

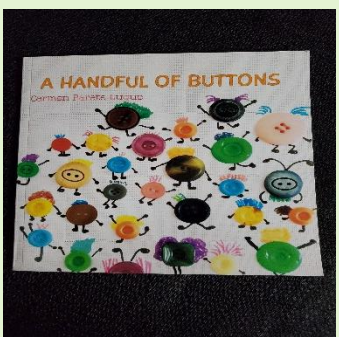
SPECIAL NEEDS RESOURCING NEWSLETTER



Spring 2023

Welcome

We are ready to welcome spring weather! It's a time of transition, and with that, the transition to school intake meetings are well underway. Also, we have compiled a new list of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging (EDIB) resources that include recommended books, movies, podcasts and webinars available on a variety of topics. Ask any CLH staff if you are looking for a suggestion. Also, a great children's book for starting conversations is pictured here. Ask a staff for the video created that discusses this book and some extension ideas.



Last but not least, the recording of the **Shelley Moore** event that took place last fall at the Marriott is now available! This is great PD either individually or for a staff meeting. It is password protected so reach out to CLH staff to gain access to this.



INCLUSION SERVICES - Hamilton Centre

Team

The Hamilton Centre Team is a team of 8 who supports 130 children, 46 licensed childcare programs, 3 EarlyON centres and 2 licensed home childcare programs in the heart of Hamilton.

Back row: Tracy Sherriff (Supervisor), Karen Barron (IF), Ashley Esgaio (IF), Tanya Filce-Schryer (RC), Susan Bassi (RC), Lisa Castellan (RC).

Front row: Megan Duvall (IF), Jessica Hardcastle (RC), Lily Ramirez (RC).

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Special Needs Resourcing is provided through funding from the City of Hamilton

The CHEERING Section

The Team at Today's Family Central

From left to right:
Natasha, Susan (CLH),
Jessica, Faith, Robin
(CLH) and Jessica S.

Way to go team!



Today's Family Central has demonstrated the importance of planning to support a child with multi-layered needs in accessing opportunities for healthy growth, development, and engagement within the program. The team worked closely with the family and community partners to meet the needs of their child and to promote inclusion and belonging in their program. There were challenges and hurdles to overcome, however, by setting a plan in place and implementing that plan step by step, they had a successful transition. The plan included additional training for educators to become familiar with new equipment, and understanding and responding to medical needs. Ron Joyce Children's Health Centre and Community Living Hamilton played a vital role in supporting the staff and family through this process – and it didn't stop with this classroom. The educators know they have the whole team at Today's Family Central to support them. It takes a special group of people to want everyone included and find a way to make it happen!

A Fond Farewell To Susan Bell

After more than 40 years in ECE, 20 years being in SNR, beloved Resource Consultant Susan Bell has decided to retire.

Over the years, Susan has experienced changes to the definition of true inclusion – the most significant being the focus on the whole child, rather than any deficits.

Susan reflects on her various roles, opportunities for growth, and the collaboration with colleagues and community partners stating "remember, you are never too old to learn". She is excited to start this new chapter of her life, although with a touch of sadness to be leaving. Susan's last day is June 2nd. We will miss her.



What's Your Story ?

This year Inclusion Services staff at CLH are sharing their individual inclusion stories and we would like to invite you to do the same. National AccessAbility Week is celebrated from May 28 – June 3 and this is a time to recognize the contributions of persons with disabilities and those who support them. During this time, join us in sharing your story of your first interaction with the world of disability and how your views have changed over time. Consider your first memory with someone who had a disability and/or the people who taught you how to empathize or support them. Was there a lightbulb moment that had an impact? Tap into your inner storyteller because we would love to hear it! Submit to CLHSNR@clham.com or any CLH staff by June 3rd to share your experience.



Inclusion stories written by the Hamilton East/Stoney Creek team

Robin's Story

My inclusion story started in junior kindergarten when I met a girl who was "different". What struck me as the most different was that she had a special helper (EA). Sometimes I would spend time with this girl and her special helper and this is where I learned my first sign language. In elementary school there were quite a few children with various disabilities and I often spent my recesses in what I now know was the resource room. I met an older boy who was in a wheelchair who I often sang to. When he was outside, some of the other children would argue over who would get to push his wheelchair. I continued to interact with these people in high school, and a really special moment was at graduation when the entire graduation class gathered around them in a circle on the dance floor and everyone cheered them on as they showed us their best dance moves. I remember crying tears of happiness. Fast forward a few years later when I was on my 3rd placement as an ECE student at Mohawk College. There were a lot of children in the classroom who had varying needs. This is where I first encountered a Resource Consultant and a Support Facilitator. I started asking a lot of questions! In my 4th placement, I found out there was an option to shadow these roles. I knew this was the route I wanted to take on my ECE journey. Shortly after completing my placement I was hired to be a Support Facilitator. Working with children, specifically children with various disabilities, was exactly what I was meant to do!

Robin Johnston

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Important Dates

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

- *Victoria Day – May 22, 2023*
- *Canada Day – Observed July 3, 2023*
- *Labour Day – Sept. 4, 2023*
- *Truth and Reconciliation Day – observed Oct. 2, 2023 *New**

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:
www.communitylivinghamilton.com