



Childcaredirectory.com Newsletter

Canadian Childcare
Directory

September 2010

Issue 43

Welcome to all our New
Centres & Suppliers!



SONG: **Autumn-time is coming**
(sung to the tune of Frere Jacques)

Red leaves falling
Red leaves falling
On the ground
On the ground

Autumn-time is coming
Autumn-time is coming
All around
All around

Orange leaves falling
Orange leaves falling
On the ground
On the ground

Autumn-time is coming
Autumn-time is coming
All around
All around

Brown leaves scattered
Brown leaves scattered
On the ground
On the ground

Autumn-time is now here
Autumn-time is now here
All around
All around

Canadian Childcare Directory News & Updates....

HOME PAGE ADVERTISING – Limited time only! 25% off our home page advertising box. Advertise your Centre or Company on our home page at a discounted rate. Monthly terms only. Please inquire for more information.

Early Renewal Bonus – We are still giving away Scholar's Choice Gift Cards when your centre renews early. Upon receiving your Annual Renewal information, return your renewal payment by the given date and receive a free Scholar's choice gift card!

Passwords/Login – We hope everyone is enjoying our new feature of accessing your own Web page or Advertisement when needed.

*Please remember we are always able to reset your password/login for you if required.

Inside this issue:

Classroom Organization Influences behavior	2
Full-day Kindergarten Gets a Failing Grade	3
Suppliers & Services for your Centre	4
Question of the Month - Lunch time chaos!	5
Surfing the Net-Safety Websites for Kids	6
In the Classroom – Morning Moving Routines!	7



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Jane from **Oakville , Ontario!**
Jane is this month's website survey winner! Jane has won a gift Certificate to Scholar's Choice!
Congratulations and thank you for visiting
www.childcaredirectory.com.

Canadian Childcare Directory

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

www.childcaredirectory.com
info@childcaredirectory.com

Supervisor's Corner



Classroom Design and How it Influences Behavior

Early childhood classrooms serve as the physical environment for adults and young children for most of their waking hours. Although it is important for classrooms to be attractive to the eye, it is equally, if not more important, that they function effectively.

Your child care environment influences how you feel about yourself and your job, and how you as an early childhood professional relate to the children in your care. The children in your care experience the environment indirectly through interactions with you and directly through their own experience with the physical setting.

A Well-Organized Space

When space is well-organized, with open pathways that clearly lead to activities that offer enough to do, children manage on their own. They can move freely from one activity to another, giving the teacher an opportunity to attend to individual children according to their needs.

Space that is not well-organized creates problem areas. These include dead spaces that encourage wandering and unruly behavior, and pathways that lead nowhere or interfere with play already in progress. When space is poorly organized, children depend on the teacher for guidance and the teacher's behavior becomes directive.

When teachers spend a great deal of time directing group behavior, they have less time to assist individual children and children have fewer opportunities to participate in free play.

Successful classrooms make use of the space provided and provide the freedom of movement. According to the "Classroom Teacher's Survival Guide," "The physical arrangement of your classroom can influence your students' behavior and learning." Classroom design should be carefully mapped out prior to the first day of school. The teacher should consider the placement of desk, bookshelves, supplies, and work stations so that students can interact with each other and be productive learners.

Concerns

Some things to think about when providing an academically rich and safe learning environment are:

- Will the students feel comfortable?
- Is the classroom arrangement conducive to learning?
- Is the classroom safe?
- Can I monitor all the students at once?
- Can my students hear me?
- Do the students know what is expected of them?
- Is my classroom free of traffic jams?
- Is there flexibility in my seating?
- Are there enough work stations and special interest sites?
- Are the classroom rules posted where the class can see them?
- Do I have all the materials and supplies needed to effectively teach?

There is definitely more to classroom design than meets the eye. Take a second look at your classroom(s) and you may discover more can be done than you realized!



In The News



Full-day kindergarten in Ontario gets failing grade

Full-day kindergarten comes to three provinces this week, but Ontario has already earned a failing grade. Just 40 per cent of schools offering the new full-day sessions for four- and five-year-olds will include the additional early-morning and after-school care called for by the province's ambitious early learning policy.

"It's not where I would have liked to have seen it," Premier Dalton McGuinty said in an interview, adding that the shortfall is most likely a result of poor communication. School boards and parents weren't well informed about the availability of additional care, which is offered only at schools where enough pupils signed up.

That extra time is viewed by some experts as essential because it ensures that children stay in one place through the day, lining up with research that suggests transitions can disrupt a child's learning.

Changing views of how younger children develop lie behind a national move toward full-time kindergarten. Ontario's new Early Learning Program starts in some schools Tuesday and is supposed to be operating in every school in five years. British Columbia is introducing full-days for five-year-olds this fall in half its kindergarten classrooms and will complete the roll-out next year. Prince Edward Island is launching full-day kindergarten for all four-year-olds in every classroom this fall.

Ontario's program is the most ambitious because it includes four-year-olds as well as five-year-olds, and aims to bring before- and after-school care as well as year-round child care to every school.

But it will be years before there's conclusive evidence as to whether the investment of billions of dollars by the Ontario Liberal government in full-day kindergarten is justified. The earliest hints will come from standardized test scores in 2014, when the math, reading and writing skills of the first cohort of full-day senior kindergarten students are assessed.

But educational success at this young age is gauged less by literacy and numeracy than through developmental, psychological and social measures that are more complicated. They are hard to measure, but early learning experts say qualities like self-confidence, co-operation with peers and ability to self-regulate are formed in these first school years, with lifelong effects.

"The problem with the half-day program was that once you got started, the time was over," said Cheryl Einhorn, a kindergarten teacher at Westminster Public School in Thornhill, Ont., where kindergarten classes will be full-day this fall. "And so we'd just get started and the kids would get really excited about something or passionate about something and then you had to stop because it was time to go home."

Ms. Einhorn is a proponent of play-based learning, the catch-phrase for many teachers this fall. It forms the basis of the full-day kindergarten curriculum and holds that children learn better through active experience, when they're allowed to ask questions and explore the answers on their own.

"I think that giving us more time during the day will allow for more time to explore and more time to go back and talk about [what we're learning]," Ms. Einhorn said. "I'm thrilled - it's a dream come true."

But not everyone is with the program. Kate Tennier, a parent and former teacher, is part of grassroots movement called Kindergarten Credit, which supports the half-day model. She believes that play-based learning can happen more easily at home than in the confines of a crowded classroom, and that the Early Learning Program is too focused on economics and bolstering the work force.

Much discussion of the program has been focused on the price tag - Mr. McGuinty has already promised \$200-million for this school year, \$300-million for the second year, and \$245-million toward renovations and school additions - and on projected economic returns, including the boon of child care for working families and the long-term economic benefits of decreased dropout rates among students.

Kevin Milligan, an economics professor at the University of British Columbia, believes the benefits of all-day kindergarten are likely being overestimated. "There is really quite strong evidence that for families from very disadvantaged backgrounds there can be a benefit - in fact, some evidence is that it can be very big," he said.

View these and other Suppliers & Services for your Centre @
www.ChildcareDirectory.com

Santa's Village Family Ent. Park
Avron Foods
Heart Starters Inc.
TEAM Inc.
Mad Science
Crozier Agencies
St. John Ambulance
Playground Planners Inc.

In Distress First Aid
KBC Specialty Products
Kids World Playground
Active Playground Equipment
Scooter's Roller Palace
Rescue 7 Inc
Fundtastic Fundraising
Bayard Presse Canada Inc

Letterland Canada
Firepoint Technologies Inc.
WHIMZ
Canadian Red Cross
W.G. Osborne Inc
Parent Care Network Inc.
Creature Quest
Messy Hands Art Studio Bus



- Local Representation
- Top Manufacturers
- Custom Designs
- Free consultation
- Wet and Dry Play
- Over **30** combined years of experience in the **"FUN"** industry

We are serious about play, so call the Pro's!

PlaygroundPlanners
Professional Playground Consultants
"it's easy being green"



www.playgroundplanners.com
613-828-5502 or 1-800-265-9953



Question of the month

Last 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!

Responses:

A - Have a Schedule Clearly posted on your wall along with responsibilities for 'supply' teachers.

A -Have a checklist posted on a wall nearby that the teachers have to check and sign once these things are done, including administering medications, etc.

A - We have a sign in sheet for teachers when they enter the room, whereby they must read our routine and take note of our special needs children (medications/allergies, etc.)

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 have a 3-4 year old classroom, and lunch time is chaos! There is way too much going on! Things are spilling, kids are playing around, some are crying , some refuse to eat! Any suggestions would be great to make this time more tolerable would be very welcomed!!”



Once in a while, a product comes along that makes life so much easier. Sometimes it is the simplest of creations, but it changes the way things are done. Think of Post-It notes. A simple thing that changed the world.

- - - Crayola Beginnings Washable Triangular Crayons, the perfect crayons for kids learning to write and draw. The triangular shape guides little fingers toward a tripod grip to help develop writing skills. Washable Triangular Crayons, designed to wash off walls with just warm water and a sponge, are formulated to deliver the bright colors and high quality you expect from Crayola. Just think, no more crayons rolling on the floor. These wonders stay where they are placed.



Surfing the Net

Here are a few SAFETY websites children will enjoy visiting, while learning to be safe in the world around them!

www.firepoint.ca/udrawescape - Children will enjoy making a fire escape plan for their home!

<http://www.homesafetygame.com/homesafetygame.html> - Use the arrow keys to move your character through the rooms. You have to find the biggest hazard in each room (one in each of six rooms). Press the space bar when you are close to the hazard. Each time you play the game, you will see different hazards to spot.

<http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/hazardhunter/hazardhunter/default.html> - In this game, you have to spot five hazards in each room, and five hazards in the garden. You can try out a quiz to check your knowledge as well.

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/corpaffr/educ/gamejeu/wheeroue/wheeroue.shtml> - The Food Safety Wheel Game is designed to test your knowledge about food safety. The questions focus on the 4 key food safety messages: **Clean** - wash hands and surfaces often; **Cook** - cook foods to proper temperatures; **Chill** - refrigerate or freeze promptly; and **Separate** - don't cross contaminate.

<http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/childps/PlayItSafeWeb/pages/index.htm> - Traffic Safety Fun site! Games include: Dot to dots, word scramble, what's wrong with this picture, etc..



MESSY HANDS is now offering Art Classes at your school--with or without the **MESSY HANDS** Art Bus! Curriculum based programs for all ages! Book Today! P. 905-303-MESS (6377) E. info@messyhands.com www.messyhands.com



In the Classroom

Morning Moving Routines!

Get the blood flowin' and brains growin' when you begin each day with some physical activity! The start of a new school year is a great time to establish a daily morning routine that gets kids up on their feet and out of their seats. Here are some ideas for active starts to the school day:

Super Hero Exercises

With a little imagination and your verbal cues, children will be smiling and moving as they perform each exercise. Count to ten aloud as you do each one with the children.

Superman Stretch: children attempt to keep their balance while up on their tiptoes with arms stretched over their heads. (Imagine: "Superman is flying!")

Batman Bounce: children jump in place with feet together 10 times as they count aloud to ten. (Imagine: "Batman is jumping into his Batmobile!")

Robin Run: children run in place as they count to 10 aloud. (Imagine: "Robin is running to catch up with Batman. Wait for me Batman!")

Spiderman Swivel: children stand with feet shoulder width apart. Twist from side to side with arms and hands moving across the body. (Imagine: "Spiderman is throwing his web!")

Wonder Woman Windmills: children stand in with feet shoulder width apart and arms are stretched out to the side. Use the hand of one side of the body to touch the foot on the opposite side. To help children perform this movement say, "Turn, touch toes, and up!" "Up!" means body is in a standing tall position. Repeat instructions several times with children using opposite hands to touch opposite toes. (Imagine: "Wonder Woman is getting her Magic Lasso!")

The As-If Game

Have the children act out each sentence:

1. Jump in place as if.... you are popcorn popping
2. Walk forward as if... you are walking through glue
3. Jog in place as if... a big, scary bear is chasing you
4. Shake your body as if... you are a wet dog
5. Move your feet on the floor as if... you are ice skating
6. Reach up as if... grabbing balloons out of the air
7. March in place and play the drums as if... you are in a marching band
8. Swim as if... you are being chased by a shark
9. Move your arms as if... you were juggling scarves

