
HISTORY

In recognition of the private sector's responsibility to children and families, Kanata Research Park Corporation, developers and landlords of the work-place campus, sponsored the creation of a multi-service not-for-profit childcare agency and family resource centre for campus and community families.

The Family Centre's purpose is to build on the strength of families by supporting parents in their role of raising and educating their children. Parents are respected as their child's first teachers and a strong partnership between home, the Family Centre and the community is created. The Family Centre is a hub of inclusive services with a focus on the family as a unit providing a variety of parent-oriented and child-oriented activities.

Kanata Research Park Family Centre was created in response to employee requests for family supports. The expanding community and campus warranted the development of a campus location providing multiple services.

Confident that this endeavour would be a success, Kanata Research Park Corporation pledged ongoing operational financial support for twenty years, creating the first private-sector, non-profit childcare financial partnership in Ottawa.

Since opening in March 2000, our 100 Helmsdale location has expanded to a licensed capacity of 114 children in six different programs including an onsite junior and senior kindergarten program offered in cooperation with the Ottawa Carleton District School Board. Three years ago, due to expansion, our school age program for 30 children re-located to one of the office towers on the campus. We also offer a summer camp for 30 children, and an early French immersion summer camp program for 16 children.

100 Helmsdale Dr. was formerly known as Charlton House – The Newbridge Lodge. The “Bed and Breakfast” style housing, with 22 small bed and bath dorm size rooms, was built in the late 1980's to accommodate Newbridge contract workers and those re-locating Kanata while they waited for housing. The 13,000 square feet was extensively renovated and retrofitted at a cost of 1.2 million dollars providing for spaciousness and flexibility beyond the required space per child. When calculating square footage we believed it was important to accommodate children, staff and family needs for openness, privacy and storage, all of which has impacted and influenced the quality of the environment and program.

We investigated several childcare models before deciding to incorporate a not-for-profit agency, with charitable donation status, sponsored by Kanata Research Park Corporation. This structure was chosen to maximize efficiency and flexibility.

Kanata Research Park Family Centre promotes the importance of the early years and positive parenting by providing resources and support