

CCSNRP

Child Care Special
Needs Resourcing
Partnership

What's New in Special Needs Resourcing

Volume 1 Issue 4

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Community Living Cambridge



Developmental Services
Access Centre



Elmira District Community
Living



family and children's services
of the Waterloo region



Centre for Child Development



Improving the lives of children
and youth in Waterloo



Region of Waterloo
SOCIAL SERVICES

Raising the Bar Comes to CCSNRP Agencies!

On April 22, 2009 the official launch of the Raising the Bar for the Child Care Special Needs Resourcing Partnership Agencies was held! The organizations will now be active participants in this important quality endeavor in our region.

Watch for Some New Looks!

The SNAP website is currently being revamped to more closely reflect the look of both the brochure and this e- bulletin will be active shortly. It will still be accessed at www.ccsnap.com!

Also—watch for a new CCSNRP logo— coming soon!

A Word from CCSNR Partner Elmira District Community Living(with contributions from Karen Marche)

Elmira District Community Living (EDCL) is a not-for-profit organization that receives funding through the province as well as the Region of Waterloo— Children's Services and through charitable events and donations. It supports over 100 individuals and their families in the Townships of Woolwich, Wellesley and Mapleton and has been in operation for over 40 years. EDCL's vision of the future for the individuals served is one of Choice, Opportunity and Community Participation.

The services provided through EDCL include vocational, lifestyle options, residential, preschool resource program transportation,

network, recreation, supported employment and community partnerships. The 36th annual Charity Quilt Auction in support of EDCL will take place on October 31/09. It's a wonderful opportunity to see in action the many staff and volunteers that support this agency. EDCL is also one of the recipients of the proceeds from the annual Elmira Maple Syrup Festival held each spring.



"My Son/Daughter has been Diagnosed with Autism!" (by Karen Marche)

If you haven't heard those words yet from a parent in your program chances are you will, probably sooner than later. Autism spectrum disorders have been increasing in our community and communities across the world. But what exactly is autism? Autism is defined as qualitative impairments in social interactions and communication, along with restricted repetitive and stereotyped patterns of behavior, interests, and activities. The Durham Chapter of Autism Ontario has developed "Red Flags for Autism" that depicts warning signs of autism in early childhood. (Continued on pg.2...)

SNAP Fast Facts

DID YOU KNOW...

- Referrals to the SPOT program can only be made by child care programs ?
- Parents can self- refer their child to SNAP for other services?

“My son/daughter has been diagnosed with autism!”

continued from pg.1

There is a printable version on the website: <http://www.autismontario.com/client/aso/ao.nsf/Durham/Red+Flags+for+Autism?OpenDocument>

The diagnosis of autism is usually made by the family pediatrician or perhaps a psychometric associate or psychologist. After the diagnosis a family will be presented with a number of referral options and will probably do their own research of options as well. An Early Learning and Child Care Centre placement is often one of the recommendations for families. It provides a natural environment to promote communication, social interaction and a wide variety of play opportunities. As an ECE you may be part of a network of people who will be involved with a family. This network may include a speech therapist, occupational therapist, IBI therapist, and resource consultant but not limited to this group.

Each child with autism will have their own unique presentation. The very definition of autism tells us that there will be difficulties with communication and social skills. A child with autism may communicate through verbal words, echolalia (repetition of words or phrases), signs or gestures, a picture exchange communication system (PECS) or behaviour. Receptive communication may be an issue as well. Visuals (objects, pictures, words) and gestures can be used to promote understanding as well as a structured predictable routine. A speech therapist and resource consultant will have many ideas and suggestions on how to use visuals in your classroom. Socially, children with autism may need prompting and guidance. There are many strategies to promote social skills including but not limited to modeling, role play, social stories, and shadowing. A speech therapist and resource consultant can also provide ideas and suggestions to promote social development specific to the child in your program. The Toronto Association for Community Living has a website that will allow you to print off visuals and has tips about social skill development and behavioural support.

<http://www.connectability.ca/connectability/pages/index.html>

It is estimated that up to 85% of children diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder will also have difficulty with processing sensory information. Many children with autism may process sensory information differently than the average person. Any or all of the senses may be affected to varying degrees. An occupational therapist will assess a child's sensory system and suggest ways to help a child make sense of their world. A child having difficulty with their proprioceptive sense may have difficulty knowing where their body is in space. These are the children that crash into things and may love big hugs. A child who covers their ears frequently may have more acute hearing and noises may hurt their ears. The key to discovering sensory needs is observation. Meeting a child's sensory needs is an essential step in promoting a child's development. Dr. Jean Ayres book, Sensory Integration and the Child continues after 30 years to be the cornerstone for understanding sensory processing.

Locally in Waterloo Region there are a number of organizations that provide services or support for children with autism and their families in their early years. *This is not an exhaustive list but some examples:*

KidsAbility – Speech therapy, Occupational therapy, Physiotherapy, Autism Services

Community Living Cambridge– Resource Consultation

KW Habilitation Services – Resource Consultation, Kinesiology

Elmira District Community Living – Resource Consultation

KidsLINK – Resource Consultation, Resource Library, Respite Services

Extend a Family – Respite Services

Developmental Services Access Centre – Assessment, Service Co-ordination

Cambridge Autism Society

Waterloo Autism Society

For more information on the Child Care Special Needs Resourcing Partnership or to make a referral to the Child Care Special Needs Access Point please contact:

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Upcoming Professional Development

- **Symposium on Assessment and Evaluation in the Early Years with Dr. Charles Pascal**

Thursday May 14th in Burlington
Call Aimee at 905-890-1010 ext.2613 for information

