

Child care and early learning updates e-newsletter

June 25, 2026

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:

- Special Needs Resourcing (SNR) update
- Funding available for concrete safety barriers in child care centres
- Reaching IN...Reaching OUT (RIRO) training

Special Needs Resourcing (SNR) update

As noted in the May edition of this newsletter, the Child Care and Early Years Division (CCEYD) is excited to host a series of online learning sessions throughout the summer months as part of a comprehensive suite of SNR professional development opportunities designed to meet diverse needs and schedules.

The Belonging By Design Speaker Series, will support educators and leaders across the Durham early learning and child care sector in fostering environments where every child, family and educator feels seen, valued and supported. Program staff, including educators, supervisors, managers and senior leaders, are invited to register for any one or all of the Speaker Series sessions by selecting the session/s you are interested in and using the QR code included to sign up.

All sessions will be held virtually from 7 to 8:30 p.m., with the exception of the final session, which will be in person and include a light dinner and networking.

Important date change for one session

The session titled Side by Side: Navigating Inclusion through the Eyes of a Family, hosted by Katie Jameson, was initially scheduled for July 9 but has since been moved to August 17. If you registered for this session before the date change, a member of our team will be in touch to confirm your interest and availability for August 17.

Funding available for concrete safety barriers in child care centres

The Ontario Government has launched the Liam Riazati Memorial Fund, a \$20 million initiative to help licensed, community-based child care centres install concrete safety

barriers. This fund honours the memory of Liam Riazati, following a tragic vehicle collision at a child care centre in September 2025.

Eligible centres can request free supply, delivery, and installation of concrete barriers through approved vendors. This initiative is voluntary and intended for centres that may be at risk of vehicle impacts.

Key details:

- Funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis until March 31, 2027, or until funds are fully allocated.
- Only concrete barriers are covered. Other barrier types (e.g., bollards, curbs, planters) and previously completed installations are not eligible.
- Centres must follow a Request for Service (RFS) process, including obtaining quotes from at least three approved vendors and selecting the most cost-effective option.

Before applying, centres should:

- Assess site needs and feasibility.
- Review lease agreements, municipal by-laws, and safety requirements.

Please note that while installation costs are covered, centres remain responsible for complying with all applicable local regulations and site requirements. For more [information](#), including vendor lists and templates, or to begin the request process, centres are encouraged to review program materials and contact vendors directly with site-specific questions.

Reaching IN...Reaching OUT (RIRO) training

RIRO is an evidence-based resiliency training program that supports the well-being of adults and young children through strengthening relationships and practical skill building. Grounded in the “3Rs of Resilience”: relaxation, reflection, and responsive approaches, RIRO helps educators move from reacting to responding in challenging situations.

The CCEYD is pleased to share that the Training Specialist team is now able to offer this training for early learning programs interested in this opportunity. While the training does involve a 12-hour commitment, it can be delivered in flexible, customizable formats to meet the unique needs of your organization.

Additional details are included in the attached information sheet, and you are welcome to contact Janine Keith at Janine.Keith@durham.ca for more information.