

The September & October Newsletter



Welcome Everyone!

Welcome to new and returning families!

Please take a moment to read the staff profiles on our website – www.yorkuchildcare.ca – they are also posted on the wall across from the kitchen door.

The staff have some great programs planned for the children. Staff will also be assigned a child(ren) for documentation. Please take a moment to read your child's binder, however, please do not take any items in the binder home. They will be given to you once you withdraw from our program.

Please ensure we have received all of your information for your file. We will be licensed soon and will receive non-compliance if files are incomplete.

I will be going through every file and will let you know if there is anything missing,

We are pleased to announce that Michelle Pham will be returning to Lee Wiggins in October.

Best,
Stephanie

Gentle Reminders

- Annual flu shots are required. Once completed, provide the Centre with the form for us to photocopy.
- Wash your hands and your child's upon entering the Centre.
- Only full-time children have permanent cubbies. Please remove the name tag at the end of your stay.
- Part-timers – leave diapers in your child's pouch by the washroom.
- Full-timers – check your child's basket/bin for diapers.
- Ensure that your child is warm and comfortably dressed for fall weather.
- Please help us out by removing mucky outdoor shoes before entering the Centre. Also, tuck hats and into jacket sleeves.
- Label all your child's belongings (i.e., hats, shoes and clothes) so we can keep lost items to a minimum.
- Please see Stephanie for financial questions with the exception of payment. Any staff may assist with counting cash

Important Dates to Remember!

- **September 2:** Closed. Labour day.
- **September 3:** 1st Day for YorkU classes.
- **September 22:** First day of fall.
- **October 9:** *Parent/Staff Annual General Meeting (AGM)*
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm.
- **October 12-18:** Reading week (Centre open)
- **October 14:** Centre closed. Thanksgiving.
- **October 23 – November 3:** Costume Mash Up (Optional costume participation).
- **October 24:** RECE Appreciation Day!
- **October 31:** York Lanes Halloween walk.



LWCC's Amazing Staff!

Please see our detailed staff profiles located by the parent communication board.

Stephanie Pappas – Acting Assistant Coordinator,
RECE

Michelle Pham – Acting Coordinator, RECE
Alexandria Spadafora – RECE
Courtney Huynh – RECE
Rita Colacino – Full Time Assistant
Carly Laurenza – Assistant
Ayesha Saleem – Assistant

Alix Best – Assistant

Cindy Sanchez – Assistant
Varisha Memon – Assistant
Christy Tse – Assistant
Sayera Babur – Assistant

Kiran Aziz – Volunteer

LWCC's Amazing Board of Directors!

The Board is made up of 7 members. The full Board typically meets 10 times per year, usually for 2 hours.
Meetings are typically held monthly with the exception of the summer and December.

The responsibilities of Board members include but are not limited to:

- Ensuring that the LWCC meets the needs of the people it serves.
- Ensuring financial solvency of the LWCC through budget development/approval; monthly review of financial statements and ensuring an annual audit.
- Ensuring LWCC meets all legal standards and requirements.
- Assisting the Coordinator to market the Centre's services, lobby and raise funds.
- Developing a mission statement and policies for the Coordinator to implement.
- Selecting the Coordinator and delegating the person to carry out their policies.
- Providing the Coordinator, a complete and current job description.
- Evaluating the Coordinator based on performance (Formal evaluation annually, but ongoing feedback provided).
- Working as a team with the Coordinator and Staff to accomplish objectives.

THANK YOU LWCC Board of Directors 2018/2019

Mike Cado – **Chair**
Kevin Reynolds –
Secretary
Michael Frascchetti –
Treasurer
Wan Park
Rob Castle
Natasha Walsh
Noreen Cauley

The Lee Wiggins Childcare Centre Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2019



The LWCC Annual General Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, October 9, 2019** from 5:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. Light snacks will be provided for members (parents/guardians/staff/board) during this meeting. Meeting room is TBA.

We need a 10% enrollment of parents/guardians to attend.

This is a major financial meeting of your membership to the LWCC. At this time, members are presented with the previous year's audit for discussion and approval. The Centre's Operating Budget is presented, along with any other information and business such as upcoming fundraisers.

Quorum

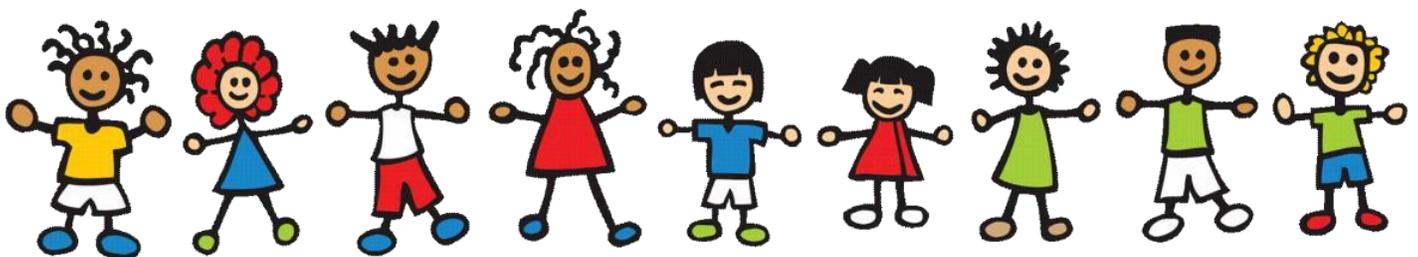
At each meeting of the members, be it annual or general, quorum must be obtained. Quorum refers to the minimum number of officers and members that must necessarily be present for the valid transaction of Cooperation business. It is important that members try to attend such meetings, or if that is not possible, to find a member who is attending and send their proxy vote.

Board of Directors

Members of the LWCC are encouraged to stand for election to become a board member. This is the Centre's highest decision-making body. Having member representation is critical to the sustainability and success of the Centre.

Parking fees are reimbursed to board members who provide a receipt when attending a board meeting on campus. Please keep the receipt(s)!

The LWCC Will Provide Complimentary Childcare and Dinner for the
Children for the Duration of this Meeting.
Please Sign Up in the Foyer!



Welcome Back Michelle!

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Michelle Pham will be returning to the Lee Wiggins Childcare Centre as Acting Coordinator. Michelle has been on an extended series of leaves before and after the birth of her daughter. Michelle has a long history with the Centre. She first joined Lee Wiggins in 2006 as a summer student volunteer. For six years until 2012, Michelle was an assistant childhood educator when she gained her ECE. In January 2013, Michelle was promoted to Assistant Coordinator. Please join the Board welcoming Michelle back to the Centre.

While Michelle was on leave, Stephanie Pappas has been the Acting Assistant Coordinator, with full supervisory responsibility over the Centre. Working closely with the Board, Stephanie guided Lee Wiggins through some very challenging times and the Board wants to acknowledge her excellent leadership and to thank her for her dedication and wonderful work with children, staff, and parents. Stephanie will continue as the Acting Assistant Coordinator.

The Board has decided that this would be the best time to carry out an open search for the position of Lee Wiggins Coordinator, something we have not done in over 20 years. Our plan will be to use the next six months to undertake the search. We will be sharing more information with you in the coming weeks. In the mean time we are excited to have such a strong staff team on board and look forward to working with the team.

Donations

Student Subsidy Fund

We are excited to announce that LWCC is establishing a Student Subsidy Fund to offer assistance for childcare needs to undergraduate and graduate students who are not eligible for other subsidies. This Fund seeks to provide some help to York's student-parent population in an effort to break down financial barriers that student-parents often face in completing their studies. If you are an undergraduate or graduate student not currently covered by the CUPE 3903 discount, please notify staff in order to register for the Student Subsidy.

We invite members to spread the word so that students who are considering daycare for their children can be informed of their options at our centre. At the same time, we invite donations from individuals and organizations, for which we would issue a charity receipt



Allergy Alert!

LWCC is aware that some of the children attending the Centre have allergies, some of which may be life threatening. These allergies may include a condition known as anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic shock caused by exposure to certain foods and other substances.

Common allergens include peanuts, strawberries, fish, shellfish, wheat, dairy, soy, latex, and bee stings.

LWCC does not claim to be free of foods and non-food items that may lead to a severe allergic or anaphylactic reaction. However, our Centre's anaphylaxis plan is designed to ensure that children at risk are identified and strategies are in place to minimize the potential for accidental exposure.

LWCC takes reasonable efforts to reduce the risk to children with severe allergies or anaphylaxis. Creating an environment that reduces the risks will require the cooperation and understanding of all members of LWCC, including staff, volunteers and parents/guardians.



LWCC Snack Suggestions?

We create our snack menu on a weekly basis.

Please feel free to email us with any healthy and multicultural snack suggestions to add to our grocery list!



Like and Follow Us on Facebook & Instagram!

The Lee Wiggins Childcare Centre at York University



APPLE CRUMBLE

Ingredients: 8 apples (cooked), 1 tbs water, 1 tsp all spice mix, 150 g flour, 60 g unsalted butter (softened), 100 g brown sugar

1. Preheat oven to 200-degree Celsius
2. Peel, core and cut apples into small pieces
3. Place apples, cloves and water into a small casserole dish
4. Cover and place in microwave on high for 5 minutes
5. In a bowl, rub the butter and flour together to form pea size pieces
6. Mix in sugar
7. Put the crumble mixture on top of the apple and put into oven for 15-20 minutes or until crispy and brown on top.

Book and Toy Lending Library

The resource books are available for borrowing for a two-week period. One book per adult and two books per child may be borrowed, due to the size of the library we offer.

The toy lending library offers a wide variety of toys ranging in ages from infancy to school-age children. Toys and costumes can be borrowed for a one-week period and on a one-per-child basis.

If a book or toy is lost or misused the fee will be the full replacement cost. All fees collected will be put into a fund for the purchase of new resource materials.



Documentation Partners

Staff documents observations of each child based on the *Early Learning for Every Child Today* document (E.L.E.C.T.). Each child has a documentation binder found on the divider.

Full time children are generally paired with a part time staff and full time staff paired with a part time child. This way, we optimize the amount of observation time between partners.

Full time children are documented once a week, part time children twice per month.

Although each child will have one designated documenter, please keep in mind that all staff supervises the children. There is not just one “go to” staff.

Hours of Operation

Our hours of operation are 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. At the end of the day, please arrive at 5:30 p.m. and leave the Centre by 5:40 p.m.

The staff has had a long day and have many duties to prepare for the next day. Please be respectful of the staffs’ time.

P.A. Days

Do you need or know someone who may require care for school-aged children? If so, we offer occasional and emergency care!

Please email the Centre ahead of time to see if we have space.



Vacation Notification

The LWCC is open during YorkU reading weeks. If you would like to request a vacation during this time, please provide the Centre with one month written notice.

Members who register their child(ren) for 1 year, or 3 consecutive semesters may take 10 consecutive business days without being charged. 5 consecutive business days of vacation may be taken at a time. All other vacation time that is taken will be considered payable days.



Supporting children's growth

All parents want the best for their babies and children. That means making sure they get the best possible start in life.

A child's early years from before birth to age six are very important for healthy development. This is a time when a child's brain and body are developing at a rapid pace. Healthy babies and toddlers are more likely to stay healthy through their childhood, teen and adult years.

A strong, loving relationship between a parent and a child supports the child's healthy growth and development.

Government services

The **Healthy Child Development - Integrated Services for Children Information System (HCD-ISCIS)** is a provincial database which stores personal information of families who receive services from the following programs:

- Healthy Babies Healthy Children
- Preschool Speech and Language
- Infant Hearing
- Blind-Low Vision

Service providers obtain consent from families prior to entering their information in the provincial database and use it to deliver these programs. Service providers are public health units, hospitals children's treatment centres and other community-based organizations funded by the Province of Ontario.

The Province of Ontario provides the HCD-ISCIS database to participant service providers in its role as a "health information network provider" under the *Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004*.

Ontario protects the personal health information stored in the HCD-ISCIS application. All employees overseeing the HCD-ISCIS application are required to attend privacy training and sign appropriate confidentiality agreements. Any third individual or third party engaged by MCCSS to support HCD-ISCIS is bound by the same privacy requirements, Ontario employs technical safeguards, such as, passwords, audit logging, encryption, and role-based access controls for information systems from which personal information may be accessed.

Please contact your service provider if you have additional questions regarding the collection, use and disclosure of your personal health information.

Services to support your child's health

- [Newborn screening](#)
- [Vaccines](#)
- Support through the [Healthy Babies Healthy Children](#) program
- [18-month well-baby visit](#)

Hearing

All newborns have their [hearing tested](#) within a few days of birth.

Speech and language

Find out about your child's [speech and language development](#), and the help that's available.

Ontario Early Years Centres

At your local [Ontario Early Years Centre](#), you can connect with other parents, share your experiences and find out more about parenting and community programs. These centres also have activities for both parents and caregivers and children up to age six.

Developmental Concerns

Ontario funds the **Infant and Child Development Program** to help children up to age five with developmental disabilities or who are at risk of developmental delay. The program provides services in the child's home and community, with a focus on supporting parents in promoting their child's early development. Find the [Infant and Child Development Program](#) nearest you.

Blindness and low vision

Ontario also offers programs to support [children who are born blind or with low vision](#).

Developmental checklist

The [Nipissing District Developmental Screen checklist](#) can help you see if your child's growth and development is on track. This checklist is available for Ontario parents at no charge.

Ontario Ministry of
Children, Community and Social Services

Ontario proposes new childcare tax benefit – but experts warn it may not help families in need

By [Katie Dangerfield](#)

<https://globalnews.ca/news/5159907/ontario-child-care-tax-benefit-families-benefit/>

As the cost of [childcare](#) continues to weigh heavily on many Canadian families, the Ontario government announced its proposed plan to help low- and middle-income families deal with financial stress.

The Progressive Conservative's [Ontario Childcare Access and Relief from Expenses \(CARE\)](#) tax credit, announced Thursday in the province's budget, is set up to allow parents to decide what childcare options work best for them, according to Finance Minister Vic Fedeli.

But some childcare advocates are sounding the alarm, saying the rebate program does not go far enough in helping families covering skyrocketing costs.

How does the CARE tax credit work?

The CARE tax credit is based on a sliding scale for families earning up to \$150,000 in household income each year. Families earning \$20,000 or less per year will qualify for 75 per cent of eligible expenses per child.

Under the tax credit, families with children under seven would receive up to \$6,000 and children between seven and 16 would receive \$3,750. Children with a severe disability would receive up to \$8,250.

For example, a couple earning a combined \$150,000 with two children under seven would receive \$160 under the CARE tax credit. A couple earning a combined \$80,000 with two children under seven would receive \$6,240.

Families have to keep receipts for the childcare expenses and can start to claim the tax credit starting with the 2019 tax year.

The Ontario government said it's worth an average of \$1,250 per family and can be used for many childcare options, like in-home daycare and camps.

On top of this, the province is also pledging up to \$1 billion over the next five years to create 30,000 new child-care spaces.

"The CARE tax credit would be one of the most flexible child care initiatives ever introduced in Ontario. It is a plan to put parents, and not the government, at the centre of the child care decision-making process," Fedeli [said in a statement](#).

"We want parents to be able to choose the kind of care that is best for their children so that they can go to work, run a business, or study to acquire new skills."

Will it close the childcare affordability gap in Ontario?

Ontario is one of the country's most expensive childcare markets. In Toronto, the median cost for childcare is \$1,685 a month or \$20,220 a year, according to the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

Of course, childcare fees vary by region and the child's age. For childcare centres, the average infant fee varies from \$51.00 per day in northern Ontario to \$85.00 per day in Toronto. For toddlers, the range is from \$42.00 to \$66.00.

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Because the cost of childcare is so high, Carolyn Ferns with the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care, said the tax rebate does not help a lot, even for the lowest income families.

"The total amount you can get tops at around \$6,000.

And the government claims it covers 75 per cent of costs, which means you have to find childcare that costs \$9,000 a year," she said. "This is far below the medium infancy rate of \$20,000 in Toronto or \$12,000 in Ottawa."

"So that is a lot of out of pocket money."

For example, if a low-income family finds a childcare centre that charges \$20,000 a year, the tax credit would leave them with \$13,250 to cover on their own.

In a [blog post in the Conversation](#), Gordon Cleveland, an associate professor of economics at the University of Toronto, said the tax credit will not be enough to close the affordability gap.

"The current child care subsidy system in Ontario calculates that families earning below \$35,000 can afford to pay no more than [\\$1,500 in total for child care](#) annually," he said.

Ferns said many lower-income families will still rely on subsidized daycare, something she is afraid the Ontario government may slash.

"The budget did not outline what will happen to subsidized childcare or the early childhood educator wage grant. If these programs are cut, daycares may have to raise their fees and parents will lose subsidies," Ferns said.

Ferns said another problem with the tax credit is the need to pay upfront costs before you get the money back. And because many families live paycheque to paycheque, this credit may not be a reality.

However, the Ontario government said starting in 2021, the credit families can apply for advance payments.

What about other provinces?

A 2019 study of childcare fees in Canada by the [Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives](#) argued the best way for provinces to tackle unaffordable childcare costs is to cap fees and make up the difference with operational funding.

David MacDonald, a senior economist with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, said three provinces have intervened in childcare and set fees at lower costs than the market rate. Quebec, Manitoba and P.E.I. have lowered the costs for residents by setting a maximum price, MacDonald said. Thee other provinces are mulling similar moves – Alberta, Newfoundland and Labrador and British Columbia. During the Alberta 2019 election campaign, the NDP's said if the party is re-elected, they will cap childcare fees at \$25 a day. And the B.C. NDP government recently unveiled a \$10-a-day childcare 'prototype.'

Halloween Safety with the Canadian Red Cross

With witches, goblins, and super-heroes descending on neighbourhoods across Canada, the Canadian Red Cross offers parents some safety tips to help prepare their children for a safe and enjoyable trick-or-treat holiday. Halloween should be filled with surprise and enjoyment, and following some common-sense practices can keep events safer and more fun!

- Costumes should be light-coloured and flame resistant with reflective strips so that children are more easily seen at night. (And remember to put reflective tape on bikes, skateboards, and brooms, too!)
- Costumes should be short enough to avoid tripping.
- Remind children to keep away from open fires and candles. (Costumes can be extremely flammable.)
- Use face paint rather than masks or things that will cover the eyes.
- Remind children to walk, slither, and sneak on sidewalks - not in the street.
- Explain to children that trick-treating should be done along one side of the street first and then the other, and that it's best to cross the street only at intersections or crosswalks.
- Remind children to look both ways before crossing the street to check for cars, trucks, and low-flying brooms.
- Provide yourself or the children with a flashlight to see better and to be better seen.
- Trick or Treaters should travel in groups of four or five. Young children should be accompanied by an adult.
- Visit homes that have the porch light on.
- Make sure children know they should accept treats at the door and must not get into cars or enter the homes or apartments of strangers.
- Remind children not to eat their treats and goodies until they are examined by an adult at home. Candy should not be eaten if the package is already opened. Small, hard pieces of candy are a choking hazard for young children.
- Make sure you and your children know where the Block Parent houses are located in the neighborhood.
- Set agreed-to boundaries with your children. Explain the importance of staying within them and arriving home on time.



Did You Know?

The Lee Wiggins Childcare Centre is a registered charity and can accept donations from the community.

Donations over the amount of \$10 are subject to a tax receipt.

Fall Leaves

Red, yellow, orange, brown-
Leaves are falling all around.

See them dance
In the cool, fall air.

Rake them and pile them
And bag them with care.



Five Little Pumpkins

Five little pumpkins sitting on a gate.
The first one said, "Oh, my it's getting late!"
The second one said, "There are witches in the air."
The third one said, "But we don't care."
The fourth one said, "Let's run, let's run!"
The fifth one said, "Isn't Halloween fun?"

Then Wooooo went the wind
And OUT went the lights.
And five little pumpkins rolled out of sight.

