



Child Care Special Needs  
Resourcing Partnership

# What's New in Special Needs Resourcing

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Community Living Cambridge



Developmental Services  
Access Centre



Elmira District Community  
Living



Region of Waterloo  
SOCIAL SERVICES

By the time you read this newsletter we will be well on our way to the holiday season and approaching the end of the year 2009!

The SNAP program is experiencing it's busiest time of the year. This always seems to be a heightened time for referrals as children settle into programs and staff begin to identify needs. As always, our Early Learning and Child Care Community is doing a good job of ensuring the needs of these most important people are being met!

If you haven't already received it, watch for a mailing to all ELCC programs! It includes some information about a new service model between resource consultants from KWHS and KidsAbility's ECE Outreach program. In addition, it includes a new Child Care SNAP consent form which we hope will be simpler for parents and ELCC providers. It requires a signature only- no parent initials!! Please dispose of any old forms once the new ones arrive!

## A Word From Child Care Subsidy- Region of Waterloo (by Sheri Philips ,Manger of Child Care Subsidy)

Child Care Subsidy provides valuable support to parents by helping with the cost of licensed child care so that they can:

- o Go to work
- o Attend school or a training program
- o Place their child with special/social needs in a licensed program.

Although some parents struggle with applying for a benefit, the process is much easier and less restrictive than it has been in the past. Financial eligibility is verified by reviewing line 236 on the Federal Notice of Assessment. For parents, it is less intrusive when the focus is on how much they earn, rather than on how they choose to spend their money.

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## SNAP Fast Facts

### DID YOU KNOW...

- There is a brand new SNAP consent form?
- All old SNAP consent forms should be discarded

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This has helped to make the process less intimidating. As well, the Child Care Subsidy team knows how difficult this can be for parents and works hard to establish relationships and make families feel comfortable. It's not unusual to see team members crowded around a stroller admiring a little one or helping a parent calm an upset child. Children are welcome to attend appointments with their parents and there are toys about for busy hands and creative minds.

Families whose net income is \$20,000 or less are eligible for full subsidy, which means they do not pay towards the cost of child care. Families whose net income is above \$20,000 pay a percentage of the income above \$20,000 towards the cost of child care.

A family is financially ineligible when their portion is greater than the cost of child care.

As a resource when considering whether to apply, families can access the [Child Care Subsidy Calculator](#) through the Social Services/Children's Services website page, to help them decide if they want to apply. The Child Care Subsidy Calculator, using approximate information, shows a family that they may or may not be eligible. It is important to remember eligibility can only be confirmed when the Income Test is completed in an interview with a Child Care Subsidy Caseworker. In 2008, 2136 applications were completed.



Child Care Subsidy is an important support to children with a developmental delay, physical delay or a social need. Children with special or social needs benefit from

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## What is the Role of CCSNRP and SNAP in Special Needs Child Care Subsidy Applications?

Resource Consultants, Therapists and the SNAP Coordinator can all play a role in supporting families in an application for child care subsidy based on a social or special need.

Often children with a social or special need attend a ELCC program in order to receive exposure to age appropriate peers and the structure and stimulation of a preschool program, while benefiting from consultation from therapists or resource consultants when needed. Regional Subsidy offers special subsidy for such children, and the applications need to be supported by another professional.

The therapist, resource consultant or SNAP coordinator are often the ones supporting these applications, based on

their knowledge of the needs of the child.

Subsidy agreements based on special or social need are renewable each year. In some cases the organization that initially supported the application is no longer involved, yet the child still benefits from placement in an ELCC setting. It is part of the SNAP Coordinator's role to evaluate needs and assist with these reapplications when necessary.



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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licensed program as well as role modelling and positive interaction. In 2008, Child Care Subsidy received 536 referrals on behalf of children with special or social needs.

*"Because of daycare my child has made noticeable improvements. My child has Autism and needed the extra structure and socialization, I could not have been able to do this without subsidy".*

Children's Services enters into purchase of service agreements with Early Learning and Child Care programs in order to secure placements on behalf of subsidized children. In addition, the Region operates 5 children's centres and a large home child care program that is licensed for up to 525 caregivers, all available to subsidized families. Caseworkers provide parents with information about what to look for in a child care setting – it's about supporting parents in choosing a program that best meets their needs and the needs of their children. In 2008, the program served an average of 2600 children each month.

Since 2003, Children's Services has entered into agreements with recreation programs on behalf of subsidized children, including Camp Clover, Shades Mill and Bingeman's. This means that many families who could not afford to send their child to camp while they were working or going to school during the summer, can now do so.

Child Care Subsidy ensures that more children have access to licensed child care programs. Research supports that quality early learning opportunities are good for children and parents see the positive impacts firsthand:

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## Upcoming Professional Development Events

- Watch for kidsLINK's new **Professional Development Calendar** for 2010— you can now register online and there is no deposit necessary!!
- MARK YOUR CALENDARS...  
**Conference for Early Learning and Child Care— Where it All Begins**  
March 19 & 20, 2010 at Conestoga College in Kitchener  
**Watch for registration to open in January 2010!**

## Current Research- Links

- **Report: Responding to Children's Needs: Important Developmental Milestones in Young Children** This report from the Centre's of Excellence for Early Childhood Development describes the significant milestones during a child's first five years of life. It was prompted by research conducted by the Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research which found that while most parents had a good knowledge of physical milestones such as walking they were less familiar with intellectual and social stages. The article can be downloaded from: <http://tinyurl.com/yhr5cac>