



Promoting Home Languages Promotes Learning, Bonding and Fun!

In the Greater Toronto area, 32% of people speak a language other than English, French or an Aboriginal language at home. The most common languages are Chinese, Punjabi, Urdu and Tamil. This means that many children speak one language at home and use English at school or daycare.

Some parents worry that learning two languages is confusing or might cause language delays. They want their children to learn English and try to help by not speaking their home language. It's true that some bilingual children start talking slightly later than children who speak only one language. But bilingual children generally learn to talk within the normal range of development.

Early on, bilingual children are able to separate the two languages and switch from one to the other, depending on who they are speaking with. Sometimes children mix languages if they don't know a word in one language. For example, they might say, "I like helado" (ice cream). Or sometimes they mix languages to express a strong feeling. ("Je l'ai dit, stop!" ("I said, stop!") These mistakes show that they are learning both languages.



Children who learn to speak and read more than one language stay connected to relatives who don't speak English. They learn to communicate with many more people and develop a better understanding of other people and cultures. Knowing a second language can lead to more job opportunities when they are adults.

Multi-Lingual Staff

At Family Day, we encourage and support families to use their home languages. Where possible we place staff members in communities where they share a common languages and cultures with parents and children. The multi-lingual staff in our child care centres and home child care programs can often speak to newcomer families and children in their own languages. We provide a variety of literacy materials and dual-language books that reflect the children we serve.

The best way to help children learn language is to speak to them often in a language you know well. When you speak a language well, you can talk with children about all the things that interest them. You can explain complicated ideas and discuss a lot of different kinds of feelings. Research shows that children who have a strong foundation in one language will learn another language more easily.

Whether you speak Armenian, Mandarin or Vietnamese, talk with your child about the world around you. Label objects, describe what you are doing, and talk about your feelings and ideas. Share stories, songs and rhymes that you learned from your family. These kinds of activities help children learn about their culture and background and build a strong foundation for reading and writing that prepares them for success when they start school. >>

Message from Joan Arruda, CEO

New Family Day logo and brand look has arrived

And more is to follow over the next few weeks and months!

During last year's strategic planning process, Family Day heard from our parents and community partners that we needed to update our look and our web presence. For the last few months we have been working with WISHART.NET, a branding agency, to work through this process.

I am pleased to share with you the new logo and look for Family Day. Over the next few weeks, months and years, all of our communications materials will be transformed. Bright and cheerful pictures of Family Day children will be a highlight of our marketing and communications strategy.

Combined with clear language, Family Day's message will be highly visible and easily understood both in print and electronically on smart phones, tablets

and computers. We will also be introducing exciting new technologies.

We know that this emphasis on improved communications will help us as we move into the future. Thank you for your patience while we roll out this work for the entire world to see!

About the Logo

The pinwheel, a colourful childhood toy recognized world-wide, can depict motion and stillness at the same time. Our new logo's spinning shapes represent the diversity of parents, staff, caregivers and partners, all contributing to child-centred care in a constantly changing world. Unique, bright, cheerful and confident – just like Family Day!

**Show and Tell
Breakfast for
Bowling for
Family Day
2013 Sponsors**

Children at the
Flemingdon Park School Age Program thanked
Bowling for Family Day 2013 sponsors with a display
of dance and music.



Promoting Home Languages... continued from page 1

Resources

For more information see:

- Statistics Canada: *Linguistic Characteristics of Canadians, 2012*
- Lauren Lowry, *Bilingualism in Young Children: Separating Fact from Fiction*, The Hanen Centre, 2011
<http://www.hanen.org/Helpful-Info/Articles/Bilingualism-in-Young-Children--Separating-Fact-fr.aspx>

Saturday, April 26, 2014

3rd Annual Bowling for Family Day

Bowling for Family Day is our annual fundraising event that raises money to help us, help kids get the right start and achieve their potential.

Funds raised will help us achieve:

- More language and literacy initiatives
- Enriched after-school programs

There are many ways you can help!

3

Get friends and family to pledge

1

Join a team

2

Pledge money to a team

4

Follow us

Please talk to your centre or coordinator for more information.

- Additional resources for children with special needs
- More community outreach to at-risk families.

Pledge: www.familydaycare.com/bowl
Follow: facebook.com/BowlingforFamilyDay

Family Day a HIGH FIVE Registered Organization

HIGH FIVE is Canada's only comprehensive quality standard for children's sport and recreation and holds true to the following five Principles of healthy child development that our research indicates are essential for quality programs:

- A Caring Adult
- Friends
- Play
- Mastery
- Participation

HIGH FIVE's unique and proprietary approach is built on a Quality Framework, consisting of:

- Training and Development for staff
- Program Assessments



using the scientifically-validated QUEST 2 Tool

- Establishing Policies and Procedures to manage risk
- Creating Awareness of high quality programs for kids

HIGH FIVE provides an evidence-based approach to quality experiences for kids, empowering them to excel in life.

What's Family Day Doing?

Over the past few months, 14 lead staff completed five days of leadership training in evidence-based approaches to developing high quality school age programs.

These new leaders have learned new ideas and principles that they will now integrate into their work as well as share with others.

Our new leaders will be providing training to their peers across the organization

Make Cooking a Family Affair



Your kitchen doubles as a classroom that equips kids with life skills galore.

Cooking with kids is a great way to teach important life skills. Learning to cook now prepares them to cook for themselves when they grow up.

It's also a fun hands-on activity that teaches literacy, science and math. Younger kids can help measure ingredients and stir. Older kids can help peel and chop vegetables. Once they're confident, they can help bake, broil or sauté. It might be messy. That's okay! Your kids can also help clean up.

Keep It Simple

Cooking with kids can take a little more time, but it's worth it! Learning how to cook helps kids develop healthy eating habits, increases self-confidence and teaches life skills.

- Give kids easy tasks, such as stirring, when you're in a hurry
- Cook on weekends, when you can take more time to teach skills
- Choose easy-to-follow recipes with lots of tasks kids can help with
- Prepare some ingredients before you start cooking

Source: www.dietitians.ca/Your-Health/Nutrition-Month/



I Care for Kids, I Care for Quality!

Highlights of the 2014 training schedule for Family Day caregivers are:

- Managing everyday behaviours
- Cooking with school age children
- Compassion fatigue
- Active play
- Understanding ADHD

The 2014 training calendar will be mailed out shortly to all caregivers.

The Power of Play

Family Day's Early Literacy Specialists for York Region Ontario Early Years and York Region Preschool Speech and Language Program recently presented a 4-part series of webinars for parents of preschoolers (ages 2-1/2 - 4 yr) who have concerns about their child's communication development.

The recorded webinars and resources for parents are available on Family Day's website for all families: www.familydaycare.com/powerofplay



**FAMILY
DAY**



United Way
Member Agency

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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

Family Day Focus Newsletter

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For countless families, Family Day is the only way!