

Child care and early learning updates e-newsletter

July 28, 2023

Welcome to The Regional Municipality of Durham's child care and early learning updates e-newsletter. These e-newsletters provide licensed child care operators in Durham Region with updated information related to child care.

This edition includes the following topics:

- Early Learning and Child Care Service Plan Survey
- Measuring Early Childhood Outside (MECO) Survey
- Children's Services Division – Staffing Updates

Early Learning and Child Care Service Plan Survey – Closing Soon!

Give your input before it's too late! The Children's Services Division is developing a new Early Learning and Child Care Service Plan. This plan will identify key priorities for the high-quality child care system in Durham Region. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to provide input for the plan at: [CSD Service Plan Survey](#). The survey is available to complete until **Monday, July 31, 2023**.

Measuring Early Childhood Outside (MECO) Survey

The Play Outside UBC lab at the University of British Columbia and the BC Children's Hospital Research Institute is seeking to understand children's outdoor play practices and the associated supports and challenges that influence outdoor play in child care centres across Canada.

Early Childhood Educators (ECEs), administrators, managers and/or operators who are responsible for the day-to-day operations of a full-time, centre-based child care program in Canada are encouraged to participate in the study.

You can participate by completing the survey here: [Measuring Early Childhood Outside Survey](#). The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. The first 1,000 respondents will receive a \$25 Amazon gift card.

Children's Services Division (CSD) – Staffing Updates

Children's Services is excited to welcome new colleagues to the division and to celebrate the change in roles of some familiar faces.

Accounting Clerk – Early Learning: CSD is delighted to welcome Jennifer Percy to the Early Learning Team. Jennifer has joined the team of accounting clerks and can be reached at Jennifer.Percy@durham.ca.

Administrative Assistant: Kate Bracey is the successful candidate for the Administrative Assistant role. Kate will be a wonderful support to CSD and work directly with our director, Julie Gaskin. Kate can be reached at Kate.Bracey@durham.ca.

Manager – Early Learning: Congratulations to Lisa Bruce! Effective June 5, Lisa began her role as the Manager of the Early Learning team. Lisa will support the child care community through system planning and the management of funding and contracted services. Lisa can be reached at Lisa.Bruce@durham.ca.

Program Assistant – Early Learning: We are pleased to have four program assistants supporting Early Learning Team:

- Jenna Peter supports the team with contracts/agreements, Best Start and Early Learning Administration. Jenna can be reached at Jenna.Peters@durham.ca.
- Lisa Stewart provides administrative support related to system planning, CWELCC-funded child care expansions, and contracted services. Lisa can be reached at Lisa.Stewart@durham.ca.
- Nazish Kramat provides support to the capacity team as they offer training, sector-specific recognition events, and the development of the GROW newsletter. Nazish can be reached at Nazish.Kramat@durham.ca.
- Catherine Andre has been supporting the team's electronic filing system as well as connecting community inquiries to the appropriate Early Learning Team member. Catherine can be reached at Catherine.Andre@durham.ca.

Quality & Contract Compliance Advisor – Early Learning: Katie Large and Tracy Barclay were successful candidates for the Quality & Contract Compliance Advisor roles. Katie and Tracy have a wealth of knowledge in the child care sector. Katie can be reached at Katie.Large@durham.ca and Tracy can be reached at Tracy.Barclay@durham.ca.

Senior Caseworker – Fee Subsidy: On June 19 Lisa Roberts assumed the Senior Caseworker role. Lisa joined CSD from the Income Employment and Homelessness Supports Division with 22 years of experience in caseload management. Lisa will be supporting the Fee Subsidy team and can be reached at Lisa.Roberts@durham.ca.

Training Specialists – Early Learning: The Early Learning Team welcomed two Training Specialists in June: Shannon Soul and Sabrina Newman. Shannon will bring awareness and training to the topic of mental health within child care settings. Sabrina is one of our

community facilitators – leading and supporting communities of practice and community-wide training. Shannon can be reached at Shannon.Soul@durham.ca and Sabrina can be reached at Sabrina.Newman@durham.ca.