



JASPER PLACE CHILD AND FAMILY RESOURCE SOCIETY WEST EDMONTON PARENT LINK

Annual Report 2010-2011

An Annual Message from the Director

Centre's vision – Centre's culture

As I was recuperating from my surgery last year I had lots of time to think about my work at the Centre - the work that still fascinates me and challenges me to keep on learning. The work that I can loose sleep over, not only in a bad way but many times in a good way – when ideas are rushing through my mind in a 100km speed. Hundreds of ideas, over these past three decades, have crossed my mind - about how to make our programs better, how to ensure we are meeting families needs, how to support staff in their work and most importantly how to give your child the days filled with feelings of security, nurturing and joy for new learning.

Some of those ideas became reality, but there were some that stayed in my dreams, in a Never Land. During those days at home, I had the time to think in a more global way. What is it that this Centre must do to continue in its mission and vision? What is the way to sum up the Centre's philosophy? As I tried to remember some of the ideas from my sleepless nights, one that kept buzzing through my head was the one that's the heart of this Centre - the Centre's culture; the culture that I have been so proud of; the culture that many of you the parents and community members have liked about us. What is the culture and how do we keep maintaining it as we continue growing ?

Maintaining the culture

Yes, we have been growing. We're not a small Centre anymore. We are a Centre with 32 employees, 5 different programs serving not only 50 or so families but over 1000 families a year. A couple of years ago we have changed our organizational structure to accommodate for this growth. We have added another administration level of two part-time coordinators to ensure a better delivery of our programs.

We realized right from start and even more now that growth in staffing, programs as well as our spread out physical space layout requires clear and focused communication in order to guarantee our best practices and yes, our culture.

What is our culture? At our meetings, the indicators of our culture were summed up in the following words:

- welcoming atmosphere
- genuine desire to do our best
- aspired to be on the leading edge with early learning and care research
- and most importantly being passionate about our work

About us:

Jasper Place Child and Family Resource Society

Was established in 1972.

Our goal is to provide family related programs and services that strengthen the families and community we serve

Vision

Together we grow, learn and succeed-the child, the family and the Centre-as we build a healthier community.

Mission

To be parents' partners in promoting children's healthy growth and development and in enhancing family wellness.

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Over this past year, the Coordinators and I have started brainstorming and analyzing our operational procedures to keep abreast with the emerging situations that we have been facing as a result of the Centre's growth - the Centre that is neither small nor big but somewhere in between; where work transparency allows for everybody's opinions and input and where a relationship-based approach drives our work with the children and families - at times not an easy task.

Our goal has been and will continue in times to come, the strengthening of the Centre's culture - founded on our beliefs, values and best practices that foster individual accountability for the Centre's positive outcomes.

CULTURE OF ACCOUNTABILITY

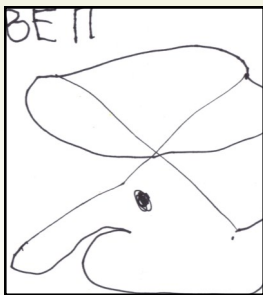
Accountability has been a big word in workplaces lately. As Shauna, Brock's mom said at one of our Parent Connect Time, "the personal accountability it's much talked about at her workplace as the way to produce the outcomes outlined by employers and/or funders. During that conversation, Mark, also a parent of ours, said a comment, although common, but re-affirming of the importance of our teamwork here at the Centre:



Team is as good as every individual in the team. In other words there is an "I" in every team the "I" that says I will do my best and I will work with the rest of the team to make it happen. (Yes, as many of us know, Mark is a man of many words.)



How true....and how true in the place, like our Centre. Most things, actually everything that we do at the Centre is about working together. This means being open to new knowledge, respecting individuality while ensuring that the Centre's outcomes benefit the whole team, your whole family and the whole Centre's community.



We will do it by timely reflections on how we are doing, how can we do things better to keep building those strong teams, strong partnerships with a common goal in mind : your child's and your family's healthy well being and the Centre's high standards of programming and services.

CELEBRATING COLLECTIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

THE BEST PLAYGROUND EVER

Over the course of the Centre's existence, we've had several playgrounds. Well, this is the best one. Some credit is due to the evolution of early learning and care philosophies on outdoor spaces but some is due to everybody here at the Centre-the Board, parents, Misericordia Hospital Administration, staff, children, ISL Engineering and Land Services, Questic Playquest Companies, and of course the funders. This is an example of collective strength of teams and partnerships that make things happen. Thank you.



THE BEST LOOKING CENTRE EVER

Out of the 3 locations the Centre used to be housed in, this is the one. Cabrini Centre has given us space that allows us to move forward with program philosophies, like small group projects in the Preschool Room. But again it were the parents who volunteered their time with some persistence from the staff (I won't mention the names) to spruce up our environment, hallways and such.

THE BEST PHILOSOPHY EVER

Over the years, the Board and the staff had a common understanding of the Centre's philosophy. We've written several different versions, long and short all of them having the same message- promoting child's wellness and respecting individual families as the primary caregivers.

It has been my regular routine as this past staff appraisal, to ask the staff for their own interpretation of the Centre's philosophy. I was very proud hearing the answers. They all came out stressing the importance of working with the child via the relationships with you the parents. At the end , this is what we summed up to guide us as the Centre's philosophy:

"It is only through reciprocal relationships with the parents that we are enabled to foster the child's positive growth and development."

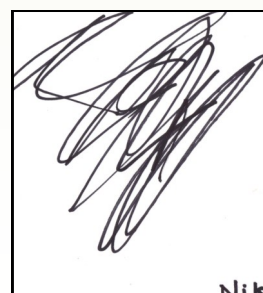
Thank you staff for your input

THE BEST BOARD AND STAFF EVER

This has been our year for getting re-accredited. The last 5-6 months have been spent evaluating our practices, policies, procedures against the Accreditation Standards - lots of work, at times stressful but at the end very rewarding and re-affirming. This is the time to improve our practices. The final outcome - a recognition that personal and collective accountability is a must for the Centre's continual growth in reaching our goals. A foot-note- the accreditation took place yesterday

Quick Highlights

- Our staff presented at the Child Care conference on documentation of children's learning
- Small projects work in the Preschool Room
- Boo Boo's (Infant stuffy) birthday celebration in the Infant room
- Documentation of children's learning in the Toddler Room
- Learning about empathy through Seeds of Empathy in the Kinder room
- Participating in EDI Mapping—Alberta Education initiative in collecting data of Kinder age children to find out how children in individual communities are doing developmentally
- Casino – \$69,142.58





WORKING TOWARDS.....

Re-affirming the Centre' beliefs and values — beliefs and values for the children and families that we serve as well as beliefs and values that will guide us, the staff into strengthening the Centre's culture of accountability.



Re-creating the Centre's celebrations— that are meaningful and fun to the young children, meet the needs of our families and staff and strengthen our relationships.

Getting feedback from our parents— in addition to our regular questionnaires/surveys, we will be scheduling Parent Focus groups to provide opportunities for focused dialogue between parents and the Centre.



Perfecting the staff's knowledge/ practices— continue learning about Regio Emilia approach and about early learning and care programs in New Zealand.

The Centre's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) and the accreditation standards are kept alive throughout the next three years— regular references to QEP and standards at staff meetings/staff in-services.



Creating outdoor/indoor environment for the children—that is conducive to their learning and growth and the delivery of our programs and services—proceed with renovation plans, painting of the gym, a new computer for the Kinders, to mention just the main ones.

Promote parent volunteerism and targeted fundraising— to support the Centre's activities and plans for renovations.

And most importantly, working towards

Strong parent-staff partnerships - founded on mutual understanding and respect of each other



And even more important

Not forgetting to have FUN as we work with you and your child

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AND GRATITUDE GOES OUT TO...

Staff who have been at the Centre for 5 years and more

Simone Sewell—23 years

Adine Shuchuk –19 years

Sherie Balaban—15 years

Pam Gudmundson - 15 years

Ala Izdebska - 14 years

Leah Eisen –10 years

Wendy Countaway –8 years

Paula Reye - 7 years

Manuella Videla - 6 years

The Executive Board of Directors– 2010-2011 Term

Cindy Shepel, Chairperson

Diem Fernandez, Treasurer

Tim Neufeld, Vice-chair

Tammy Seridiak, Secretary

Cindy Veitch, Director

Sauna Hoffman, Director

Eleanor Joffe, Director

Vanessa Vanderkooi, Director

Mark Ilkew, Director

Funders for 2010-2011 Term

Alberta Childrens Service's

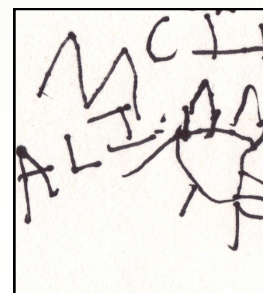
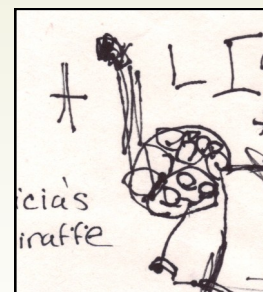
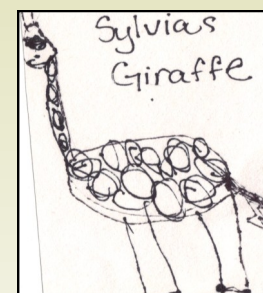
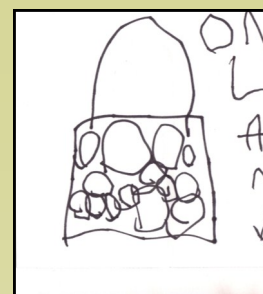
Alberta Education

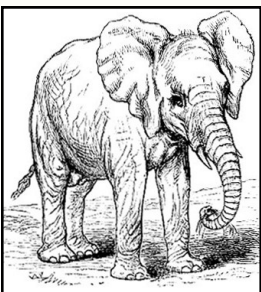
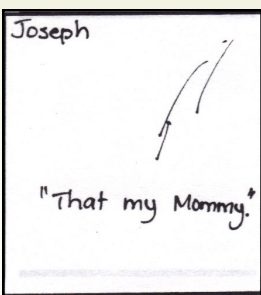
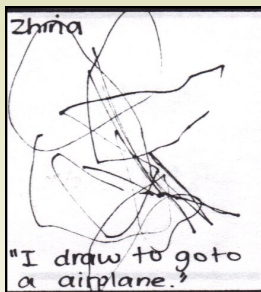
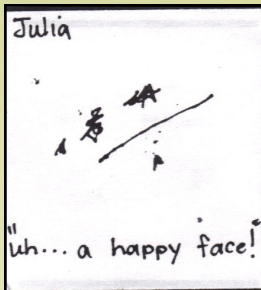
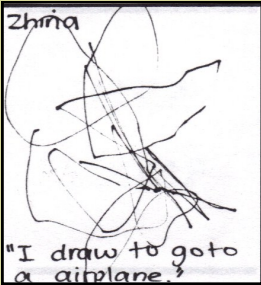
Edmonton and Area -Child and Family Services, Region 6

Family and Community Support Services – The City of Edmonton

Alberta Works – STEP

Canada Summer Jobs





Thank You.....

On behalf of everybody here, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our parents, partners, volunteers, funders and donors. We could not possibly do all of this alone. With your support, we continue in our efforts togrow, learn and succeed - the child, the family and the Centre as we build a healthier community.

I cannot thank the Board of Directors and my staff enough for their support over the past year.

Thank you for making it all possible. I look forward, together with you all to continue creating and building our Centre to make a difference in the child's life, the family's life and the whole community.

