



Ontario Early Years News Haliburton County



Haliburton Early Learning Centre

December 2009

Haliburton Early Learning Centre

December will be a month of celebrating togetherness and giving to others. Join us for:



Ornaments, Ornaments Galore Week



Cookies with Santa Day Wednesday, December 16th



The Act of Giving

Sharing our gifts with others.

Haliburton Centre Hours

Monday through Thursday
9:30 am. -1:00 pm. for songs,
crafts, early learning activities
and free play. Closed the last
Thursday of the month.

Call Brenda, Wendy or Michelle
at **457-2989** for information.

Christmas Closure



Our last day open before the holidays will be
Wednesday December 16th. Both centres will
re-open on January 4th. **We wish you and your
family a safe and happy Christmas!**

Minden Centre Hours

Monday through Thursday
9:30 am. -1:00 pm. for songs,
crafts, early learning activities
and free play. Closed the last
Thursday of the month.

Call Julie or Jan at **286-1770**
for information.

Ring in 2010 with 10 reasons to come into the OEYC!

- 1) Have fun and relax after the busy holidays.
- 2) Come to Family Games Night in January.
- 3) Gain parenting tips from staff or visit our library.
- 4) Make a fun and silly craft with your child.
- 5) Cuddle together in the cozy reading corner.
- 6) Join us at circle time for new songs and games.
- 7) Learn more about how your children grow and develop.
- 8) Build a tower, master a puzzle and watch your child's self-esteem soar.
- 9) Enjoy the excitement with your child when borrowing a toy.
- 10) You can forget about the dirty dishes and laundry at home!



Children's Learning Centre

Monday to Friday Childcare
Preschool & Toddler programs
7:30 am. - 5:45 pm.
After School program at Archie
Stouffer School 3:30 to 5:45
Call Gord at **286-4074**
16 Prentice St. Minden

**Parenting Programs and
Workshops or Early Literacy**
Monday to Friday Call Brenda or
Bev at **286-4625**

**Create memories.
Enjoy these precious early years!**



Christmas Party at the Minden Early Learning Centre

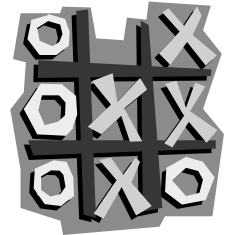
Santa will be visiting us on Tuesday December 15th as part of our annual Christmas party . Please bring a wrapped, labelled book for your child to receive. We will be decorating gingerbread men, singing carols and enjoying a potluck meal together. Please sign up by Dec. 11th.

Family Games Night- Part 2! Tuesday January 26, from 5 pm to 7 pm.

Our first family games night held in September was a great success, so we have decided to offer another evening program to celebrate **Family Literacy Day**. The games are suitable for children ages three to six, but there will be some available for younger and older siblings, as well as group activities.

Dinner will be provided and each child will receive a free book to take home.

Register by January 22



Why Play Games?

Unlike computer and video games and television, traditional board games require that children actually interact and speak with each other! Players have to follow rules, take turns and problem solve. There are emotional consequences as well. Children need to learn how to handle loss and how to be a gracious winner. Co-operative games and activities promote team work. Some can also benefit motor skills that help with writing and drawing, while games such as Twister promote coordination and balance. They are also a fun way to practice number, letter, colour and shape recognition. Having a games night is an inexpensive way to promote these skills and spend time together as a family.

- adapted from FamilyEducation.com

Let's Visit the Library!

We will be visiting the new Minden Library to hear a story, take a tour and sign up for a library card on Family Literacy Day, **Wednesday January 27 at 11 a.m.**

The OEYC will be also be giving a free book to each child. Please sign up in advance.

Friendship Party on February 10th

We will be celebrating **Valentine's Day and Chinese New Year** with a special Asian flavoured party. There will be crafts, music and activities, as well as a potluck lunch. Please sign up by February 8th.



Parenting Programs

You are the best gift for your child!

Toy manufacturers use clever advertisements to send the message to parents that their latest toy or DVD will make your child happy and smarter so that you feel pressured to buy it to be a "good" parent. Are we being misled that toys are the only solution to give your child a better brain and start in life?



When the real truth comes out, you are the most valuable and priceless gift that you can give your child. With a little bit of thought everyday occurrences and attention are all your child really needs. I'm not suggesting you go and throw out every toy in the house. Good quality toys do have a place in assisting your child to learn and grow through play. But the real impact in your child's life is your time and attention in their life.

OEYC staff and our parenting libraries have lots of ideas on how to give your child the best start through everyday life. Pick up a copy of **Parents Canada Baby and Child Care Encyclopedia** from the OEYC center which gives information on play and selecting toys for your child.

Recommended book reading

"The Ordinary is Extraordinary How Children Under Three Learn" by Amy Laura Dombro and Leah Wallach. It looks at parents feeling pressured to find "quality time" with their children. Using real life stories, we learn how families can use their day-to-day happenings to bring out the best in their child.

Wilberforce Play and Learn



The Play and Learn Program will finish the year with a Christmas party at the Lloyd Watson Centre on December 17th. Our special guest will be Doug Stephen with his model train set featuring Thomas the Train!! A light lunch will be provided.

We will return on January 21st.

The Reading and Parent Program (RAPP) will be offered again during February and March. If you are interested in this take-home book and activity package you can register on our January 21st visit. Our Literacy Specialist, Bev Jackson, will join us on February 4.

For more information call 286-1770 or 457-2989.

How You Read to Your Child Makes a Difference

1. Make reading a pleasure:
 - * read to your child in a comfortable place
 - * have her sit on your lap or next to you so she can see and point to the pictures and print
 - * show her that reading is fun and rewarding
2. Show enthusiasm as you read with your child:
 - * read the story with expression
 - * make it more interesting by talking as the characters would talk
 - * make sounds and make expressions with your face and hands
 - * when children enjoy being read to, they will grow to love books and they will be eager to learn to read them
3. Read to your child often:
 - * set aside special times for reading each day (after lunch, bedtime)
 - * the more you can read to him the better – as long as he is willing to listen
 - * reading time can be brief, about 5 to 10 minutes
4. Talk with your child as you read together:
 - * comment about what is happening in the story
 - * point to pictures and talk about what is happening in them
5. Encourage your child to explore books:
 - * give your baby sturdy books to look at, touch, hold, chew
 - * allow her to turn the pages, lift the flaps, look through the holes
 - * keep books on low shelves, in baskets, where she can get them herself
 - * she may “read a book” that she has heard many times or may “pretend to read” based only on the pictures
6. Read favourite books again and again:
 - * your child will probably ask you to read favourite books many times
 - * you might get tired of reading the same books, but children love hearing the same stories again
 - * it helps them learn to read by hearing familiar words and seeing what they look like in print

Adapted from “A Child Becomes a Reader”, National Institute for Literacy, 3rd Edition, 2006

If you would like more information on how to support your child’s development in early literacy, please contact Bev Jackson, Early Literacy Specialist,
Ontario Early Years – Haliburton Victoria Brock,
at 705-286-4625 or 705-324-7900.