



# KEEPING IN TOUCH

CHILDMINDING MONITORING ADVISORY & SUPPORT

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## Mumps – *is it back?*

Mumps is an acute viral illness that usually strikes in the colder months between November and March, although it can occur later. It used to be very common until a vaccine became available in 1967. Recently however, outbreaks have occurred among university students in dorms and other campus housing in Nova Scotia and elsewhere in North America.

Dr. Barbara Yaffe, associate medical officer of

health and director of communicable disease control for Toronto public health, stated that three cases of mumps have been reported in the city, all of which are linked to the recent outbreak in Nova Scotia.

"It's fair to say the mumps is here now and we have to be clear they could be spread," Yaffe said.

Children who contract mumps usually recover in about 10 to 12 days and doctors will let parents know when they can return

to school. They will also contact the public health department as mumps is an infectious disease

Mumps can be prevented by vaccination. The vaccine can be given alone or as part of the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) immunization, which is usually given to children at 12 and 18 months of age. A second dose of MMR is generally given at 4 to 6 years of age, but should be given no later than 11 to 12 years of age.

– *The Toronto Star*

**Our challenge is to keep our immunization rates high so we won't have future epidemics**

Whenever immunization rates drop, diseases come back. In Great Britain, for example, a drop in pertussis vaccination in 1974 was followed by an epidemic of more than 100,000 cases of the disease and 36 deaths in 1978. Both Japan and Sweden have had similar experiences. Although most vaccine-preventable diseases are rare in Canada, they are common in other parts of the world.

Travellers can carry them from country to country, and if populations are not protected by vaccination, these diseases will quickly spread.

*Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness*

## *"To Rosalie and Adele ..."*

On November 22-23, 2007, the 6<sup>th</sup> LINC Professional Development Conference, *Nurturing New Roots: Supporting the Newcomer Family 2007*, was held in Toronto and welcomed more than 350 participants from across Canada. This year's theme was "Ready to Learn!"

Here is what two participants had to say:

*Clara wrote:*

I am a new LINC childminder and this was my first LINC conference. However I am not new to child care, nor a newbie conference attendee. I've gone to many and though I'm easily seduced by workshop assertions that I will learn the latest best practices in child care, I've often come away disappointed. Some conferences don't come near to meeting their promises! In contrast *Nurturing New Roots: Supporting the Newcomer Family* was all it claimed it would be. Friday afternoon, I left for home feeling energized and refreshed with new knowledge.

A common theme running through my workshops was a celebration of the traditions each new family adds to Canadian culture. The conference boosted my understanding of how we will continue to 'nurture new roots' and support families with quality programs.

*Selina says:*

The whole event was well organized, planned and nicely arranged. Also I would like to share with you another nice thing at the conference. It was CMAS staff's on going support, welcoming all participants, directing participants toward the session and greeting everyone during lunch and breakfast.

*Thanks again to Rosalie and Adele, our conference organizers, for a terrific event!*

## CMAS

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## Cross Border Shopping Is Not the Best Deal for Child Safety

Cross border shopping may be cheap and convenient, but when it comes to buying a child's car seat or booster seat for use in Canada, Transport Canada warns consumers that it is illegal.

Transport Canada is receiving a significantly increased number of inquiries from parents and caregivers who have either purchased a seat, or are considering purchasing a seat from outside of Canada. The Department is also seeing an increase in the number of reports from Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) officers and from certified child passenger safety technicians that seats purchased in other countries are being privately imported into Canada and are showing up at car seat clinics across Canada.

Transport Canada is concerned that parents and caregivers may not know that it is illegal to import and use in Canada a seat that does not comply with Canadian standards. Many consumers are looking south of the border and in other countries for the best buy without knowing all of the facts. Child seats and booster seats sold in the U.S. and other countries do not meet Canadian federal regulations and, under provincial and territorial legislations, are illegal to use in Canada.

### RESOURCES ... *Take a Look!*

The Canadian Association of Family Resource Programs (FRP Canada) promotes the well-being of families and provides resources to those who care for children. This site offers **multilingual parent resources**. <http://www.parentsmatter.ca>

For information about the **flu** or about **proper hand hygiene**, go to Sneezes & Diseases at: [http://www.vch.ca/public/communicable/docs/sneezes\\_diseases.pdf](http://www.vch.ca/public/communicable/docs/sneezes_diseases.pdf)

### *Let us introduce...*

Hi, My name is **Janice Marshall** and I have been an ECE for over 28 years, working mostly with pre-schoolers and toddlers. In my first few years I worked within a day care setting, later I moved to France for two years where I taught ESL at the University of Grenoble. On my return from France I was hired as a parent facilitator with the Toronto School Board in their drop in program. The latter few years were spent working with the TDSB teaching in senior kindergarten and finally ending with the Jewish community centre nursery school free play program.



### Winter is Here!

Even "seasoned" residents need help getting through the long Ontario winter. Settlement.Org has several resources to prepare newcomer parents and children for a warm, healthy winter. These articles focus on health, housing and how to dress for winter. The animation, *How to Dress Children for Winter*, is available at the site and you can download a poster for your program. Go to:

<http://www.settlement.org/site/ed/guide>



### *And the winner is ...*



Rahat Khan, from Halton Multicultural LINC Childminding in Oakville, was the winner of a gift basket in our contest for all those who took TOP courses and also replied to the TOP questionnaire. Congratulations!

Thanks to all of you who helped TOP by responding so promptly to the questionnaire. We learned a lot and are very pleased with the positive comments that everyone made. We will seriously consider all your suggestions, and look forward to the ongoing development and improvement of TOP services.

## Special Events

**March 16, 2008 - March 19, 2008**

Banff, Alberta

*Effective Early Learning Programs:  
Research, Policy and Practice*

3-day conference co-sponsored by the Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development, the Early Childhood Learning Knowledge Centre and the Canadian Language and Literacy Research Network.

To register, or for more information, visit:  
[www.banffbehavsci.ubc.ca](http://www.banffbehavsci.ubc.ca)

**April 04, 2008 - April 05, 2008**

Toronto, Ontario

*Expanding Horizons for the Early Years 2008:  
Practice, Research & Promoting Change*

Organized by Sick Kids, this conference is for multidisciplinary practitioners concerned with the care of infants, young children and their families.  
[www.sickkids.ca/imp/section.asp?s=Expanding+Horizons+Conference+2008&sID=13346](http://www.sickkids.ca/imp/section.asp?s=Expanding+Horizons+Conference+2008&sID=13346)

**Keep in touch and let us know what's happening in your region!**