

April 13, 2009

Hello waiting list Family,

**The next annual open house is scheduled for May 6, 2009 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.** We are happy to share our centre with you so you can compare and investigate early learning environments to assist you in making an informed choice when a space becomes available at any licensed centre. **The purpose of this open house is not to recruit families because the unfortunate reality is that we continue to experience a very long waiting list.** We encourage you to apply to many other licensed centres, in addition to the Family Centre, to increase your chances of obtaining a space.

**Our waiting list:**

We do not anticipate having any vacancies until at least July 2009– we do offer priority to families who work on the campus, and even with this priority families should still expect to wait 2+ years for a space. **Once again it is very unlikely that we will have any spaces available for community families, who do not work in buildings within KRPC's portfolio, during our summer 2009 transition phase. You will not be taken off our waiting list unless you make a specific request to the centralized waiting list.**

**The process we use in offering spaces:**

When a space becomes available at the Family Centre it is offered first to families currently attending in case they wish to increase or change their attendance days. Available spaces are then offered to siblings of children currently attending, then families who work on the campus and finally community families. The list is then sorted and families are contacted regarding available spaces whether they requested full-time or part-time care – this way you can make a decision based on your current circumstances.

**Why it is difficult for us to tell you where your child is on the waiting list**

At this time there are **over 1000** names on our section of the centralized waiting list. In order to provide you with a number, we would have to sort all of the names of children eligible for a specific program age range, then sort again by when they would like a space to become available (for example some children on our list are current toddler age but their parents are not interested in a space until they are kindergarten age), then by priority – first being siblings onsite, then campus families, then community families. After all of this sorting, the number you would be given would still be irrelevant because the information could change very quickly. A family who registered previously may now start working on the campus, a currently attending child may become a sibling, someone who indicated a later start date now wishes to start earlier and so on.

**IMPORTANT UPDATE FOR ALL ALCATEL EMPLOYEES**

**As of December 31, 2007, Alcatel Canada Inc. is no longer leasing space from Kanata Research Park Corporation (600 March Rd. is not a Kanata Research Park building). This means that effective immediately Alcatel is not one of the employers who receive priority for a space at the Family Centre.**

**Why we give priority to those that work on the campus**

We offer priority to those that work on the campus because Kanata Research Park Corporation invested in the start-up cost of the Centre and continues to provide us with an annual donation.

As a not-for-profit agency, their annual contribution is an extremely important component of our budget and allows us to offer a high-quality program. When developing the centre we also expected to be able to serve the surrounding community, unfortunately our waiting list is overwhelming and at this point we are not even meeting the needs of those who do work on the campus.

Kanata Research Park Campus refers to the buildings owned by Kanata Research Park Corporation (KRPC). To be considered as working on the campus you must work for an employer who leases space directly from KRPC and is therefore a tenant of KRPC.

**These are the buildings applicable within Kanata Research Park Corporation's portfolio:**

555 Legget Dr., 535 Legget Dr., 515 Legget Dr., 303 Terry Fox Dr., 411 Legget Dr., 2500 Solandt Rd, 349 Terry Fox Dr., 359 Terry Fox Dr., 350 Terry Fox Dr., 360 Terry Fox Dr., 362 Terry Fox Dr., 340 Terry Fox Dr., 307 Legget Dr., 309 Legget Dr., 2500 Solandt Rd., 1001 Farrar Dr. , 400 March Rd, 340 Legget Dr. Suite 101

**If you do work on the Kanata Research Park Campus, defined as a one of the buildings owned by and leased from Kanata Research Park Corporation, it is extremely important that this information is included on the Centralized Waiting list. If you are unsure if you included this information in your waiting list application, please contact the Centralized waiting list directly at [cci@afchildcare.on.ca](mailto:cci@afchildcare.on.ca) to confirm. If you wish to be removed from our section of the CWL please use the same email address to contact the CWL directly.**

I have begun the planning for the upcoming 2009 summer transitions **and I will be in contact with you directly if there will be a space available for your child.** Our limited spaces for the summer 2009 transition period will be assigned by June 2009. In my early stages of planning for the transitions, I **do not** anticipate any spaces becoming available for children born in **2006**. The Family Centre has 2 preschool programs and the majority of children born in 2006 will remain in the program for one more year, and the spaces that remain will be filled with the children moving up from our toddler program.

Please be advised as of September 2009, our school age program will serve children ages 6 – 10 years of age.

While the City of Ottawa continues to be very supportive of Early Learning and Care in our City, funding for childcare, particularly capital and start-up costs, comes from cost-sharing agreements with the Provincial and Federal governments. If you continue to be frustrated by the lack of quality licensed early learning and care spaces available in Kanata I encourage you to voice your opinion directly to the different levels of government.

**You may wish to contact:**

[www.waitingforchildcare.ca](http://www.waitingforchildcare.ca)

Marianne Wilkinson, City of Ottawa Councillor for Kanata North – [marianne.wilkinson@ottawa.ca](mailto:marianne.wilkinson@ottawa.ca)

Peggy Feltmate, City of Ottawa Councillor for Kanata South – [peggy.feltmate@ottawa.ca](mailto:peggy.feltmate@ottawa.ca)

Shad Qadri, City of Ottawa Councillor for Kanata-Stittsville – [shad.qadri@ottawa.ca](mailto:shad.qadri@ottawa.ca)

**(You can find the other City of Councilor email addresses at [www.ottawa.ca](http://www.ottawa.ca))**

Norm Sterling, Provincial MPP for Lanark-Carleton – [norm.sterling@pc.ola.org](mailto:norm.sterling@pc.ola.org)

Hon. Gordon O'Connor, Federal MP for Carleton-Mississippi Mills – [oconnor.g@parl.gc.ca](mailto:oconnor.g@parl.gc.ca)

I hope you have found this update helpful. If you do not wish to continue to receive emails from the Family Centre please respond to this email asking to be removed.

**All the best to you and your family!**

**Esther Seaman, RECE**