

Message from Joan Arruda, CEO

Underscoring the importance of partnerships between schools and child care

On April 10, we hosted a visit with Don Giesbrecht, CEO of the Canadian Child Care Federation. It was my pleasure to take Don to visit three of our child care programs. In Markham, we visited the Armadale Child Care Centre and the Hagerman House Early Learning and Family Centre/Markham Ontario Early Years Centre. The tour wrapped up with a visit to the Mary Ward Child Care Centre in Toronto.

During our visit to the Armadale program, we met with Principal Jay Wolkoff and Vice-Principal Fawzia Durrani of Armadale Public School, who both spoke about the importance of partnerships between schools and child care. In particular, they highlighted the strong relationship at work between Family Day's Armadale child care program and their school.

We saw a clear reflection of this relationship when we visited the Armadale child care program. There, we saw children from the school displaying great patience

and empathy with our young pre-schoolers as reading buddies in our child care program. Once a month, the children from our child care centre visit the library with their reading buddies, and then become familiar with the school. Armadale Public school also has an active Parenting and Family Literacy Centre, which is another key connection for children and families. All three programs visited that day demonstrated valuable family and child supports.

Following our very positive visits at the Family Day locations, our management team was fortunate to share lunch with Don, and to have a discussion about the importance of building a strong federal policy on early learning and child care across Canada.

Finally, thank you to our sponsors, staff, parents and friends of Family Day for your valuable contribution to our fourth annual Bowling for Family Day. Once again, this was a great success and a lot of fun!!!

FILL OUR PARENT SURVEY AND YOU COULD WIN AN iPad!

Family Day wants to hear what you have to say!

The annual parent survey will be sent out in June.

Once again, we encourage you to give us your feedback.

We're almost at 200 followers on Twitter. Join as we continue to grow on social media @familydayGTA



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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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For countless families, Family Day is the only way!



FAMILY
DAY

SPRING
UPDATE 2015



WHAT IS... *How Does Learning Happen?* – Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years

How Does Learning Happen? is a resource put out by the Ontario Ministry of Education to promote a shared understanding of what children need and what can be done to help them to develop to their full potential. It is designed to provide a common language for educators that defines the pedagogy (*how children learn*), and the research and practice that support that understanding of how learning happens. This resource includes goals for children and expectations for programs organized around four foundations: belonging, well-being, engagement and expression.

The document challenges programs to reflect on how to create environments and experiences where children, families and educators explore, question and learn together.

At Family Day, when we see children as competent, capable of complex thinking, curious and rich in potential, we value and build on their strengths. These principles are integrated throughout the High Scope Educational Approach, the curriculum used at Family Day. We facilitate this belief by providing consistent yet flexible daily routines and programs where children learn through hands-on involvement. Our staff provide emotionally safe environments based on authentic relationships with children and

families, as we know this is critical for healthy child development.

Engaging families in meaningful ways

When we see families as experts who know their children better than anyone else and have important information to share, we value and engage them in a meaningful ways. We encourage fostering relationships with families through inviting families to share traditions that reflect their culture, so that the environments and experiences remain inclusive. We encourage our families to become actively involved by joining our Parent Advisory Committees, where they have an opportunity to share their perspective and provide feedback on decisions we make. We also invite parents to curriculum nights and any other social events in their child's program.

Educators are knowledgeable, reflective, resourceful, and rich in experience. We value the experience and environments they create for children. They work from a strengths-based approach solid in their knowledge of child development. They reflect on planned experiences and make new intentional experiences that both support and challenge the learner.

Through ongoing professional development, coaching and mentoring at all levels of the organization, Family Day is committed to offering high-quality programs and providing strong leadership, which demonstrates *How does Learning Happen? – Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years*.

Information and text cited from "How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years"



Now, we're cookin'

Family Day's menu review is well underway. Thank you to all our parents, supervisors, staff and cooks who have submitted their feedback so far. We're looking forward to using all the feedback we've collected to improve our menus.

4TH ANNUAL BOWLING FOR FAMILY DAY - April 25, 2015

We were bowled over by your support

Our momentum just can't be stopped! This year, nearly 200 Family Day staff, parents and friends took part in our Bowling for Family Day fundraiser on Saturday, April 25. We raised over \$29,000 this year! Thank you to our generous sponsors for making this event possible and to those who generously donated prizes.



Thanks!

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