



FAMILY DAY

WINTER UPDATE 2015



## Profiling Play-Based Learning

Famous role models from television and politics were under the watchful eye of a Family Day RECE last November as they got some hands-on lessons in play-based learning.

RECE Nadine Ashley of the Willow Way Extended Day and School Age Program took HGTV's Scott McGillivray, Minister of Education Liz Sandals, Mamma

Yamma of Kids' CBC, and dozens of other celebrities into her care during Kindergarten Live 2014. The event, which had celebrities playing the role of youngsters, raised awareness about the importance of a play-based approach to learning.

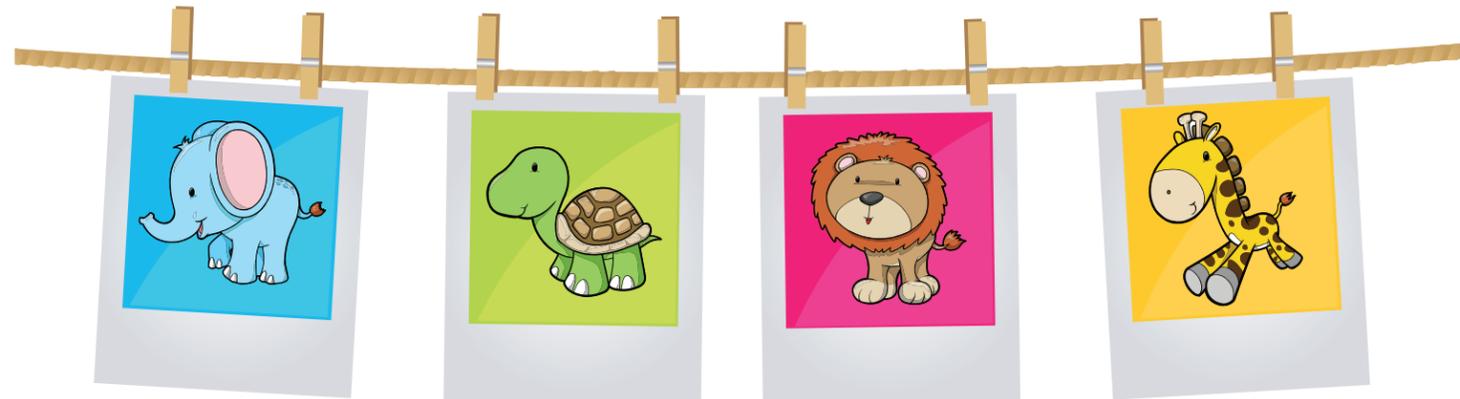
The event was hosted by the Peel District School Board at Sherwood Mills Public School in Mississauga.

It also showed how a seamless transition from extended-day care to full-day kindergarten works.

### Lots of interest in Extended-Day

The night drew a large turnout of families interested in exploring extended-day child care. Two further information sessions for families followed in December in Brampton and Caledon.

## Celebrating Literacy Month... 15 MINUTES AT A TIME



An extra special 15 minutes of fiction and fables filled each day in February as Family Day highlighted its dedication to early literacy during a nationwide reading campaign.

Under the theme "15 minutes of fun," the agency celebrated Literacy Month for the ninth year in a row, coordinating hundreds of early literacy activities which children took on for 15 minutes every day. The campaign is run by ABC Life Literacy Canada, a non-profit dedicated to literacy development.

Family Day's participation in Literacy Month emphasized, celebrated and reinforced the importance of early literacy for children and their parents. It also recognized Family Day staff and caregivers, who promote literacy skills year-round.

The planned activities and reading sessions were enthusiastically

received by children in both home and centre-based care. A popular returning activity from prior years was the creation of "Very Hungry Book Caterpillars" - graphic lists of books read by children that grew steadily in size throughout the month.

### Clothesline Storytelling

Other activities encouraged children to identify shapes, create plays, and to guess the definitions of words. One distinctive exercise - "clothesline storytelling" - challenged children to identify animals from pictures hung from a string.

Children had loads of fun, and were further encouraged to take the spirit of literacy home with "passports" - lists of reading-themed activities that inspired parents to get involved. These included reading "wake up stories" in the morning, experimenting

with new recipes, organizing book swaps, or encouraging children to learn a musical instrument.

Family Day's Literacy Specialists, Program Consultants, Home Child Care Coordinators and frontline staff all collaborated to coordinate these activities.

## PARENT SURVEY IS COMING YOUR WAY

Family Day wants to hear what you have to say!

The annual parent survey will be sent out soon.

Once again we encourage you to give us your feedback.



FAMILY DAY

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### Our Programs

- Licensed Home Child Care
- Child Care Centres
- School Age Programs
- Resource Programs
- Ontario Early Years Centres in Toronto East, York Region and the Region of Peel

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United Way  
Member Agency

**For countless families, Family Day is the only way!**



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Message from  
Joan Arruda, CEO

## Helping bring about positive changes

Happy New Year and welcome to 2015! In December 2014, the Ontario government successfully passed new legislation to modernize child care in the form of Bill 10. This legislation will prove to be a significant step in transforming Ontario's child care sector in ways we have yet to imagine. Over the coming months, the regulations for this new legislation will be written, and at some point in the not-too-distant future, will come into being. Family Day will continue to work closely with our community partners, and hopes to participate in discussions as we adapt to the new regulatory changes.

In addition to this significant step, the government has also recognized that it is a financial challenge to keep compensation levels competitive in the licensed child care sector. As such, the government will be providing a new wage grant to the licensed child care sector.

The details of the grant are not clear at this time. However, we are pleased that the child care sector will be able to work towards improving our staff salaries in order to retain qualified and experienced staff. The agency will continue to communicate further on these positive changes as developments unfold.

In the next few months, the second Parent Advisory Group meeting will take place in all three regions. Along with my staff, I look forward to meeting and seeing parents at these conversations, and hearing directly from you.

### Follow us on Twitter

Family Day has joined the world of social media. Please follow us on our official Twitter account, @familydayGTA.



## Two big steps forward for HIGH FIVE

As we continue to move forward with our HIGH FIVE training throughout all regions in Family Day, we now have a total of 90 staff trained.

HIGH FIVE is Canada's quality standard for recreation and sport, geared to

programming for children ages six to 12. Development focuses on providing a positive program that embraces the following HIGH FIVE principles: caring adults, play, friends, participation and mastery. These principles of healthy child development

also focus on diversity and uniqueness, safe environments and developmentally-appropriate programming.

We are excited to offer more training to new staff in 2015 to reach our goal of accreditation.

## Registration now open for 2015 Summer Camps

Registration for Family Day's summer day camps is now open. Register online for the extended-day programs and school age camps at [www.familydaycare.com](http://www.familydaycare.com).

Please sign your children up as early as possible, as camp spaces are only available on a first-come, first-served basis.



## New workshops give lessons in Early Learning for Home Child Care



Building on the "I Care for Kids, I Care for Quality" home study guide principles in January, Home Child Care Providers concluded their annual evaluation evening. Caregivers participated and provided feedback on the 2014 training calendar - this feedback was used to plan caregiver training for the upcoming 2015 year training calendar. Highlights included a focus on children with special needs and hands-on activities, and also a cooking workshop that focuses on nutritious snacks. We look forward to another year of training to promote high-quality home child care environments for children.

### Ongoing professional development

Home Child Care Coordinators will be participating in a series of professional development opportunities. Workshop topics will include reflective practice, team dynamics and strategic thinking.

## 4th Annual Bowling for Family Day Saturday, April 25th

Our 4th annual Bowling for Family Day fundraiser takes place on Saturday, April 25.

Please note the Peel Region venue has moved to **Brunswick Bowl in Mississauga**.

The York Region/Toronto portion of the event will still take place at **Markham Bowl in Markham**.

For more information about this fun-filled day please go to [www.familydaycare.com/bowl](http://www.familydaycare.com/bowl)

