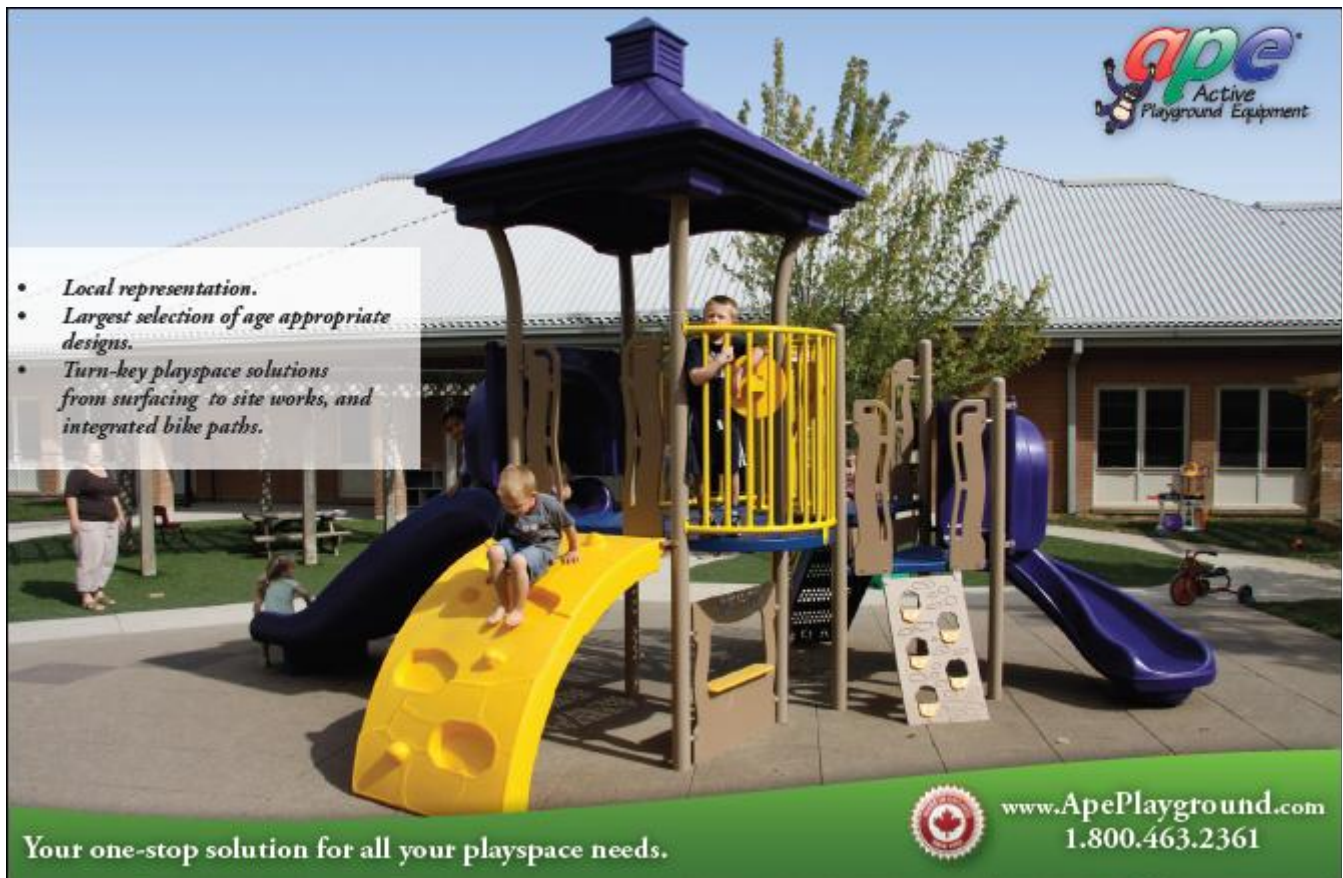
By 2012, there will be 140,000 fewer students than seven years ago, according to the new report.

It also pegs the average number of students in elementary schools at 310, with secondary schools averaging 812.

"We're moving to a system of larger and larger schools. It doesn't necessarily make educational sense though," says Kidder.

"These school closings actually end up changing the face and the look of Ontario. They affect much more than just the education of the students in those buildings, they affect whole communities and whole neighborhoods."


- reprinted from the Canadian Press



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- |                             |                                  |                               |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Allied Food Services        | Santa's Village Family Ent. Park |                               |
| Avron Foods                 | KBC Specialty Products           | Bayard Canada                 |
| Heart Starters Inc.         | LifeSaver101                     | Kids World Playground         |
| Lamontagne Fundraising      | TEAM Inc.                        | Active Playground Equipment   |
| Mad Science                 | Family Pastimes Games            | Heirloom Portraits Inc.       |
| Chappell Farms              | Scooter's Roller Palace          | Redan Publishing              |
| Micro-Access                | Rescue 7 Inc.                    | Crozier Agencies              |
| Lice Squad                  | Lakeview Montessori Supplies     |                               |
| St. John Ambulance          | Fundtastic Fundraising           | Yoga 4 Kids                   |
| Kidz Universe & Laser Town  | Playground Planners Inc.         | National Discount Fundraisers |
| Casa Loma                   | Personalized Books Ontario       | Webb's Royal York Bowl        |
| Tripemco Insurance Ltd.     | In Distress First Aid            | W.G. Osborne Inc.             |
| Letterland Canada           | Trade Management                 | Just Toys Educational         |
| Firepoint Technologies Inc. | Science Frontiers                | Lionel's Farm                 |
| Canadian Red Cross          |                                  |                               |



## Question of the month



### Last Newsletter:

“Does anyone have any suggestions with getting AND keeping the attention of 3 & 4 year olds?”

### Responses:

“I teach 3 and 4's in a combined class. I fill a spray bottle with water and call it "Magic Quiet Mist." When the kids get loud or antsy, I spray the mist into the air, it falls on them and they must be quiet because it's magic. They love this and most days it works. Some days if I used it like I needed, they would be soaking wet when their parents came to pick them up. I read about this somewhere - can't remember where it was - but thought it was a great idea!”

“You could also try speaking softly saying, "If you can hear me now, touch your nose. If you can hear me now, touch your...”

“A finger or hand puppet can help too. "Friends, I have someone special I want you to meet. Now we need to be very quiet so we don't scare him...”

### Thank you for your responses!

Please send us your questions and/or responses for the next newsletter:

Phone: 1-877-319-8941

E-mail: [info@childcaredirectory.com](mailto:info@childcaredirectory.com)

Mail: 2178 Marc Lane, Burlington, ON L7M 3W6



### Your Question for the Next Upcoming Newsletter:

“What opinions are out there regarding a weekly movie in the classroom? I've had some parents upset about our classroom having a movie time once a week. I would love some feedback!”



# Surfing the Net

## All-Purpose Preschool Program Comparison Chart from EdutainingKids.com

	Blue's Clues Preschool	Disney Learning Preschool	JumpStart Advanced Preschool	Reader Rabbit Preschool: (Sparkle Star Rescue)
Method	Story line: Players earn special items for Miss Marigold's mural by participating in 5 learning activities.	3 CD-ROMs, 2 of which are all-purpose preschool titles featuring Mickey Mouse and Winnie the Pooh. Plenty of activities.	Program contains skill-building activities focusing on the alphabet, numbers, counting, and sorting skills.	Adventure story line with educational activities along the way.
Pros	Rather engaging story line; Blue's Clues fans will enjoy interacting with the characters. Fun personalization features. Age-appropriate.	Economical, nice variety of activities, well-rounded package.	Fun graphics, cute characters.	Fun, bright graphics; fun storyline holds the interest of some children.
Cons	The activities are somewhat uninspired and not very original.	Not integrated (3 different CDs).	Rewards and animations are often superfluous. Irregular challenges (some too hard, some too easy).	Difficulty levels of activities inconsistent; doesn't cover as much basics as the others.
Best For	Fans of the show; children working at standard preschool level.	Those looking to add variety to their software collection.	Kids who appreciate an ample reward system, cute characters and variety.	Kids who enjoy an adventure format.
Our Rating	B-	A-	C	B+



### Canadian Red Cross

The Canadian Red Cross Child Care First Aid & CPR course gives parents and caregivers the skills and knowledge to create a safe environment for children. Our courses teach you how to deal with injuries and conditions, from simple to complex – with information in **easy-to-follow steps.**

To find a training provider or course in your area check our website:  
[www.redcross.ca/firstaid](http://www.redcross.ca/firstaid)  
 or call Red Cross at  
**1-877-356-3226.**

**Kids don't come with instruction manuals.**



**We can help you be prepared in case the road gets rough.**

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## In the Classroom

Shapes & patterns are always a great topic in and around the classroom. Here are a few ideas you can incorporate into your curriculum:

- Hunt for shapes throughout the room. Keep a list and/or have the children colour a picture of what they find
- Pass around a shape and have children look at it and feel it with eyes open and closed
- Have children hunt for shapes in a magazine and paste them on a page
- Have the children make objects using a variety of shapes
- Have ten cut outs of all different shapes and envelopes with that shape in them, kids place shapes into their corresponding envelopes
- Trace shapes, then color them in
- Place one of each shape on a magnetic board or flannel board. Have the children look through a basket of shapes and place a shape next to its corresponding match
- Select several sheets of paper and draw one large shape (can also use numerals). Set out 20 inch long shoelaces or string. Invite the children to create the shapes or numerals by placing the laces on top of the shape or numeral on the construction paper sheets.
- Use pieces of masking tape to make large outlines on the floor of a circle, square, triangle, etc. Let the children take turns walking, crawling or hopping around the edges of the shapes. Or ask the child to first identify the shape before walking around it.

### Pattern Activities:

- Look for patterns on leaves
- Working with simple patterns in their bead and block construction
- Building patterns with two colors of Unifix cubes or pattern blocks
- Constructing a pattern with two colors of napkins at snack time
- Clapping the rhythms of their name
- Coloring every second or fifth or tenth day on a calendar of days in school
- Exploring patterns in wallpaper
- Create patterns using sponge printing, collage materials, geometric shapes or wrapping or wall paper

