

Bringing care and community together / Jumeler soins et collectivité

February 22, 2010

Dear OEYC stakeholders,

For the past eight years, the Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre's Ontario Early Years Centre – Carleton (OEYC) has had an excellent track record in providing quality programs and services in our community. Beginning April 2010, we will be making OEYC program changes in order to better meet the needs of our community and remain consistent with best practices.

Over the last few months, we reviewed our human and financial capacity. This included a thorough review of the OEYC mandate and service objective, as well as new data including the Early Developmental Instrument, evolving community trends, changes in early learning sector and future opportunities to improve linkages and partnership with our community partners. We are committed to maximizing existing resources to ensure the biggest impact possible.

While we are very excited about the opportunities that lie ahead in partnering with local schools and other services providers to support families and children, we have had to make some significant changes to our staffing and service levels.

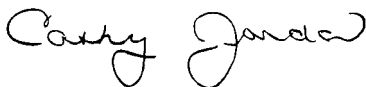
Since the inception of the OEYC in 2002, no funding increases from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) have been received. However, program maintenance, expenses, salaries and training costs have increased. As the OEYC began facing funding issues, reduction possibilities became more of a reality. Beginning April 1, 2010, the OEYC will be reducing staff and therefore reducing services by 25 to 35 percent.

The new program calendar, printed on the back of this letter, highlights the programs that will still be available. We will continue to offer some drop-in programs, story time and topic specific workshops, but with reduced frequency. Service reductions include: Toy Library in Kinburn; Corkery drop-in; Saturday drop-in; Monday afternoon drop-in at OEYC; and Tuesday morning open drop-in.

While we are reducing services, we still remain dedicated to providing quality services based on the funding provided by the MCYS. The OEYC drop-in program is extremely popular and we acknowledge that service reductions will have an impact on service delivery. We encourage program participants to ask a Family Resource Worker how they can begin a playgroup in their neighbourhood. The OEYC will also offer community development opportunities, which will increase partnerships with other community organizations for program delivery and coordination opportunities.

Your feedback is important to us, and may help shape future programming decisions. Please contact us at 613-591-3686.

Sincerely,



Cathy Jordan,
Executive Director