



KEEPING IN TOUCH

CHILDMINDING MONITORING ADVISORY & SUPPORT

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'TOP' IS A TRAINING OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU!

Did you ever wish that you could take that extra course that would lead to an Early Childhood Education diploma?

Did you ever wish that you had the opportunity to take that special program that would enhance your knowledge and ability to work with the children in your LINC program?

Did you ever wonder if there was something special that you could learn to enable you to communicate better with the parents of the children in your program?

If so, the opportunity to learn more is here, through TOP (Training

Opportunities Project).

CMAS is thrilled to be working with CIC on this project. TOP, funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, has been developed exclusively for LINC childminding staff. The purpose of the TOP (Training Opportunities Project) is to provide professional development and training for childminding staff employed in LINC programs. The project is designed to help you gain skills needed to work with young children, improve qualifications and ultimately enhance your ability to care for the

children in LINC.

All eligible staff members are welcome to apply for course approval and reimbursement, regardless of their level of education.

TOP will reimburse childminding staff - childminders, leads and supervisors on the successful completion of approved skill and training courses, up to \$400.00. Approval of all requests is based on the premise that the course or workshop will enhance the knowledge of the applicant and be an advantage to the children participating in childminding.

Approval for reim-

bursement must meet the criteria set out by the Training Opportunities Project.

To help you take advantage of this training opportunity, a 'TOP' Project Binder will arrive at every LINC Childminding site, in September. In it, will be information about application, approval and reimbursement. The binder will also have a 'Courses and Workshop' section for staff to consider. For additional information, call the CMAS office directly at 416-395-5027 and ask to speak to the TOP coordinator.

2006 LINC Childminding Conference

The 2006 LINC childminding conference sponsored by Citizenship and Immigration Canada is back!!!!

On November 16-17th, the conference will be held at the Renaissance Toronto Airport Hotel, 801 Dixon Road. We are delighted to once again

be involved in helping to bring this event to you. The theme for this year's conference is Nurturing our Roots: Supporting the Newcomer Family, with a special focus on diversity, English language learning and school readiness

In response to your

feedback, we have brought back several of the excellent presenters from the last conference and are busy planning other high calibre sessions. This year workshop topics will include school age programming, celebrating diversity, parenting, infant program-

ming and language acquisition.

Please look for your conference package in the early fall and be sure to register as soon as possible as the workshops fill up quickly. Don't miss this special event. We look forward to seeing you there!

Watch for our new website ... www.cmascanada.ca – launch date is November 2006!

What is TOP In-House Group Training?

Here is another way to take advantage of a training opportunity. TOP In-House Group Training was created to enable childminders to have access to trainers and to training that is specific to their needs. TOP In-House recognizes that the training available within the child care community does not always respond to the needs of those working with newcomer families. A more practical option may be, for programs to organize training themselves that is tailored to their own needs. TOP In-House Group Training is a viable option for increasing the capacity of childminders to enhance their skills, knowledge and ability.

You may choose to organize in house training for your organization or get together with other LINC providers in your region. An

eligible organization can apply for and, if approved, be reimbursed up to \$1,000.00 for In-House Group Training.

TOP In-House Group Training is encouraged because:

- Group training can be cost efficient.
- Many participants can receive training at the same cost.
- Training for those working with the newcomer community often requires specific expertise not available through conventional workshops and institutional educational facilities.
- It allows an opportunity for LINC providers to work together to create specific training
- Training is tailored to the needs of the participants.
- Group training allows several LINC providers to collaborate thereby sharing their own expertise and

also building support systems within LINC.

- Group training encourages an exchange of ideas between childminding staff
- LINC staff are involved more directly in the planning of the group training sessions thus making the training more relevant.

To be eligible for funding, the In-House Group Training:

- Should have relevance to the duties performed by childminding staff.
- Must be based on the need for skills and knowledge in particular childminding area(s).
- Must meet the criteria set by the Training Opportunities Project. (Meet the National LINC Childminding Requirements and Occupational Standards for Child Care Practitioners.)

See the TOP binder for details.

'Have a Ball' Activity Workshops

Let's get moving!!

Over the next year, CMAS will be presenting 'Have a Ball' activity workshops across Ontario. These workshops were offered initially by Best Start but a new format has been developed especially for the needs of our LINC Childminding programs.

CMAS worked with Christa Costas-Bradstreet the Physical Activity Specialist for the City of Hamilton, a teacher at York University and former Director of Health Communications for Participaction, to design these workshops. After visiting our sites, meeting our child care staff and hearing what our needs were, she put together a workshop that would help us help our children be active.

The workshops were not only designed to promote the benefits of physical activity, but to

do so at little cost wherever you might be. If your LINC site does not have access to a gym, a playground or a large open space for gross motor activity, or if you need some 'fresh' physical activity ideas, this workshop will provide lots of valuable information. The 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.

If you wish to host a workshop for your community, please contact Donna Miller @ 416-395-5027 or by email:

donnamiller@cmascanada.ca.

As soon as workshop dates are in place, you will be hearing from us.

Come on out and let's get moving!

Resources are on their way ...

The **Multicultural Poster Package** is designed to represent 'a day in the life' of a LINC childminding program. The pictures, photographed at several LINC locations, give us a 'snapshot' of what happens on a daily basis in our programs, across the province. They not only depict routines and activities offered, but also reflect the faces, and families who actively participate in our programs.

Along with the posters are a tip-sheet and words translated in 10 languages that describe the activities in the pictures.

The posters are not only beautiful images of our children but can be used as a tool:

- To help your new parents understand what a day in childminding is like
- To help parents explain to their child what is going to happen during the day
- To help children see other children who look just like themselves reflected in the pictures throughout the room
- To show the child what the next activity is, as they move them from one activity to another

- And perhaps more importantly, the posters also inform parents about how we value caring for children in a safe, healthy, and stimulating environment

The **Multicultural Resource Package** will soon be on it's way to you, full of resources that will reflect the diversity of our families, enrich the cultural aspect of your program and provide the children with many opportunities for play. Look for dolls, tabletop blocks, instruments, multiethnic play foods, in addition to books, CD's and multilingual poster. Have fun!

What You Need To Know About Background Checks

In the September 2006 mail out package, you will find an information sheet developed by CMAS which explains what a service provider organization needs to know about police records checks, child abuse registry checks, and reference checks. All are part of a background check policy. The information sheet also answers questions about how and where to access background checks, as well as the cost and types of checks.

A background check policy is not only a requirement of the National LINC Childminding Requirements, but is part of a SPO's commitment to providing a safe environment for children. The SPO must thoroughly check references for staff and for volunteers who are going to come into contact with the children. Acting on that policy is part of fulfilling the SPO's legal obligation to care for and protect the children in the childminding program.

CMAS recommends that programs review their background checks, to make sure that all childminders and volunteers undergo police record checks for the vulnerable population.

Are you an Internationally Trained Early Childhood Educator or kindergarten/elementary teacher wanting to work in the ECE field in Ontario?

The **Access Bridging program** is an exciting 3 year project funded by the government of Ontario, in collaboration with Association of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario and is designed to break down barriers to employment for eligible

candidates. If you are an Internationally Trained ECE, AECEO will help you to access the information and training you need to successfully work in Ontario. The Access program will identify your skills and education and help you

combine these skills with Ontario standards. Through this three year project offered in the Greater Toronto Region, George Brown College and Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Offices in Toronto will be working with the AECEO to deliver

the Access program. For more information, contact:

The Association of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario (AECEO)
1-416-487-3157
aeceo@bellnet.ca

*“Over and over and
over again ... ”*

WHY ROUTINES ARE IMPORTANT

To help children learn and be safe, it is important to have a routine that helps to structure the day. This is especially important for children in LINC programs who are just beginning to find their way in a new language, and may be leaving their parents for the first time. It's important for children to anticipate what comes next. It helps them feel secure and have control over their environment. Routines help all of us to organize our day.

Routines ...

- Help children develop trust and feel secure
- Help children know how long an activity will last (*but remember to be flexible!*)
- Help children learn what is predictable
- Help children develop a sense of time
- Helps them to know what is expected of them

What does a 'good' routine look like? It should be consistent, flexible and responsible to the needs and interests of the children.

From *FCCCurriculum Guide/2005*

BEING RESOURCEFUL ...

Be wise ... immunize!

www.immunize.cpha.ca

*Association of Early Childhood
Educators of Ontario*

www.aeceo.ca

And in November 2006...

*Watch for the
NEW CMAS WEBSITE!!*

www.cmascanada.ca

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May we introduce...

Helen Wilder is the co-ordinator for the Training Opportunities Project (TOP) at CMAS. Helen brings years of ESL and LINC experience to the position, as well as a special interest in LINC childminding. Because of her involvement with the LINC community, Helen was one of the founding advocates and planners for the LINC Childminders' Conference. She also headed the team of presenters in the province-wide workshops called 'Understanding LINC'. In addition, Helen was the former coordinator for the largest LINC program in Canada, at the Toronto District School Board. As a strong believer in continuing education, Helen is excited to be working directly with you to help you continue your education through access to TOP.

Helen is based at CMAS. If you have any questions about the 'Training Opportunities Project', she can be reached at 416-395-5027 or email her @ helenwilder@cmascanada.ca.