



KEEPING IN TOUCH

CHILDMINDING MONITORING ADVISORY & SUPPORT

February 2007

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Off to a Good Start!

February is Kindergarten Registration Month

In LINC programs, we have a special role in helping parents get their children off to a good start as they enter kindergarten. We can provide information on the steps taken to register in school. We can clarify the documents required including the need for an immunization record before entering school and generally guide families in a clear and supportive way.

To help to do this, SWIS,

Settlement Workers in Schools, have produced several resources including a poster, *Eight Easy Ways to Prepare Your Child for Kindergarten*, available from Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

The main message is translated into 17 languages and was developed with the help of settlement workers, early year workers, kindergarten teachers, library workers, administrators

and ESL instructors.

Look for your copy in the February mail-out, and for more copies go to:

<http://atwork.settlement.org>

Here is another terrific resource: a booklet for parents on getting children ready for kindergarten, available in Cambodian, Chinese, Russian, Spanish, Somali, Vietnamese and English, available from:

www.gettingschoolready.org

Getting Ready for Kindergarten ...

What Can Parents Do?

- Go to the free story time at the library
- Go to the "kindergarten welcome" event at school
- Visit the Parent and Child Centre near home
- Help your child get ready to be away from you
- Talk, read and sign together in your language
- Play in the school playground or park
- Teach your child to put on his or her jacket and shoes
- Paint and draw together

What Do Parents Need to Register Their Child in School?

1. **PROOF OF CHILD'S AGE**
Birth certificate or passport
2. **PROOF OF ADDRESS**
Copy of a bank statement, telephone or electrical bill or apartment lease with your name and address
3. **PROOF OF GUARDIANSHIP** Required if child is under 18 and not living with the parent
4. **PROOF OF IMMIGRATION STATUS** Birth certificate,

passport, Record of Landing (IMM1000) or confirmation of permanent residence (IMM5292). In most boards, children must be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants to register directly.

5. **IMMUNIZATION RECORD**
Proof that your child has been immunized, according to the recommended immunization schedule in Ontario.

Safe Kids Week 2007 ... *We can all be involved!*

Safe Kids Canada is the national injury prevention program of The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. Each year, sponsor Johnson & Johnson and Safe Kids Canada join forces to run a major national campaign called Safe Kids Week.

Did you know many LINC programs are already partners in this important safety week?

The Safe Kids Week campaign raises awareness about a specific type of injury, and educates the public about safety themes, and this year the focus is Drowning Prevention. An educational resource is developed to distribute to parents, caregivers and others in your community who interact with children.

There are a limited number of \$250 grants available to assist partners in raising awareness in their community. If your organization needs support in order to participate in the Safe Kids Week campaign contact Safe Kids at:

www.safekidscanada.ca



**ACHOOO! It's time for
the Sleeve Sneeze
Stop the Spread of Germs
Health Promotion Campaign**

Toronto Public Health has launched a health promotion campaign encouraging everyone to do their part to stop the spread of germs by keeping their hands clean, covering their cough and, when they do not have a tissue, to "Do the Sleeve Sneeze."

For more information, posters and resources you can order, visit Toronto Public Health on the web at:

www.toronto.ca/health
Spread the word ... not the germ!

'Have a Ball' Physical Activity Workshops

Over the last six months, nine 'Have a Ball' physical activity workshops were held in communities across Ontario, and we are pleased to be able to offer them once again. If your program or community missed out, please give us a call.

This 3 hour workshop is available to childcare staff and each participating site will receive a 'Have a Ball' resource toolkit, full of terrific resources for your program.

What people are saying about the workshop ...

We had a great time especially with the physical part of the workshop. Well-done

I enjoyed how active and hands on the workshop was.

Thank you for coming to Windsor. We love it

You were very clear. You were wonderful your explanation was very good.

To host this 'on the move' workshop, you need at least 10 participants, so get your team together and *have a ball!*

Please contact **Donna Miller at 416-395-5027**
or by email: **donnamiller@cmascanada.ca**

WHAT'S HAPPENING ...

SAFE KIDS WEEK May 28 - June 3, 2007

www.safekidscanada.ca

AECEO (www.aeceo.ca) will be hosting southern and northern provincial conferences for 2007:

Kingston May 31 - June 2, 2007

Thunder Bay Sept 27 - 29, 2007

From Long Distance Learning to First Aid, TOP is a Hit!

As of mid January, 2007, 135 staff working in LINC childminding programs have taken advantage of the **TOP (Training Opportunities Project)**, supported by Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Helen, our TOP coordinator, wants to remind everybody that this is a tremendous opportunity for professional development. **LINC childminding staff can take approved courses for up to \$400 for each course.** Many staff are working on completing ECE courses, while others are learning about special needs, management and leadership skills, computer applications, parent-teacher-child relationships and program planning.

You can also apply for First Aid and CPR courses if you don't have other funding, and supply staff are eligible for First aid and CPR training.

Another way to take advantage of this opportunity is through **in house group training.** This is a wonderful way to provide professional development workshops for your entire staff, or with other LINC programs in your community. Although we are unable to pay travel and food expenses, **TOP will provide up to \$1000 for an approved group presentation.**

Helen is looking forward to your calls! If you have any questions about TOP, please contact her at **416-395-5027.**

LINC Childminding Conference Update

Hats off to Rosalie and Adele, our conference coordinators, without whom the conference *Nurturing New Roots: Supporting the Newcomer Family*, held in Toronto in November 2006, would not have been such a tremendous success! Also, a heartfelt *thank you* to presenters and participants who together made this conference so memorable!

And just to let you know ...

The 2007 LINC Childminding Conference has been scheduled for November 22-23, 2007, at the downtown Marriott Hotel, Toronto.

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