

Our Healthy Child Development programs provide children with an inclusive early learning experience in a safe and supportive play-based environment.



IN THIS ISSUE

Early musical education program fosters creativity

Parent volunteers spruce up outdoor play space

Extra support eases the transition to kindergarten

Longtime volunteer brightens Ontario Early Years Centre

WELCOME!



Carolee Crooks
Director
Healthy Child Development

Building bridges between home and school starts with making families feel welcome and comfortable in the place where their children spend their days. Our program environment is enriched when parents and teachers have the opportunity to work together and serve as mutual resources.

We encourage parents to drop by the classroom, for a few minutes or as long as you like, and observe. Our quarterly Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) is an opportunity to participate in an exciting and valuable forum for exchange of information, ideas and support for the childcare staff and program.

EARLY MUSICAL EDUCATION FOSTERS SELF-CONFIDENCE AND CREATIVITY IN CHILDREN



Maryke Sluis currently provides the weekly music program at Fraser Mustard Early Learning Centre.

“Music is an intelligence and should be nurtured like math, language or reading,” says Maryke Sluis, early childhood music educator/teacher at Fraser Mustard Early Learning Centre.

The goal of Sluis’ musical education program is to develop each child’s relationship to music—much like reading—through regular, interactive and developmentally appropriate musical activities. The program accommodates all children, regardless of their physical, language or executive functioning challenges, helping them to build closer connections with their peers, and their caregivers.

“The goal is not performance, it’s participation,” Sluis says. “Music is a non-threatening way for children to find their voice in their own time. And through repeated exposure, children develop confidence and a greater ability to express themselves.”

Children in the Centre’s infant, toddler and pre-school classrooms all take part in a carefully curated curriculum that introduces and expands on the common musical elements including beat, rhythm, dynamics, tempo and pitch. The curriculum progresses with the presentation of a more extensive repertoire of songs as the children advance through the Centre.

Benefits of an early childhood music program include:

- Development of cognitive, social and emotional skills
- Increase in emotional attachment with caregivers and peers sharing in the music experience
- Cultivation of individual expression through movement and vocalization
- Building a sense of connection, belonging, engagement, expression and well-being
- Nurturing language, motor coordination, memory, listening and self-regulation skills

We plan to expand this music program to our other Early Learning Centres.

Tickle rhyme families can do at home

Pok Pok Pok!! (make a little chicken sound to initiate the play)

Chicken in the barnyard (“peck” with your index finger on child’s open palm)

Staying out of trouble

Along came a turkey and (“walk” your fingers up child’s arm)

Gobble, gobble, gobble! (tickle!)



PARENT VOLUNTEERS DESIGN AND BUILD MUCH-NEEDED STORAGE BENCHES FOR OUTDOOR PLAY SPACE



Thanks to our wonderful parent volunteers, the storage benches have increased the functionality of the outdoor play space.

Located along the Queensway near the Sunnyside Boardwalk, CDI's Windermere Early Learning Centre provides childcare for up to 57 children ranging from a few months old to age four.

As part of the Parent Advisory Committee, parent volunteers designed and built much-needed seating/activity benches with storage spaces for toys. The construction team of past and present parents includes Costas, Paul, Jerry, David and Audry, who worked on the weekends—rain or shine—to make this happen.

We also extend a big thank you to Downtown Lumber, which provided building materials at low cost, for their contribution to this project.

“The pre-school playground benches are now completed, and we hope to finish the toddler and infant benches this spring,” says April Chang, Centre Director. “We are still looking for a few more parent volunteers to help us with the infant/toddler benches.”

Families are important partners at CDI's Early Learning Centres. We welcome parent feedback and parent involvement through voluntary participation on each of the Centre's Parent Advisory Committees.



FEATURED PROGRAM: START RIGHT SOCIAL SKILLS



The transition to kindergarten can be difficult, and some children may need a little extra support. Child Development Institute (CDI) launched Start Right Social Skills to do just that: the program helps children in kindergarten who are having difficulty adjusting to the everyday demands of their kindergarten classroom.

“The program is for children who are shy or withdrawn, have trouble making new friends or entering into play, have a hard time following directions or are feeling overwhelmed with the larger kindergarten setting,” says Kathy Missetich, Community Child Worker with CDI.

Over the course of 10 weeks, groups of three to five children participate in “play and learn” sessions during school hours. The group is a positive and fun environment for the young students to build friendships.

“By providing structured opportunities for healthy social, emotional and behavioural learning, children develop the confidence and skills to deal more effectively with challenges in the classroom, playground and at home,” Kathy says.

The primary program goal is to improve the social skills and future performance of the young children. The program also incorporates SNAP® (Stop Now and Plan), CDI's self-control and problem-solving model, to address early signs of possible behavioural or social issues.

“We work with children to help them strengthen the skills they already have in place,” says Cindy Chan, Community Child Worker with CDI. “We focus on relationship-building and problem-solving so that when the children enter into higher grades, they are better able to handle more difficult situations.”

Start Right Social Skills is offered in partnership with the Toronto District School Board, and is available in over 20 schools across Toronto. Children are referred to this program by their teachers with parental consent.

CONTACT US*

To learn more about our programs, contact us at 416-603-1827 or visit childdevelop.ca

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بمعارے پروگرام کے بارے میں مزید جاننے کے لیے ہم سے 416-603-1827 پر رابطہ کریں یا پھر ہماری ویب سائٹ childdevelop.ca پر جائیں

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برای اطلاعات بیشتر در مورد برنامه های ما به شماره تلفون ۴۱۶-۶۰۳-۱۸۲۷ یا ما به تماس شوید و یا به سایت اینترنتی ما به آدرس childdevelop.ca مراجعه نمایید.

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*Services available in English only

A LIFETIME OF GIVING BACK



Rosanna Balascio began volunteering at the Parkdale-High Park Ontario Early Years Centre 13 years ago.

Each week, Rosanna takes the TTC Wheel-Trans from her west end neighbourhood to help out with the OEYC's arts and crafts activities and participate in singing and reading with families.

"I like making art and reading stories," Rosanna says, as she carefully cleans up the craft table in advance of story time.

The Centre serves as a community hub in The Junction for local families with children ages 0-6. With free programming available on a drop-in basis six days a week, it is an essential destination for families seeking parenting support and a close connection with others in the neighbourhood.

The Centre welcomes volunteers from all backgrounds, some of whom have special needs like Rosanna, who experiences reduced mobility.

"We all have capacity, and we can help in different ways," says Fernando Lusvarghi, Volunteer Coordinator with the Centre. "Rosanna has had a positive impact on more people over the years than she can ever imagine."

ONTARIO EARLY YEARS CENTRE

We operate the Parkdale-High Park Ontario Early Years Centre (OEYC) in partnership with West Neighbourhood House. Parents and children can access a range of free services and programs and are connected to other community supports.

Parkdale-High Park Ontario Early Years Centre

2918 Dundas St. West
Toronto, ON M6P 1Y8
416-762-3700
oeyc@childdevelop.ca

EARLY LEARNING CENTRES

We operate five Early Learning Centres across the city of Toronto, providing licensed childcare for children. We also provide school-age care at our Annex location, and a before-and-after kindergarten program at our Fraser Mustard location.

Annex Early Learning Centre

161 Madison Avenue
Toronto, ON M5R 2S6
416-924-0545
annex@childdevelop.ca

Fraser Mustard Early Learning Centre

82 Thorncliffe Park Drive
Toronto, ON M4H 1K3
416-421-7676
frasermustard@childdevelop.ca

Parkdale Early Learning Centre

119 Close Avenue
Toronto, ON M6K 2V2
416-535-6116
parkdale@childdevelop.ca

Wellesley Early Learning Centre

495 Sherbourne Street
Toronto, ON M4X 1K7
416-928-9900
wellesley@childdevelop.ca

Windermere Early Learning Centre

103 The Queensway
Toronto, ON M6S 5B3
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