

**SPECIAL NEEDS RESOURCING NEWSLETTER** 

FALL 2021

**Welcome Autumn**

Autumn is a time of renewal, and while the summer had us saying goodbye to long time Resource Consultant Renata Bulkowski and our Administrative Assistant Connie Young, this fall we welcome Resource Consultant Shawna Hicks to the Mountain Team.

As schools reopen and more children return to child care, it is important to keep in touch regarding positive cases of COVID. SNR staff will continue to contact you if they have visited a centre with a recently declared case. We ask that if our staff have been in your centre and you have just received notice of a positive case, that you contact the SNR Supervisor assigned to your area to discuss close vs. casual contact before submitting your list of contacts to public health. Our 21<sup>st</sup> podcast is now available and you can listen by clicking the image on page 2. In this episode, Kailee Huehn and Kaitlynn Munz discuss initiating difficult conversations with families. Finally, **calling all Educators** – check out page 2 and our attached poster! This year we will move through Shelley Moore themed learning opportunities!



Each year on the Civic Holiday, CLH Staff engage in a day of professional development – with a bit of fun thrown in. This year, staff were challenged to create an inclusion sundae and consider the ingredients as layers of support. These are some of the yummy creations.

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# SUMMER CAMP SUCCESS – Today's Family C.B. Stirling

Kudos to the Camp Counsellors at C.B. Stirling camp this summer who worked alongside Resource Consultant Sarah Davis to meet the social-emotional needs of first-time campers. Unique strategies were used to meet the needs of multiple children with special needs.

Together they engaged families to identify triggers and reduce elopement while providing an engaging and fun camp experience for all children.



From left: Omnia Tahir, Sarah Davis, and Surini Jayasuriya  
Absent are Alex North and Amanda McGowan

## **SHELLEY MOORE INCLUSION CHALLENGES**

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, many of us came together in a virtual event to hear the inspiring stories and analogies of Shelley Moore, Inclusion Researcher and Consultant. We left with new ideas to build on our inclusive practice – in fact, a few centres were truly motivated, and found creative ways to work the Shelley Moore teachings into their curriculum (see next page).

Over this next year, we will continue to check in with Shelley's work by focussing on one key concept per quarter. Each CLH newsletter will have an interactive poster attached for educators review and learning. In addition, this will include a related challenge. As a kick-off, those centres who complete the challenge in the first quarter and submit their response, will receive a related inclusion resource to support their centre's inclusive practices. This quarter's focus is presuming competence. Responses to the challenge must be submitted by Dec.1 to [CLHSNR@clham.com](mailto:CLHSNR@clham.com) or through the CLH staff.



## **DID YOU KNOW?**

There are lots of little tips and hints to make the most of your SNR planning. Here are a few:

- The 30 day wait to complete the ECSIT is only applied to brand new referrals
- CLH staff do not need to read **all** LCCP policies and procedures before entering the classroom
- CLH staff do not need to wear additional PPE to move between classrooms





## In the Spotlight

### Fan-Tastic Scholars Child Learning Centre

The team at Fan-Tastic Scholars took an energetic approach to applying the inclusive strategies suggested by Shelley Moore at the June 2<sup>nd</sup> event. Using the Classroom Support Plan as a guide, they purposefully applied the approach to address the various needs in their classrooms. The team has created their own plan, noting that the children are now models of support for each other. They feel they are more mindful of their own communication as a teaching team and have built stronger working relationships with families. They report that their classrooms are calmer, and as a result, behaviours have decreased. Supervisor Chandni Mukhija Sidu stated that "Shelley Moore herself motivated us to make the change".



*From left to right: Inclusion Facilitator Brenda Ziemann, Resource Consultant Sarah Johnson, Supervisor Chandni Mukhija Sidu, and Educators Prabjot Kaur and Ethar Ibrahim.*



Pictured here is one of the classrooms.

Team members are Supervisor Candice Dunlop and Educator Christine Zizzo.

### Farmers' Dell Co-operative Preschool

The Shelley Moore event could not have come at a better time for the team at Farmers' Dell who were doing a re-evaluation of their classroom environment. They learned to incorporate the principles of universal design and added new learning spaces between 2 classrooms including gross motor movement and a cozy quiet area. The new layout ensures that the needs of all children can be met.

For more information about Special Needs Resourcing services, please contact:

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## Important Dates

Special Needs Resourcing services will be unavailable on the following dates:

- *Thanksgiving – October 11, 2021*
- *Christmas Shutdown – December 25, 2021 through January 1, 2022 (inclusive)*

**COMMUNITY LIVING HAMILTON** is an accredited not-for-profit organization and registered charity that offers a full range of services to people with special needs. We are one of the largest not-for-profits in Hamilton; each year we provide service to approximately **1,400 children, teens, adults and families**.

In offering a full range of services to our community, we support individuals with special needs from childhood through to their senior years. At Community Living Hamilton, **we hope to create a lifelong partnership to support the individuals and community we serve.**



For more information on Community Living Hamilton, please visit our website at:  
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