



YOUVILLE CENTRE

Spring 2025 Updates

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CWELCC Agreement

Ontario was recently one of the 11 provinces to extend the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care Funding agreement.

In January 2025, parent fees were reduced to \$22 per day and will continue to be reduced to an average of \$10 per day.

A cost based funding model to provide more financial stability to the sector has been introduced with a goal of increasing the recruitment and retention of the childcare workforce.

While our clients typically qualify for subsidy support, this is great news for our alumnae, staff, local workforce and our community.



Executive Director Message

PETER EMBLETON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Spring is always an exciting time of hope for so many reasons. For all of us at Youville Centre, the warmer weather means more time outside; the children love the time exploring and moving in our outdoor space and our clients find it easier to navigate strollers to the Centre. Here's to hoping April showers bring May flowers!

Planning is currently underway for our upcoming graduation—a time to celebrate the hard work and achievements of our Class of 2025, and our team that supported our clients every step of the way. It's a joyful reminder of the impact we're making together.

We're also preparing to welcome the Canadian Centre for Accreditation for an official visit in the fall, as part of our Centre's 2025 accreditation review. This important process validates the quality and integrity of the work we do, and we're proud to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to excellence.

The Child Development Team is currently researching opportunities to provide a refresh of the existing playground. For now the children are enjoying exploring the open space and fresh mud puddles. Stay tuned as we look for funding opportunities to recreate our natural space.

We continue to find innovative ways to ensure our programs and services meet the changing needs and interests of our clients, and are developing exciting new partnerships that continue to expand our reach and strengthen our community impact.



We are grateful for ongoing support from the Danbe Foundation and pleased to announce they have provided a matching gift, doubling the impact of the first \$5000 in donations for our annual May Mother's Day campaign. More information is on the last page of this newsletter, and we hope you read Chloe's Story about how Youville Centre helped her find the strength to believe in herself and build a better future for herself and her son. **As a valued member of our community, you play a vital role in the success of our Centre. Thank you for being part of this journey—we couldn't do it without you!**

Youville Centre's



After 3 years and many impacted families, the UJIMA project has concluded. While we will miss the benefits of having an onsite Family Navigator and Early Literacy Specialist, we were also happy to welcome Sophie and Mandy back to the CDP team. We will work to continue to provide the services and supports that families require within our current staffing.

Mandy and Sophie are pictured below with a cart prepared for a Make the Connections session.



Child Development Program (CDP) Updates

The Child Development Team continues to work collaboratively with families in supporting children's learning and development. Here is a peek into what is happening in our programs...



Professional Development

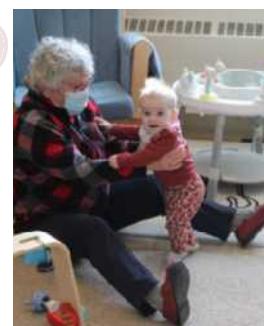
Thanks to funding provided by Professional Learning Pilot through the City of Ottawa and Province of Ontario, the centre was able to close for a full day of professional learning. Staff engaged in learning around supporting trauma, resilience and caregiver boundaries, along with engaging in team building exercises.



Volunteers

Thank you

We are so grateful for our volunteers who help and support our staff in SWAP and CDP. CDP volunteers care for babies and assist with tasks like laundry. SWAP volunteers help sort and organize second hand donations for our clients to access.



Daffodil Room



As we have many babies nearing 9 months, we are all about moving! And if we are not quite ready to move, we are pretty frustrated watching our peers on the move! We love to pull up on the shelf, cruise along and even type at the keyboard. Our current favourite toys include the large slinky, rattles, shakers and stacking toys!



Sunflower Room



Our Sunflowers LOVE music and are OBSESSED with our piggy bank. We love to put small things in and out of any container we can find! Playing at the kitchen and engaging in dramatic play is a popular activity among this group. We love rocking our "babies" to sleep and giving them bottles, we are natural caregivers as we watch and learn from our own!



Snapdragon Room



We are interested in learning all about our colours and numbers. Stickers are one of our favourite ways to practice our developing fine motor skills. We are also gaining lots of independence and self help skills. "I do it myself" is a common phrase heard throughout the day. Many of us are really interesting in practicing using the toilet and some of us have even moved to wearing underwear at childcare! These are huge milestones for us and our parents!) As we are active toddlers, we love to move our bodies and anything that involves running, jumping, climbing!



Tiger Lily Room



We LOVE to play outside especially in this Spring weather! Going on community walks also lets us experience the natural environment around us and we are exciting to see the squirrels and birds around us. Some of us have some bigger feelings; we need a little extra comfort to feel a secure base so we also spend a lot of day with cuddles and connecting with our educators to help us feel safe to explore the world around us.



Lilac Room



Colour matching is a favorite activity in the Lilac Room. We are so excited to explore our playground in the Spring, the new puddles are fun to splash in! We are a very social bunch, we are working on how to support our friends in the way they want to be supported. Sometimes our educators help remind us when one of our friends needs a little space or a little less of a hug. Helping us with our regulation skills is helping us find ways to connect with others. We are 18 mos to 3 years.



Daisy Room



We are an older infant / young toddler group who LOVE to DANCE - every afternoon there is a dance party and one of our favourite songs is Buzzy Buzzy Bumblebee. The cars and large garage also gather a lot of interest along with anything animals. We love to read books about animals and use the toy animals in all areas of play. As we are growing into toddlers, gross motor, climbing and active play is a part of everything we do!



2024 Holidays

December was a very busy time at the Centre, and Youville Centre's families were very grateful for the generous support from our donor community. Our clients were able to access our Holiday YouStore filled with wishlist items and toys, participate in special activities such as a family breakfast, making gingerbread houses, a holiday party, a turkey lunch with all the fixings, and more. We were also able to send all our families home for the holiday break with practical donations such as diapers, snacks for children, treats and gift cards. Visit our [Facebook page](#) to view our donor appreciation photos/posts.





**YOUVILLE CENTRE 2024
HOLIDAY WAYS TO GIVE**



In Client's Words

"The holiday support I received from Youville helped bring a smile on my daughter's face Christmas morning"

"The gift cards, food, clothes and everything was super helpful and I'm so grateful. It gave me more motivation to get to school too!"

"Receiving services from Youville both for me and my daughter and knowing what's around {for support} really helps me."

"You don't even know how much you helped us, everything we received was extremely helpful and very much needed - diapers were so great for my family"

"Thanks a lot to the donors! We really appreciate your help and donations. It helps us a lot. Holiday YouStore was so helpful for my family."

"The gifts we received really helped our children have a good Christmas, the toys and gift cards were so helpful!"

"Up and blessed. Forever grateful and thankful. Thank you! XOXO"

"The holiday support made my daughter's first christmas unforgettable, she loves all her toys and blankets."

Intensive Treatment Support Program (ITSP) Updates



Museum Field Trip

The students and staff explored a tropical visit inside the Canadian Museum of Nature's Butterfly Exhibit



Fairy Godmother

Our graduating students visited the Fairy Godmother with ITSP staff to search for a magical dress to celebrate their accomplishments on graduation day



Lunch and Learn

Thanks to funding through Famous 5 Ottawa and TD Bank, we offer a monthly Lunch & Learn program. Community members are invited to share information based on career paths, life skills, entrepreneurship, and other subjects identified as an interest or need by clients. *Pictured above: a pizza lunch with facilitator Elsy from WISE (Women's Initiatives for Safer Environments) and an informative safety presentation with demonstrations.*



FIRST AID

Upon student request, a parent-child first aid course was offered to provide the students with some basic first aid skills when parenting young children.

Breakfast Club

Thanks to a grant provided by Ottawa Food Bank, a breakfast club was created to accompany the ONFE Breakfast Program. The club is used to provide activities and resources related to food security and nutrition, along with increasing food security by distributing grocery gift cards to participating clients.



Circle Time - Due to a high interest in wanting opportunities to engage with their children while onsite, Case Coordinator Liz offers a parent-child circle time on Fridays. The groups are divided into 2 age groups, with a focus on connection, attachment and reading your baby's cues...no singing experience is required.

Parenting - Sophie, an RECE in the Daffodil Infant Room, is pictured meeting with a group of students to talk about introducing solids to their babies, for an informal lunch and learn session.



Balancing School and Family Life

Our students continue to juggle the challenges of being both learners and parents, but they are doing so with incredible strength. Their commitment to their studies and families is a testament to their resilience as they work hard to graduate and continue on their chosen path.

Transitions Group

As students prepare to graduate and transition into the next phase of their lives, we are excited to offer valuable support through our 8-week Transition Group for graduating students, designed to support their journey into chosen pathways. This program includes a personalized tour of Algonquin College, showcasing its programs and services. Students will also hear from two employment programs, Operation Come Home and Causeway Work Centre, to learn about job skill-building and job search support. Additionally, key topics like OSAP, Ontario Works, budgeting, and financial literacy will be covered to equip students with essential life skills.

New Food & Nutrition Class

We're excited to introduce a new Food and Nutrition class for the remainder of the school year. Students are gaining practical skills in making healthy food choices and understanding the role of nutrition in overall well-being. Topics include:

- **Canada's Food Guide:** Understanding food groups, serving sizes, and key nutrients.
- **Meal Planning:** Learning to plan meals for specific dietary needs, manage food budgets, and prepare meals in advance.
- **Food Labels:** Interpreting nutrition facts to make informed choices.
- **Eating Patterns:** Exploring the benefits of nutrient-dense foods, healthy snacking, and the importance of a balanced breakfast.
- **Influences on Food Choices:** Analyzing how factors like culture, emotions, media, and social situations impact what we eat.

This course empowers students to apply nutrition knowledge to their daily lives, equipping them with essential skills for healthy eating.



Education Partner Updates

MF MCHUGH EDUCATION CENTRE & ST.NICHOLAS ADULT HIGH SCHOOL TEACHING TEAMS

As we approach the final stretch of the school year, there's so much to celebrate here at M.F. McHugh Education Centre and St. Nicholas Adult High School! With only a few months left before summer, our students at Youville Centre are pushing forward with determination and enthusiasm.

Graduation Goals in Sight

We are thrilled to announce that several of our students are on track to graduate with their Ontario Secondary School Diploma by the end of June! Their hard work and dedication are truly inspiring, and we can't wait to celebrate their achievements at graduation.



Post-Secondary Pathways

In addition to graduation, many of our students have already completed their college applications. We're excited to share that some have already received acceptance letters, marking the next exciting chapter in their educational journey.

Looking Ahead to a Bright Future

As we move into these final weeks of the school year, the dedication and perseverance of our students continue to shine brightly. Their commitment to both their studies and families is inspiring, and it's clear that they are on a path toward great success. We're excited to celebrate each milestone, from graduation to post-secondary acceptance, and to support our students as they build a foundation for their futures. With new skills gained in the classroom and life lessons learned along the way, they are equipped for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Thank you for your continued support of our students and their journeys. Together, we are making these exciting times even more meaningful. Here's to the bright future ahead—let's finish the year strong!



Thanks for the support Youville Centre Community!



A big thank you to **Youville Angels Margie and Deb** for a donation of spring gifts. Margie and Deb collected items to donate 70 children's bags, clothing and chocolate treats. Our clients really appreciated this spring surprise!



Thank you to **Ava and her Only Takes One** community for the generous donation of wishlist items such as; fever meds, children's snacks, feminine hygiene items, formula, baby food, diapers and more! Happy birthday Ava!



Thank you to **Girl Up uOttawa** for the winter fundraising campaign for the Centre - members of the club raised **\$500** on a Canada Helps campaign page with support from their families, friends and a bake sale on campus.

On our website...

Now accepting **Alumnae & Second Generation Bursary Applications**



Fundraiser Golf Tournament 2025



SIGN UP!

Golfers WANTED

Visit our website for more details and the link to register:
<https://www.youvillecentre.org/ways-to-give/fundraising-for-youville-centre/>
Thanks for the support Knights of Columbus 9544!

May 2025 Mother's Day Campaign

Visit our website page here for more information:

www.youvillecentre.org/ways-to-give/help-us-grow/

Mother's Day is just around the corner...

will you be giving a special gift to Youville Centre this year?

Double your impact! Danbe Foundation Inc. is matching up to \$5000!

"Just having a place like Youville Centre gives us the resources to be successful - not just for ourselves, but for our children. It allows our children to thrive. It gives us a foundation to grow on and connects us with other women going through the same thing. It provides that village we all need."

Chloe
Youville Centre Alumna 2010

Chloe and Ryan Class of 2010

Chloe, Ryan, and their Family Now!

Read Chloe's story on our website and consider a donation today in honour of Mother's Day

www.youvillecentre.org/ways-to-give/help-us-grow/

Youville Centre

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All are **Welcome** here!




If you wish to update your contact information, or be removed from our mailing list, simply contact us at: communications@youvillecentre.org