



Childcaredirectory.com Quarterly News

Canadian Childcare
Directory

May 2010

Issue 42



Welcome to all our New Centres & Suppliers!



'ABC' Writings
Children Are: Children Need:

Amazing, acknowledge them
Believable, trust them
Childlike, allow them
Divine, honor them
Energetic, nourish them
Fallible, embrace them
Gifts, treasure them
Here now, be with them
Innocent, delight with them
Joyful, appreciate them
Kindhearted, learn from them
Lovable, cherish them
Magical, fly with them
Noble, esteem them
Open minded, respect them
Precious, value them
Questioners, encourage them
Resourceful, support them
Spontaneous, enjoy them
Talented, believe in them
Unique, affirm them
Vulnerable, protect them
Whole, recognize them
Xtra special, celebrate them
Yearning, notice them
Zany, laugh with them

~author unknown

Canadian Childcare Directory Gets a Facelift.... Check out our new Site!

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new website!

A clean look, cool new features and easier for parents to navigate allowing them to start their search right from our home page!

- **Centres & Suppliers** – Now have immediate access to your web page/ad! With your own username and password you can make changes and additions as often as you like!
- **Centres & Suppliers** – Extra Advertising opportunity! For an additional cost, you can advertise your Centre or Service up front on our HOME page! Visit the website or call for details.
- **Centres** – You can now post your own Employment Ads directly on the site as often as you like...no extra cost!
- **Centres** – Pictures & map of your centre are now displayed on the same page as your centre info., making it easier for parents to capture all of your information!
- **Suppliers** – Ad listings now rotate per page view! You can also ensure Top page rotation when you add your company logo to your listing!

....and much more. Please visit our website and check out the new look of your web page/ad!

We are dedicated to ensuring that we provide your company's most accurate up-to-date information. If you have changes and prefer that we make them for you, we will continue to do so.

We would love your feedback...drop us a line at info@childcaredirectory.com.

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Canadian Childcare Directory

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www.childcaredirectory.com
info@childcaredirectory.com

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Arlene from **Toronto**, ON!
Arlene is this month's website survey winner! Arlene has won a gift Certificate to Scholar's Choice!
Congratulations and thanks for visiting
www.childcaredirectory.com.

Supervisor's Corner



Nurturing the Parent-Partnership

Parents have good ideas. They know their children well, have their best interests in mind, and have taken a giant leap of faith by placing them in your care. Listening to their collective voice is a wise thing to do. Together you can create a great environment for children.

Suggestion Box: A suggestion box gives shy parents an easy way to communicate, an unhappy parent a way to vent, a supportive parent an avenue for making helpful suggestions, and the happy parent a way to shower you with compliments. Place the box, index cards, and pencils in an easily accessible location, but out of the way—a place that assures some privacy and anonymity. Be sure to check the box frequently.

Parent Survey: A survey will tell you how your program meets the needs of your families. What do they like most about the program? Would they like extended or evening care? Make the survey short, conduct it yearly, and provide some type of incentive so that parents will return it.

Parent Advisory Council: Enlisting a group of helpful, concerned parents is one of the best ways to demonstrate that you want to create a true partnership. If you haven't done this before, it might be a little threatening at first. Parents may make suggestions that are impossible because of budget or policy constraints. That's when brainstorming collectively proves that many heads are better than one. If a suggestion comes up that can be delegated to a parent, don't hesitate, just do it!

Newsletters and Memos: No news is bad news. It's imperative to keep parents informed of what's happening. In newsletters and memos, everything can be shared from child rearing tips to the daily menu and field trip schedule. Even though some parents appear not to read what you've tirelessly written, think about the ones who do!

Parent Support Programs and Seminars: Learning more about brain and child development, literacy, children with special needs, the power of play, and a host of other topics are important to parents. Hosting a speaker and providing videotapes are excellent ways to share knowledge. To cut down on expenses and labor intensity, consider sponsoring such a seminar with another program or inviting parents to a staff development workshop.

Bulletin Boards and Picture Albums: Pictures are worth a thousand words. Telling about a teacher's hobbies is one thing, but posting a picture of Kelly, the pre-k teacher rock climbing in Colorado is even better. Place picture albums on a table depicting field trip excursions, story time, or the ice cream social. You may be able to feature a family every week or every month. Pass on information by posting interesting articles, reminders, and a calendar of events.

Lending Library or Resource Center: When it comes to their children, parents are consumers of information. The child care setting is an excellent place to house the best books for children along with handouts for parents, parenting books, and videos. Boxes filled with dramatic play props for creating offices, beauty salons, and grocery stores can provide welcome relief to families on a rainy weekend. Puppets, manipulatives, and games will also be appreciated.

Parents as Volunteers: Parents, grandparents, even older siblings are often willing and able volunteers. Working parents may not be available to assist in the classroom or chaperone a field trip but may be happy to repair books or cut out shapes for the flannel board. Make sure parents know that little things mean a lot, and resist the temptation to burden a helpful parent with too much volunteering. Have a brainstorming session to come up with all the things you could accomplish if you had the work force, and then create a list of things that need to be done and share it with your families.

In The News



Healthy habits start earlier than you think

The 2010 Report Card by Active Healthy Kids Canada marks the 6th annual overview of the many factors impacting the poor state of physical activity in this country.

To overcome a societal problem of this magnitude, all levels of government, non-governmental organizations, researchers, corporations and foundations need to be engaged in a collaborative effort to improve the physical activity profile of the country.

This year, Active Healthy Kids Canada is taking a closer look at an age group that has typically not received a great deal of attention in the realm of physical activity and health. Sadly, overweight and obesity are becoming more and more common among preschool-age children in Canada. Two independent reports from separate regions in Canada indicate that the prevalence of obesity in children aged 2 to 5 years is between 8 and 11%. National surveillance data show that 15.2% of 2- to 5-year-old children are overweight, and 6.3% are obese. The burgeoning obesity epidemic, coupled with the known challenges of treating obesity, has led to increased interest and efforts on the prevention of obesity. In addition, the early years have been identified as a critical period for growth and acquisition of motor skills that are needed to be physically active throughout life.

The Report Card starts off by highlighting the importance of physical activity among our nation's youngest population. It considers the outcomes associated with physical activity (noting psychosocial outcomes in particular this year) and explores recently released data on the declining fitness of the nation. The Report Card then transitions into an evaluation of 17 indicators across 5 broad areas of influence: physical activity levels, school, family and peers, community and the built environment, and policy and funding.

report

Posting date: 10 May 10

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Question of the month

Last 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!”

Responses:

“Once a week may be a bit excessive. I would do that once per month maybe or on a special occasion. I think parents do have a point. Television should be kept for the most part for home.”

“I don’t see the big deal. It’s only 2 hours of the sometimes 40 hour week that a child spends at daycare or more!”

“Kids need some ‘down’ time too! A movie helps at times to settle everyone down and give everyone a break!”

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

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



Your Question for the Next Upcoming Newsletter:

“I would like some advice. Our classroom has many teachers coming in/out of the classroom throughout the day (break/lunch coverage, part-timers, ect.). We are finding that some teachers are not following our schedule consistently and sometimes forgetting daily responsibilities such as medication, etc. Any ideas to help make these ‘teacher transitions’ easier would help!”

The Cowboy Boots



(Anyone who has ever dressed a child will love this one!)

A little boy in a daycare centre asked his teacher for help to get his cowboy boots on before going outside. She could see why...Even with her pulling and him pushing, the little boots still didn't want to go on. By the time they got the second boot on, she had worked up a sweat.

She almost cried when the little boy said, 'Teacher, they're on the wrong feet.' She looked, and sure enough, they were.

It wasn't any easier pulling the boots off than it was putting them on. She managed to keep her cool as together they worked to get the boots back on, this time on the right feet....He then announced, 'These aren't my boots.'

She bit her tongue rather than get right in his face and scream, 'Why didn't you say so?' like she wanted to. Once again, she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off his little feet. No sooner had they gotten the boots off when he said, 'They're my brother's boots. My mom made me wear 'em.'

Now she didn't know if she should laugh or cry, but, she mustered up what grace and courage she had left to wrestle the boots on his feet again. Helping him into his coat, she asked, 'Now, where are your mittens?'

He said, 'I stuffed 'em in the toes of my boots.'

Surfing the Net



<http://kids.scintro.com> - Preschool Science. Easy to navigate and good lessons for preschoolers.

<http://disney.go.com/mousehousejr/intro.html> - Disney's Blast is an online club for kids today, where children have fun and learn with Mickey Mouse and friends, create their own Disney magic with activities and paint centers!

<http://www.playkidsgames.com/> - Play Kids Games provides free online kids games that are both fun and educational. Aimed at ages pre-K through middle school, Play Kids Games offers kids a safe environment to discover their abilities and learn new skills with interactive and fun computer games. Our games build skills in math, logic, memory, vocabulary, alphabet, spelling, geography, computer skills, color identification, shape identification and other various problem solving.

<http://www.toddletoons.com/index.htm> - Twelve fun online games that allow young children to build language skills and to learn concepts such as cause and effect, big and little, etc.

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FUNTASTIC DEALS VISIT
 HISTORY ADVENTURE CULTURE
MUSKOKA ATTRACTIONS
 SCIENCE ENTERTAINMENT

In the Classroom



Summer Craft Ideas:



Nature Window

- ✚ Show some examples of the things you'd like the children to look for on their walk: small flowers, leaves, etc. Discourage them from choosing sticks or thick items (pinecones, etc) – explain that flat things will work better for your project.
- ✚ Take your group on a nature walk. Encourage them to gather interesting items, such as single petals, a dropped spray of pine needles, etc.
- ✚ Place in front of each child one sheet of clear, self-adhesive paper, sticky side up. Allow the children to place flowers and other items and arrange them as they'd like.\
- ✚ "Sandwich" the cover with another piece, side down. It's best if an adult does this.
- ✚ Trim any excess if needed.
- ✚ Use as a place mat or as a hanging nature window!
- ✚ You can use the sandwiching technique with many other items! "Capture" and display pieces of colored paper, glitter, sand, etc.



SUN CATCHERS

- Make a mixture Of 4 parts glue to 1 part water.
- Give your child a metal pie pan or baking pan and have him brush the glue mixture all over the bottom the pan.
- Then give him sheets of tissue paper to tear into small squares.
- Have him place the squares on top of the glue mixture, brushing glue on the tissue paper as needed to stick.
- When the bottom of the pan is completely covered with tissue paper, have him brush on a final layer of the glue mixture.
- Allow the tissue paper to dry overnight, then carefully peel the mosaics of tissue paper out of the pan.
- If you like you can cut the paper into a specific shape if you want.
- Punch a hole at the top of the sun catcher and thread a ribbon though it.
- Hang your child's Sun Catcher in a window.



3-D CACTUS

You will need green play dough and some flat toothpicks for this project.

- Give your children some green playdough.
- Show them pictures of Saguaro Cactus and let them roll a large chunk of dough into a body, then roll out two small arms to stick on.
- Let them break off the tips of six toothpicks and stick them into the dough to create spines.