



UMBRELLA FAMILY AND CHILD CENTRES OF HAMILTON

NEWSLETTER

• WINTER 2017 •

FEBRUARY FREEZE!

We are deep into winter but, thankfully, spring will be here before we know it. Spring will bring our March Break Camp and then soon after, registration for our Summer Camps. Watch for more information in your centre in the coming months.

THE UMBRELLA HEAD OFFICE IS MOVING

We have outgrown our current office space, located within Ray Lewis Elementary School. We are pleased to let you know that we will be moving in mid-March. **The new address will be: 310 Limeridge Rd. W. #9.** Phone and fax numbers will remain the same.

NEW PROGRAMS AT ROSEDALE

We are pleased to announce that we have opened new Umbrella Programs at Rosedale Elementary School in Hamilton. Rosedale will be offering our Extended Day programs for Kindergarten and School Age children.

MARCH BREAK 2017

Our March Break Camp for JK/SK and School Age children promises to be an exciting week with special guests and field trips planned at centres that are running the camps. Children who have registered can look forward to a fun-filled week!



WHAT'S ON FOR FAMILY DAY (FEB. 20/17)

All Umbrella Centres are closed on Feb. 20/17 for the Family Day holiday. Below is a list of some fun things you can do as a family in the Hamilton area. Visit **hamilton.ca** for more information and a complete listing of events.



- **Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts** - 10am-4pm. Day of free classes and activities.
- **Hamilton Children's Museum** - 11am-4pm. Make bird feeders from pine cones at the Pine Cone Cafe.
- **Dundurn Castle** - 12pm-4pm. Hands on activities and tour.
- **Hamilton Museum of Steam & Technology** - 12pm-4pm. Trains, trains and more trains! Visit the craft station and decorate your own building.
- **Art Gallery of Hamilton** - 12pm-5pm. Enjoy art-making, gallery tours, pop-up story telling and a AGH Scavenger Hunt.
- **Fifty Point Conservation Area** - 1pm-4pm. Enjoy Frosty Fest with scenic wagon rides, ice fishing on the marina, skating on the pond, complimentary hot chocolate, or warm up by the bonfire.
- **Delta Park** - 6pm-midnight. 1,000 Bottles Waterfall... more than 1,000 bottles will be forming a magical lighted blue waterfall, all built and installed by volunteers.
- **Family Skating** - times vary by site. Visit hamilton.ca for more info.

HOW DOES LEARNING HAPPEN?

As outlined in the Umbrella Program Handbook, the starting point for curriculum in the Umbrella programs is the belief that children are curious, capable and they learn best by pursuing their own interests and goals in a carefully designed learning environment.

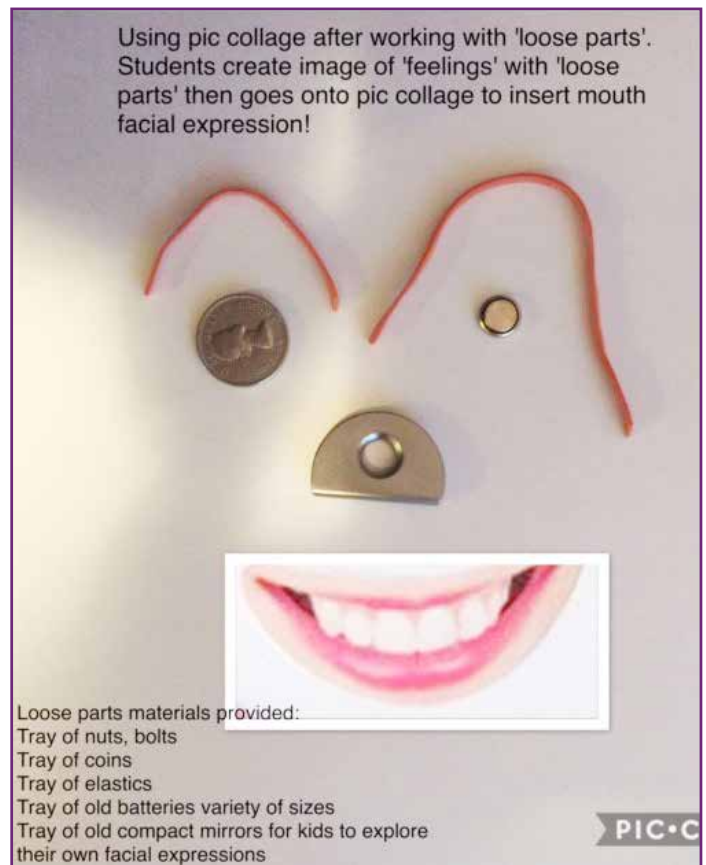
Staff members use the document *How does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years* as set out by the Ministry of Education, as a guide in supporting developmentally appropriate practice. This document includes expectations for programs centered on four foundations that are considered to be key ingredients for optimal learning and healthy development. These foundations are: Belonging, Well Being, Engagement and Expression. Goals for children include:

- Every child has a sense of belonging when he or she is connected to others and contributes to their world.
- Every child is developing a sense of self, health, and well-being.
- Every child is an active and engaged learner who explores the world with body, mind, and senses.
- Every child is a capable communicator who expresses himself or herself in many ways.

Connie Cortina is an Area Supervisor at Umbrella. She writes: "You won't find an inspired Educator saying that a child has too many limitations to learning or that children have no interest." Connie goes on to say: "Learning is always possible! Open ended questions, open ended materials, enthusiastic attitudes, and a positive learning environment are HOW learning happens under the Umbrella!"

Connie sent the photo you see here with a note that said: "Simon Nicholson is an architect who developed the Theory of Loose Parts. This theory comes to life where loose parts such as objects and materials can be moved around, designed and redesigned to create endless opportunities for creative learning opportunities! Take a look at how this simple activity thoughtfully incorporates all the foundations of learning described in *How Does Learning Happen, Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years*. The result indicates a sense of belonging, feeling connected, well being, a sense of self, engagement and creative thinking."

The photo is an example of how children's thinking and learning is recorded by educators through photographs and written observation and posted in the program for the review and consideration of both children and adults.



UMBRELLA FAMILY WEBSITE

Have you visited our website lately at umbrellafamily.com? Check back often for updates and information such as:

- PA Days and Programs During School Breaks (Program Info tab)
- Our Program Handbook (Family Info tab)
- Current Fee Schedules, Menus and News/Events (Family Info tab)
- New Program Statement (Family Info tab) or you can ask Program Staff for a copy.

