



# YOU AND FAMILY DAY: PARTNERS IN CHILD CARE

No one knows their child better than you do—not only do you play the most important role in their lives, you are also their best advocate. At Family Day, we understand that.

When you share important information and insights with us, you bolster and enrich this partnership. Your participation in Family Day programs and activities is encouraged and welcome!



*“Allowing parents to make choices about what is best for their children is a powerful method of building a good working partnership with families. A strength-based approach considers the skills, knowledge and resources that parents and families already have and builds upon them.”*  
— [www.beststart.org](http://www.beststart.org)



## A variety of ways for you to participate

Shemiko at St. Francis Xavier in Peel Region shares, “Pandemic restrictions and protocols have limited our connections with families, so we’ve been engaging parents in what we call Community Outreach.”

“Last year, we created a Community Art show for our child care families and the community at large. Children were engaged in many different art experiences; we then displayed their work in our windows for parents and passersby to enjoy. Parents were also invited to submit art they created together with children at home. School staff and parents were then invited to a “gallery walk”. It was so



exciting for the children to see people walking past the windows to view their creations!” she adds.

“This year, our Community Outreach activities have included sending home Play Doh kits, books and art supplies to create their own story books, a Fun in

*Community Outreach initiatives like “Open Doors” are just one example of how we partner with families*

the Snow poster featuring different ways families can have fun outdoors and Family Picture Collage kits (poster board and art supplies to illustrate the things they like to do together). Our Community Outreach initiative is just one example of how we partner with families to recognize the importance of family and community in child development.”

The St. Francis Xavier initiative is just one example of how Family Day teams are always looking for different ways to support and involve families.



## Partnerships support the well-being of children and families

At Gordon Graydon Early Learning Child Care Centre in Mississauga, Janet, a Supervisor, puts herself out in the community through volunteer work and sitting on Parent Councils:

“Parents get to know me, and I get to know them. One of the best ideas I ever had was to bring my espresso maker to work. Sometimes, just a “good morning” or “how are you?” or an invitation to grab a quick espresso with me before work can make all the difference! I want parents to know that my door is always open and I’m always here to listen; that goes a long way!” Janet says.

“An honest to goodness truthful, authentic relationship is key. Keeping the lines of communication open at all times is also key—particularly if a parent is upset. After just letting them talk and actively listening, I let them know I’ve heard them, propose next steps, and assure them I’ll follow up with them. All these things build trust. Getting parents involved with seasonal celebrations, fundraising, barbecues and parent workshops are also key—as is offering child minding so they are free to attend workshops or parent council meetings.”

“Not every one of our child care

centres has access to an app called *Storypark*, but many do. Staff use it to take photos of the children or make short videos of their learning environments. It’s a great opportunity for parents to observe their children throughout the day, to see how learning happens. And the great thing is, they can share this app with loved ones—across the street or across the ocean.”

Working to earn and maintain a family’s trust over time is one of Family Day’s 8 Key Principles of Child Care.

<https://familydaycare.com/about-us/our-philosophy/>



### Building your trust and confidence are key

Ashley, a Centre Supervisor at St. Sylvester Child Care Centre Silver Springs Extended Day & School Age & Program shares how she builds trust and confidence with parents.

“I make the effort to learn how each parent prefers to be addressed—whether it’s ‘Mrs. Khan’ or their first name. Asking for their preference—and remembering to use it—communicates respect and creates an instant bond.”

“Every parent is unique; there are different parenting styles and family roles. I strive to learn and understand their specific needs and concerns. Understandably, new or first-time parents can be a little more apprehensive, anxious or nervous on their first visit, or on their child’s first day; I do whatever I can to reassure them and put them at ease. Since COVID, parents have not been able to enter our facility, so we created a video of the classroom to give them an idea of what to expect; it was very well received.”

Shemiko, Janet, and Ashley are just three great examples of our Family Day principles in practice. As they’ve demonstrated, there are many ways for parents to partner with us. And we’re committed to finding the ways that work best for YOU.

**Next to you, we care the most!**

**Read more on the importance of partnerships**

[www.ictsd.org/why-is-it-important-to-work-in-partnership-with-parents/](http://www.ictsd.org/why-is-it-important-to-work-in-partnership-with-parents/)





### Ingredients (Serves 3)

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 medium potato, cut into cubes
- 1 spring/green onion, finely sliced
- Handful baby spinach leaves
- 4 eggs
- 9 small cherry tomatoes, halved
- Handful crumbled feta  
(or *grated cheddar if you prefer*)
- 3 dinner rolls

Source: BBC Good Food • <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/omelette-bun>

## Omelette in a Bun

*This tasty vegetarian omelette roll is great when you are short on time*

### Directions

**STEP 1** Heat the oil in a small non-stick frying pan and fry the potato over a low heat until it is browned and tender. This will probably take about 10 mins. Add the spring onion and fry for a minute then stir in the spinach.

**STEP 2** Whisk the eggs lightly with a little seasoning and then pour them into the pan and cook until set on the base. Dot on the tomatoes, sprinkle on the cheese and grill until the top browns. Cool a little then slide out of the pan and cut into thirds.

**STEP 3** Split the rolls and stuff them with a piece of omelette, sandwich together and halve.



## Update on Family Day's Systems Upgrade

Family Day is pleased to announce the introduction of a new, cloud-based Child Care Management and Registration System that will be launched this summer. This new system will include a self-serve interactive and user-friendly portal for families to access or update information about their children's registration. Stay tuned for more updates on this exciting new initiative.

## PARENTS: *A child's first teacher*



### MESSAGE FROM DIANE DALEY, CEO

### Welcome Spring!

The speed of time flying by is often a passing comment in so many conversations. It feels like we recently rang in the New Year, yet many families with school age children have already registered their children for summer camp programs. For families raising young children, it can sometimes feel overwhelming to find enough time to juggle and prioritize the many different activities and commitments of child rearing, keeping young children engaged and satisfying their natural curiosity. When I reflect on raising my two children, I remember what it felt like to constantly try to make the right choices. For me, it feels like yesterday since my children were born and yet today, they both stand tall and confident towering way over me. I am reminded of how resilient children

are and how they grow and learn from every experience.

*I believe families instinctively know their children best* and at Family Day we view families as competent, capable, curious, rich in experience and expertise, and we recognize the central role that families play in the lives of children.

This edition of Focus highlights families as partners in child care. We have a commitment to understanding and integrating your perspectives into your child's care. This is because we know that families know their children best. We strive to build on strengths and are open to provide support in ways that empower our families. Our overarching goal is to foster authentic partnerships with you.

Beyond your child's day to day care, there are other ways that families can get involved in their child's program. We encourage families to share stories on Storypark, participate in our stakeholder surveys and share feedback on experiences using Family Day programs. Your feedback provides opportunities for us to understand new ways to improve programs and reduce barriers for families.

We also welcome opportunities for individuals who use Family Day Care Services to serve on our Board of Directors, as they can offer first-hand parent perspectives and their time, to support the strategic goals of the organization. Please speak to your centre supervisor who can connect you with more information about these opportunities.

# How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years

Families are composed of individuals who are competent and capable, curious, and rich in experience. Families love their children and want the best for them. Families are experts on their children. They are the first and most powerful influence on children's learning, development, health, and well-being. Families bring diverse social, cultural, and linguistic perspectives. Families should feel that they belong, are valuable contributors to their children's learning, and deserve to be engaged in a meaningful way.

Source: <https://files.ontario.ca/edu-1/edu-building-on-how-does-learning-happen-en-2021-03-10.pdf>



YOU





Visit our website to learn more about how you can benefit from the **National Child Care Plan**



**FAMILY DAY**

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### Our Programs

- Licensed Home Child Care
- Child Care Centres
- School Age Programs
- Resource Programs
- EarlyON Child and Family Centres
- Homework Plus

### FOCUS Newsletter

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WISHART.NET



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