



Child Protection Services

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TOLL FREE NUMBER

No Break for "Relationship School"



With spring drawing closer, students and teachers alike are anxiously awaiting for March Break in order to re-fuel for the remainder of the academic year.

Parents are often also in need of a well-deserved break, but a parent's job does not benefit from the regularly scheduled vacation days of the school system. However, that does not mean that parents are not teachers in their own right. In fact, parents are always teaching in their home, classrooms, or "relationship schools."

A child's home is where he learns how to be in all types of relationships, whether the relationship is friendly, parental,

or romantic. How parents treat their children and each other is a strong indicator of how those children will, in turn, treat others in childhood and as adults.

Children's Aid Societies often become involved in the lives of families who have experienced some type of domestic conflict. This is because there is often a likelihood that children will either be physically or emotionally harmed if the conflict they are exposed to is severe or chronic.

Studies have shown that there is a direct correlation between a child's exposure to domestic conflict and an increased prevalence of emotional and behavioral problems as children grow and develop.

Strategies to reduce a child's exposure to domestic conflict include:

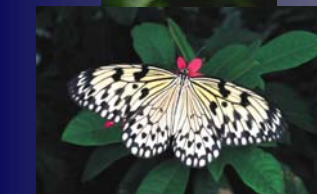
- * Resolving disputes calmly and without violence or raised voices,
- * Taking a break from the conflict to regain control of your emotions,

- * Ensuring that children are not in the home during particularly emotional disputes; and
- * Refraining from the use of alcohol or drugs to deal with anger before, during, or after a dispute.

The *Child & Family Services Act* encourages Children's Aid Societies to make choices in the best interests of children. This, I believe, is just as great of an obligation for parents. My hope is for parents to become more aware of their behavior and its potential effect on the well being of their children, and to place a child's need for safety above all else.



Gabe Carpenter
Manager of Protection Services



Developmental Services

March is Easter Seals Month



Direct financial assistance to individual families is the primary focus of The Easter Seal Society, Ontario. The Society acts as a third party funder and as such has no role in prescribing, recommending equipment, selecting a vendor/contractor or in the relationship between the parent and vendor.

Eligibility—Who is eligible?
Children and young adults (birth to 19th birthday) with physical disabilities who are registered with The Easter Seal Society, Ontario qualify for financial assistance towards the purchase of eligible services and special equipment.

Funding—What is funded?
Easter Seals financial assistance program picks up where the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care's Assistive Devices Program (ADP), insurance and other family resources leave off. The

list of eligible equipment and services is reviewed regularly and priority is given to mobility and communication devices. Easter Seals' contribution is based on availability of funds.

<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Examples</u>
Accessibility	Ramps, porch lifts, van lifts, van tie downs
Bath/Toilet Aids	Shower chair, bath chair, bathroom grab bars
Communication Devices	Computers for basic communication for children who can not talk
Mobility Aids	Wheelchairs, walkers
Orthotics	Braces, splints
<u>Service</u>	<u>Examples</u>
Camp	Easter Seals camp fees
Recreational Choices	Registration fees for day camp

Support—How much support will Easter Seals provide to each family?
The Easter Seal Society, Ontario is committed to providing support to as many of Ontario's 20,000 children and young adults with physical disabilities as possible to a

possible maximum amount of \$3,000/ year per client for equipment and meals and accommodation. The \$3,000 limit does not include camp fees or Recreational Choices funding. The level of assistance offered to each family may vary based on the overall cost of the item and the availability of Easter Seals funds at the time the request is received.

Parent Contribution—How much are parents required to contribute?
Parents are responsible for the first \$50.00 or more depending on their financial resources for each request. Parents are encouraged to seek out all sources of funding in addition to Easter Seals Financial Assistance Program.

A minimum camp application fee of \$50.00 applies to Easter Seals residential and family camp fees. Parents are strongly encouraged to contribute as much as possible towards this discretionary and foreseeable expense.

Debra Bruyere
Community Integration Worker



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Children's Mental Health Services

Quality Relationships With Our Children



I suppose the reason this topic is on my mind is due to the fact that we just recently celebrated Canada's second annual Family Day on February 16th. I have been thinking a lot about how fundamental a strong and secure relationship between a child and their parent/caregiver is to the mental health of our children; this could never be overstated enough.

I believe that much of the strength and security needed

for our children's healthy development is derived from this all important relationship.

It's been said that most children spell love as "t-i-m-e." As a father of four growing children I do understand the incredible challenge of investing quality relational time into my children as there are so many competing factors and distractions that take time and energy of parents/caregivers. Maybe you're like me, when you have the time to give to your children you don't have the energy, and when you have the energy you don't have the time.

Although parenting/caregiving is likely the most challenging and important role one could have in life, I want to encourage all parents/caregivers to dig deep and do your very best to pour

your relational energy into your children, even though it can be such hard work. I feel strongly about this because during my ten plus years working in children's mental health I have noted that as physical exercise is crucial to physical health, so to is a strong and secure parenting/caregiving relationship crucial to the mental health of a child. I don't think any of us will ever have any regrets if we invest of our time, energy and resources into a quality relationship with our children. They are worth it!



Troy Clink
Manager of
Children's
Mental Health
Services

We are on the Web!
www.facsrr.ca

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Children's Services

Family Day 2009



The third monday in February has been designated as Family Day in Ontario. On February 16, 2009 the employees of Family and Children's Services celebrated this day with family, friends and co-workers at Little Beaver Snow Park.

The weather was great and

the sun shone all day while the children took to the snow hill on their tubes. Hotdogs, french fries, donuts and hot chocolate were served when the enthusiastic sliders took a break in the cozy lodge at the bottom of the hill.



It was hard to determine who had more fun, the children or the adults, but the day was considered a success due to the tired legs

and full bellies that went home.

Families come in all shapes and sizes and the intent of Family Day is to spend it with the people who make up the kaleidoscope of one's life, and to celebrate the presence of our loved ones.

Happy Family Day!

Martene Nelson
Adoption Worker

Community Services & Quality Assurance

During a recent training experience, we were asked to examine our life and describe it in one word. This proved to be more difficult than one would think, and when we finished the exercise the instructor shared the following with us. It is important to realize daily the simple things we take for granted. One of which is life.....



Becky McClain
Supervised Access
Program Coordinator

Life is...

- Life is an opportunity, benefit from it.
- Life is beauty, admire it.
- Life is a dream, realize it.
- Life is a challenge, meet it.
- Life is a duty, complete it.
- Life is a game, play it.
- Life is a promise, fulfill it.

- Life is sorrow, overcome it.
- Life is a song, sing it.
- Life is a struggle, accept it.
- Life is a tragedy, confront it.
- Life is an adventure, dare it.
- Life is luck, make it.
- Life is too precious, do not destroy it.
- Life is life, fight for it.

Mother Theresa

Call your local
office of
Family & Children's
Services
24 Hours a day,
7 Days a week
Or visit us on the
web www.facsrr.ca



MARCH IS KIDNEY AWARENESS MONTH!

For more information, please contact our area's local office of the Kidney Foundation in Thunder Bay at (807) 624-2680 or kidney@tbaytel.net

