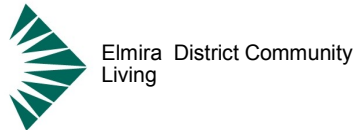
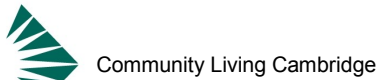




What's New in Special Needs Resourcing

Volume 2 Issue 8
November 2010



Welcome to the November e- bulletin. As is typical for this time of year, SNAP referrals are coming in “fast and furious”! Early Learning and Child Care Programs continue to excel at identifying children who are in need of some intervention.

This month I am happy to feature an article on the Preschool Pal Program at kidsLINK!

Urban Myths of the Preschool Pal Program

(by Selena Koprnicky– Volunteer Coordinator-kidsLINK)

In my time here at kidsLINK as the Volunteer Coordinator, I have heard many myths about the Preschool Pal Program. I wanted to take a moment to separate the myths from the facts.

Myth #1 – kidsLINK has a Preschool Pal Program?

True – Yes, we have a Preschool Pal Program. This program places volunteers in licensed early learning and child care centres to work one on one or with a small group of children who would benefit



from some extra support. This service has been available for over 10 years! Volunteers commit to a minimum of 2 – 4 hours per week for 3 months. Volunteers are interviewed, provide 3 references and a Police Records Check with Vulnerable Sector screening. Volunteers also provide the results of a TB Skin test as well as other immunization dates. (continued on page 2)



Region of Waterloo
SOCIAL SERVICES

SNAP Fast Facts

DID YOU KNOW...

- The SNAP Coordinator assists some families in applying for Special Needs Child Care Subsidy?
- The SNAP Coordinator is available to meet with new staff or anyone who may have questions about the SNAP process?

(continued from page 1)

Recruitment is done through both Boards of Education, the Colleges and Universities, community fairs, newspaper and website ads, Volunteer Action Centres, corporate contacts as well as word of mouth.

Myth #2 – Volunteers are not skilled

False- Many of the volunteers have a general knowledge of child development as well as some pertinent experience. More and more, volunteers are coming to kidsLINK with great skills, experiences and backgrounds such as early childhood education, elementary school or sign language. Others have experience working with children with behaviour, intellectual or developmental challenges.

Myth #3 – Volunteers cannot work one on one with a child.

False – The Preschool Pal position was originally created for the purpose of providing direct support to a child in licensed care. The volunteer may work in conjunction with classroom staff and a Resource Consultant to provide the best support possible for the child. In fact, many of the volunteers request to be matched with a child.

Myth #4 – We will lose our Enhanced Staffing if we get a volunteer.

False–A Preschool Pal volunteer is meant to compliment, not replace, a centre's enhanced staff. The volunteer may start her shift when the enhanced staff leaves for the day thereby extending the support provided to the centre. A volunteer might also go into the centre on a day that enhanced staffing is not scheduled.

Myth #5 – Volunteers just take up space in the program. What can they do?

False – There are many things a volunteer can do to enhance a program. A volunteer is there to assist children with their daily activities, help build skills and increase a child's self esteem. A volunteer may help at group time, creative time, outdoor time and during other routines and transitions during the day. Other ideas for utilizing volunteers include: co-facilitating a social skills group or circle or planning activities based on the children's interests.

Myth #6 – Volunteers don't care about helping. They just want to get their hours in for school.

False– Most volunteers actually *want* to work with children. Many of these volunteers generously donate their time, enthusiasm and experiences with the children and staff in their placements. Some people volunteer to gain experience working with children, some want to challenge themselves and others want to give back to their community. kidsLINK's Preschool Pal volunteers have been known to return for second and third placements.

Myth #7 – Only certain centres receive volunteers.

False – All licensed centres in the Region of Waterloo are eligible for volunteer service. The distribution of volunteers is based on a few factors - program's needs/child's needs, volunteer's skills/interests/experience, centre location and the requested day/time a volunteer is needed. (continued on page 3)

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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CCSNAP Coordinator
c/o kidsLINK—Early
Intervention Services
1770 King St. E., Suite 5
Kitchener, ON N2G 2P1

519-741-0076
(fax) 519-741-1123
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We're on the Web
www.ccsnap.com



(continued from page 2)

The Preschool Pal Program is available throughout the year. This program provides volunteers for licensed Early Learning and Child Care Centres in the Region of Waterloo. If you would like more information about the program or would like to request a volunteer, please contact Selena by email at skoprnicky@kidsLINKcares.com or by phone at 519-741-1122 ext. 233.

Upcoming Professional Development Events

FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME DISORDER (FASD) Forum 2010

Monday November 15, 2010 at Bingeman's

This is a community wide educational forum for learning about the diagnosis of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder, the physicians perspective, and some strategies for supporting the journey of these children.

For more information, or to register, contact Barbara Hill at KidsAbility at

bhill@kidsability.ca or call 519-886-8886 ext.

206

Current Research- Links

Research: New key messages from the Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development on Language
The CEECD has produced the following two key messages on language:

[Language: Your Baby's First Steps Toward Learning to Speak"](#)

[Literacy: First Steps Toward Reading and Writing](#)

Resource: Powerpoint Presentation on Intensive Behaviour Intervention from the *Autism Update* forum hosted by KidsAbility on June 11/10.

The Autism Forum hosted by KidsAbility on June 11/10 included a presentation on Intensive Behaviour Intervention (IBI), a type of intervention that is offered by Autism Intervention Services (AIS - the provincially funded service for children with Autism). To view the slides from this presentation, please access the following link:

<http://www.kidsability.ca/uploads/Autism%20Forums/pdfs/A%20day%20in%20IBI.pdf>