

Hello Waiting list family,

***Our bi-annual open house is scheduled for Wednesday April 4, 2007 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 childcare 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 childcare centres in addition to the Family Centre to increase your chances of obtaining a childcare space.

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

When a space become 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 offered to siblings of children attending, then families who work on the campus and finally community families. I sort the list and contact families of all available spaces whether they requested full-time or part-time care – this way you can make a decision based on your current circumstances.

***Our waiting list:***

We do not anticipate having any vacancies until at least July 2007 – 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. **We wish to be as honest with families as possible, therefore, once again I am predicting that it is very unlikely that we will have any spaces available for community families during our summer 2007 transition phase. You will not be taken off our waiting list unless you make a specific request to the centralized waiting list.**

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

At this time there are over 500 names on our section of the Centralized Waiting list. In order to assign you a number, I 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 I give you 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.

***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.

**If you do work on the Kanata Research Park Campus, defined as a one of the buildings owned by Kanata Research Park Corporation, it is extremely important that this information is included on the Centralized Waiting list. A listing of Kanata Research Park buildings is available at <http://www.krpc.net/Corporate/Portfolio/>. 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.**

I will begin planning for our summer transition in March/April **and I will be in contact with you directly if there will be a space for your child.**

All of our expected spaces for the summer 2007 transition period will be assigned by June 2007.

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 Province and the Federal government. If you continue to be frustrated by the lack of childcare spaces available in Kanata I encourage you to voice your opinion directly to the different levels of government.

***You may wish to contact:***

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)

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

***(You can find the other City of Councillor 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. Mary Ann Chambers, Provincial Minister of Children and Youth Services – [machambers.mpp@liberal.ola.org](mailto:machambers.mpp@liberal.ola.org)

Hon. Monte Solberg, Federal Minister of Human Resources and Social Development – [solberg.m@parl.gc.ca](mailto:solberg.m@parl.gc.ca)

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 let me know.

Thanks!

Kim Hiscott