

Over 40 years of  
caring and  
sharing!



# SPRING/SUMMER NEWETTER

## Executive Director's Report...

JUNE 2017

### Early Years and Child Care Policy Framework

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 the renewed 'Early Years and Child Care Policy Framework' was released by the Ministry of Education. The next five years will prove to be an exciting time for childcare in Ontario.

The framework sets out initiatives that promise a high-quality and more accessible early years and childcare system.

Over the past year the province has been collecting feedback from the Child Care community and families through surveys and town hall meetings. The province heard loud and clear that:

- ◆ Families face challenges accessing and affording licensed child care
- ◆ More fee subsidies are needed
- ◆ Families are not aware of the programs available in their communities
- ◆ Programs need to be more responsive to different cultures, languages and work schedules
- ◆ Families value high quality programs and the early childhood educators who care for their children

**The Province is committed to build an accessible and affordable high quality childcare system through seven areas of action.**

**1. Increasing Access** - The Province is committed to making it easier for Families to access high-quality early years programs and licensed child care spaces in their communities

- \* Committing 1.6 billion dollars over the next five years for capital funding
- \* Prioritizing the growth of not-for-profit child care

**2. Increased Affordability** - Child Care will be more affordable for our families

- \* Increasing funding for fee subsidies
- \* Transforming the child care system to make it more affordable for families

### Board of Directors

### Management Team

Chris Russell – President  
Donna Galloway—Vice President  
Laura Rollwag—Treasurer  
Kimberly Dunbar– Secretary

Karolyn Hardy-Brown  
Julie Smith-Kay  
Rhonda Harrison  
Denise Huntley

#### Moira Vance—Executive Director

\* Delia Senra                      \* June Klatt  
\* Kelly Lewis                      \* Joceline Johnston  
\* Tara Cahorn                      \* Sue Liczkowski  
\* Shelley Ballantine              \* Robin Finch  
\* Michelle Vezina                 \* Alicia Adams

## Executive Director's Report Continued...

**3. Early Year Workforce Strategy** - A work force strategy will be formed to ensure child care programming is delivered by engaged and knowledgeable educators.

- \* Committing to continue the \$2.00 per hour wage enhancement for educators
- \* Providing ongoing support for professional development, including two provincially funded professional learning days per year

**4. Defining Quality in the Early Years** - Program Quality will be a focus for the province

- \* Engage with early years partners to co-develop a definition of quality
- \* Will develop a mechanism for measuring program quality

**5. Promoting Inclusion of Early Years** - Families will find it easier to receive support for their child with special needs

- \* Develop a renewed approach for children with special needs in the early years

**6. Outcomes and Measurement Strategy** - An outcome and measurement strategy will be developed that will assure families that the early years and childcare system is working

- \* Develop and release an annual report beginning in September 2017
- \* Develop a five year outcome and measurement strategy to track progress and measure quality

**7. Increasing Public Awareness** - The province is committed to increase public awareness by allowing families easy access to information about the programs and services in their community

- \* Create an easily access online hub for families to understand and participate in the Ontario early years and childcare programs and services

We will keep families informed of any additional information through newsletters and emails.

Please see below the link for the Early Years and Child Care Policy Framework:

[http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/renewed\\_early\\_years\\_child\\_care\\_policy\\_framework\\_en.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/renewed_early_years_child_care_policy_framework_en.pdf)

*Maira Vance*

Executive Director

[mvance@trentchildcare.com](mailto:mvance@trentchildcare.com)

## Family Satisfaction Survey Results

Below is a quick overview of the results from the Family Satisfaction Survey which was completed earlier this year. A full report will follow but we want to let families know how the organization fared as a whole.

<b>ORGANIZATION &amp; ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>% of Parents that Agree or Strongly Agree</b>
Our organization promotes and demonstrates high quality early learning and care	99%
Administration staff is responsive to communications in a timely fashion. (Executive Director & Executive Assistant)	99%
Program Supervisor is responsive to communications in a timely fashion.	100%
Receive sufficient information sharing through newsletters, written notices &/ or posted notices.	94%
Parents receive information they need about programs/policies at the site orientation tour. A detailed Parent Handbook, which outlines the Organization's policies, is provided upon enrollment.	98%

<b>EARLY LEARNING AND CARE PROGRAMS:</b>	
Programs are developmentally appropriate, stimulating, enjoyable and fun.	100%
Programs have a good balance of structured/unstructured activities throughout the day; opportunities for choices are provided.	100%
Program plans are readily available for viewing.	88%
My child is being well prepared to continue his/her social development and education.	100%

<b>CENTRE TEACHERS</b>	
Quality interactions and communications between adults and children are observed.	99%
Quality interactions and communications between adults and parents/guardians are experienced.	97%
Quality interactions and communications between teachers are observed.	99%
Appropriate and supportive behaviour management techniques are observed.	100%
Support is given to children and families during morning drop-off & evening pick-up (made to feel welcome; help with separation).	98%
Teachers and Administrators demonstrate genuine concern for the well-being of the children.	100%

NUTRITION	
Menus are posted for parents to read.	95%
The menu offers a good selection from all food groups. What is offered is nutritious and interesting	98%
The menu is rotated on a regular basis and adjustments are made seasonally.	97%
When a family provides menu items for a child with food allergies, the adults ensure the items are served appropriately	43% but 56% did not answer

PHYSICAL SPACE	
Children are provided with a safe and well-maintained space.	99%
Sufficient number of program supplies, toys, games and equipment are provided.	100%
Activity areas are inviting, stimulating, warm and friendly.	100%
The outdoor play space and equipment are well kept and encourage active play	95%
The indoor and outdoor play spaces are monitored to ensure safety at all times.	99%

PARENT INVOLVEMENT	
Opportunities are available for parent involvement: invitation to Annual General Meeting; opportunity to join Board of Directors; assisting in fundraising etc.	91%
The hours of operation meet your needs -7:30a.m -6:00p.m.	92%
<b>How satisfied with the overall program are you?</b>	<b>99%</b>



## Gardening with Children and Our Playground Enhancements



You have likely been noticing some lovely changes happening in and around your child's child care centre. All of our full day programs at Trent Child Care have been very busy since January, implementing Environmental changes both indoors and outdoors on our playgrounds.

In April, some of our educators from Bridgenorth, Campus and St Luke's, attended a dinner hosted by NOURISH at the Peterborough Public Health. NOURISH is part of a broad movement which seeks to give food more importance in our communities, our economy and our everyday lives. They are firmly rooted in the long tradition of community food initiatives for which our region is well known for. NOURISH funds community Food Access programs such as: "Just Food", "Nourish Market Dollars", and "Peterborough Gleams". They also fund Cooking Programs; "Market Meals", "Cooking out of the Box", "Come Cook with Us", "Collective Kitchens" and "A Taste of Nourish".

At the NOURISH dinner in April, several Schools and Child Care Programs presented what their educators and children have been doing in regards to gardening and encouraging children eating more Fruits and Vegetables. St Luke's was asked to present what their Educators have been doing in the garden, and Kelly put on a very lovely Presentation and wasn't very nervous at all.

From all of the wonderful presentations from our community, our educators gathered many good ideas and were inspired to go back to their respective programs and get the "gardens growing".

At Campus, children and educators have been busy planting seedlings to prepare for their outdoor vegetable gardens. They have also planted some perennial flowers and have been enjoying some recent playground changes. The playgrounds now have some new grass, and an outdoor tipi made from large sticks children and educators have gathered from the forest behind the fence. Our Educators have also reused the old swing set that has been taken down to create a lovely little balance beam for the children. Children have also been very busy painting rocks to decorate their beautiful and growing garden areas. Children and educators alike have been truly enjoying these changes, and are busy thinking and dreaming of more wonderful things to come in the next few months....

At Bridgenorth the educators brought back many inspirational ideas and have been busy planting seedlings in the programs and helping children "helping their gardens grow". Bridgenorth has had some amazing playground renovations and educators and children have been thriving in this new environment, building on their vision for their yard that started many years ago. Educators have attended more workshops with NOURISH to gain even more inspiration for their gardens. A wonderful workshop was held in which educators could get "hands on experience" building a raised flower bed.

Sandra was an active participant in this project and learned how to effectively utilize a “screw drill” (which is actually nothing like a regular drill). Way to “grow”, Sandra! These skills will definitely come in handy when Bridgenorth is able to build their own raised garden beds for their children and families.

At St Luke’s, the Educators have been inspired to “Grow” our current gardens and build a “Spaghetti Garden” which we can nurture and harvest in the Fall. Our bounty will help us make a lovely spaghetti dinner for our families in September. The children have started their seedlings indoors, and families and friends are transplanting the seeds in our new garden beds on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. St Luke’s will also be painting “family” rocks and leaving them in our gardens for children to visit throughout the day. Our educators and children have been enjoying our garden areas and we look forward to watching everything come into...”fruition” in the next few months.

Recently, the NOURISH program has been able to offer early learning programs professional workshops about the importance of gardening and cooking with children. As well, they have provided participants with “Market Dollars” for buying locally grown Fresh Produce at our downtown market. NOURISH also has provided our programs with gift certificates to local hardware stores and grocery stores, which will enable our programs to purchase items to support our gardening and cooking with children while in our programs.

On May 30<sup>th</sup>, NOURISH also provided a wonderful learning opportunity (as well as all the materials needed), to build a raised garden bed at our St Luke’s location. At this event, families and educators from our community were invited to a hands-on workshop in which “tips and tricks” for raised garden beds were shared. We truly appreciate all of the knowledge and support that the NOURISH programs have offered to all of the children and educators at TRENT CHILD CARE. Thank you xo!!

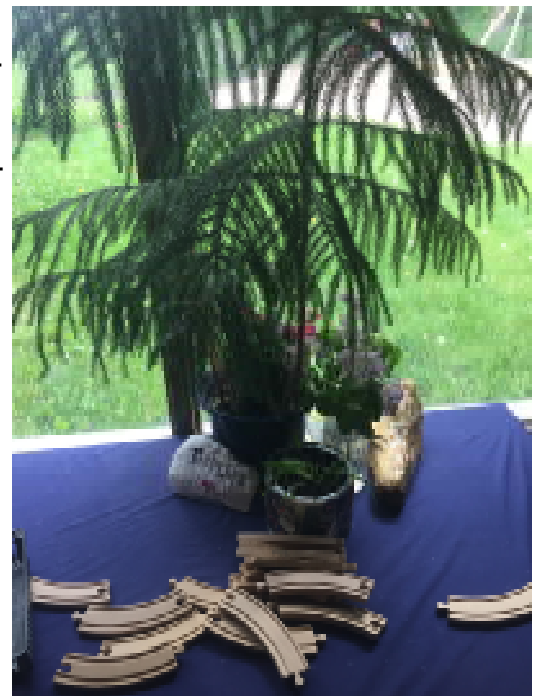


## Trent Child Care -Newsletter – Environmental Changes

**Emergent curriculum.... Emergent curriculum** is a philosophy of teaching and way of planning **curriculum** that focuses on being responsive to **children's** interests to create meaningful learning experiences. It can be practiced and provided for children at any age.

At Trent Child Care as an Organization, we are Emerging with environmental changes in our indoor playrooms. We are making gradual changes to our rooms to create a home-like setting for the children so that they feel welcomed and comfortable. For example, educators have displayed some items in a neutral coloring, they have displayed plants in some play rooms, small lamps for comfort lighting, neutral cozy carpets, pictures of families are up throughout our centers along with some of our children's pictures are also framed and in black and white and/or neutral colours. As part of a homelike setting and feel educators offer to the children the opportunity to enjoy family meal time and snack time where they can discuss nutrition during meal time and allow the children to fully participate in setting the table for snack time as well as the opportunity to serve their peers while they socialize. In our environments, we have always had soft music playing at sleep time, additionally we offer a variety of music during our free play time that the children are interested in. This helps promote self-regulation and ease the fast paced transitional times.

Within our home like environments children are observed, educators reflect on their observations, plan daily experiences and provide families with a minimum of documentation two times per month. We are beginning to really recognize if a child is passionate about an interest we know to dig deeper and to explore schemas. For example, if a toddler aged 18 months is continually interested in moving items from place to place in his/her environment. We could explore the schema transporting. We could then invite our toddler aged child to water the plants in the room that need to stay hydrated, or another option is to use a wheelbarrow outside to move sand, both experiences would cultivate the schema of transporting.



# Campus Outdoor Spaces





## Dietary and Nutrition

Our organization has focused on two initiatives most recently. Water does Wonders and New beginning. Both of these programs will assist us in adding additional practices to our current menu plans as well as help encourage further knowledge to both educators and children.

With 'Water does Wonders' we were able to promote and incorporate water into our daily conversations and activities while educating children on the benefits of drinking water.

Water= no sugar, no artificial flavouring, no preservatives, no calories, no caffeine, and it is FREE

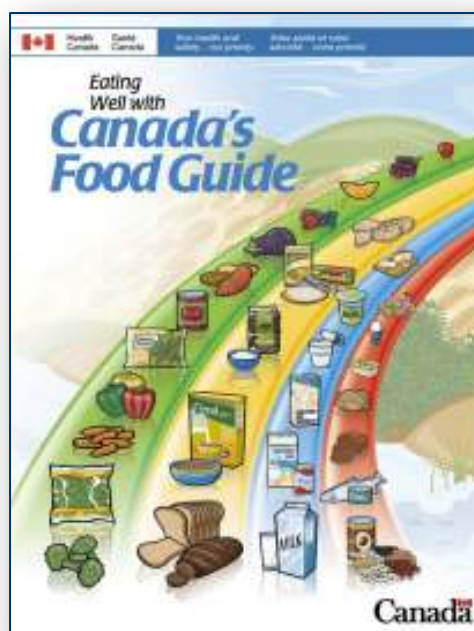
### Dietary Changes and Menu

The management team at Trent Child Care have been working with a representative from the Public Health Unit to assist us in our goal to offer a consistent menu throughout our organization. After listening to your recommendations and the recommendations of our educators, our focus will be to continue to offer healthy choices and to continue to use Canada's Food Guide.

Our meal times are very important to us. We feel that it is an integral part of our day to connect with children and it offers opportunities to have various conversations with the children. At Trent Child Care we believe in a family style setting when having our meals. This means we will sit with the children at the same table and share in the same food that is being served. This style of meal setting helps encourage conversation and creates important bonding moments.

Starting in September, our menus at all our centers will be on a six week rotation. They will offer the same choices in foods and our focus will continue to offer a variety from each of the four food groups.

- ⇒ Fruits and Vegetables
- ⇒ Grains
- ⇒ Milk and alternatives
- ⇒ Meat and alternatives



## Fundraising

This past year our fundraising has been a huge success. With the help of our families we raised over \$11,000.00. This year we also put over \$12,000.00 from our fundraising account into our programs.

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your support as we upgrade our outdoor play areas and supply new toys and equipment to our programs.



TCC is once again offering our summer camp programs.

The Camp Programs are for children 4/5 years & 6 to 12 years.

Each week there will be lots of activities and exciting fun!

Come for a week or come for the whole summer...

\$201.00 for the week!

**July 4 to September 1 – 7:00a.m. to 6:00p.m. in Bridgenorth**

**July 4 to August 30—7:30 to 6:00p.m. at Monsignor O'Donoghue**

For those interested in the **Peterborough Camp** (at Monsignor O'Donoghue site), please contact Kelly Lewis at [klewis@trentchildcare.com](mailto:klewis@trentchildcare.com) or call Kelly 705-750-0281 x 1.

For those interested in the **Bridgenorth Camp**, please contact Delia Senra at [dsenra@trentchildcare.com](mailto:dsenra@trentchildcare.com) or call Delia 705-292-5471 x 21.



**Spaces are limited!!**

## Dates to Remember



Monday, July 3 —Canada Day!

Monday, August 7—Civic Holiday!

Monday, September 4— Labour Day!

All TCC programs are closed on these dates.

## Reminder...

You are still able to sign up for the  
Pre-Authorized Debit plan.

If you are interested in signing up or  
would like more information, please  
contact Shelley at 705-775-0045 x 1 or  
[sballantine@trentchildcare.com](mailto:sballantine@trentchildcare.com)



### **Trent Child Care Admin Office has moved to:**

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Twitter: [@TrentChildCare](https://twitter.com/TrentChildCare)