



THE INCLUSION NEWS

Spring 2026

Welcome

It's school entry time! Our resource consultants are very busy supporting the transition to school for those children entering this fall. Until the end of June, they will be preparing reports, meeting with families and attending school entry meetings.



Recruitment continues at Community Living Hamilton, and we are pleased to welcome 2 new resource consultants. Georgia Tomlinson is supporting on the Hamilton Centre Team and Sanah Kazmi is supporting on the Hamilton East/Stoney Creek Team. They look forward to connecting with you.

Some of our podcasts are getting an update. Be sure to check out *Creating Meaningful Connections*, *Inclusion in Home Child Care Settings*, *Resources to Support ECEs in Building Inclusive Practices* and *Planning for Inclusive Outdoor Play*. Also, specifically created for Leaders is *Achieving Greatness*.

[Embracing Inclusion](#)



Featured here are Resource Consultants Kailee Huehn, Katrina Hall and Hailey Wilson hosting a Regulation Relay at the School age Winter Symposium in January. If you missed it, be sure to catch the Summer Symposium on May 29th at ASCY's Arrowsmith location.

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



INCLUSIVE REPRESENTATION

Representation in children's toys matters, and when the first-ever Barbie with autism came out in January, CLH set out on a quest to find more representative dolls, particularly in the disability spectrum. Mattel, the producer of Barbie, has committed to creating representative versions of the doll including diverse abilities and medical conditions, as well as more than 40 body types, skin colours and hairstyles. While there is no one doll that can fully represent any specific identity, diverse toys foster self-worth and nurture empathy and acceptance, and above all, promote inclusivity.





National AccessAbility Week

National AccessAbility Week runs from May 31 to June 6. This is an annual initiative in Canada that highlights the importance of accessibility and inclusion of people with disabilities. We earmark this week to shout out (even louder than usual) and celebrate the contributions and achievements of people with disabilities, promoting efforts to reduce barriers. You can get involved too by joining us on Wednesday, June 3rd by participating in **Red Shirt Day**, wearing red to show support for people with disabilities and make a commitment to remove physical, attitudinal and systemic barriers. Self-directed activities could include learning more about National AccessAbility Week (it gets bigger every year) or taking in some of Dr. Shelley Moore's 5 Moore Minutes videos found here [Dr. Shelley Videos](#). Whatever you do, let us know by social media here [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) - tag us at [@communitylivinghamilton](#).



We also want to celebrate you, as the people the who care for, support, and advocate for children with disabilities every day. You may have noticed that our newsletter has random images of fidgets throughout. Count how many you see and email your number to CLHSNR@clham.com with your name and your program/centre name, and we will enter you into a draw to win a bundle of representative dolls as seen on page 2. Submit your guess no later than June 6th. The winners will be contacted on Monday June 8th.

Thank you for participating!



TODAY'S FAMILY EARLY LEARNING & CHILD CARE

The infant room at Today's Family (Greendale) is also looking to represent every child in their classroom, adapting a mini NG tube to fit on a doll. Kudos goes to educators Gaynor, Jessica and Kathy for their determination in ensuring everyone belongs.

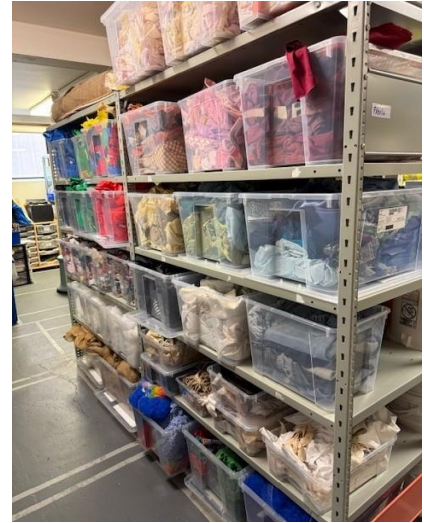
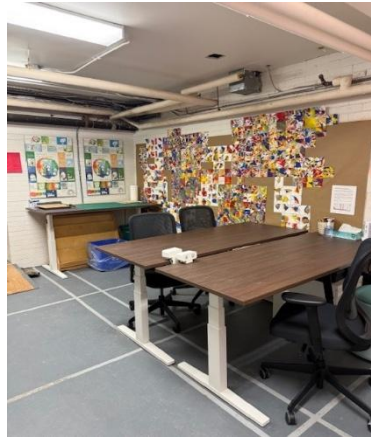




THE CHEERING SECTION



Red Hill Family Centre Nurturing Growth Through the Arts

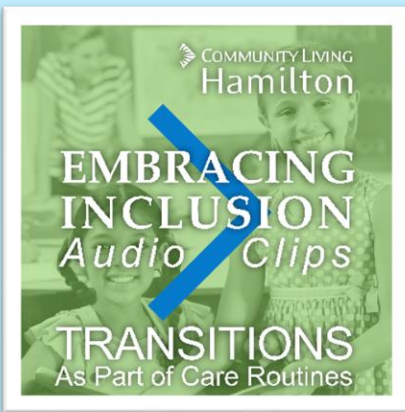


Exciting projects are underway at Red Hill Family Centre through the partnership with Arts for All. Together, they have been creating a Community Resource Hub and developing an Atelier space where the children can explore creativity, materials, and self-expression alongside the educators and artists. These initiatives reflect the ongoing commitment to inclusive practice, community collaboration, and high-quality early learning experiences.

EMBRACING INCLUSION

Audio Clip

A new feature has been added to our newsletter – an audio clip of our very best tips! Click the image on the left to hear Inclusion Facilitator Megan Duvall give some strategies when considering transitions as part of care routines.



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Important Dates

Children's Inclusion Services will be unavailable on the following dates:

- *Victoria Day – May 18, 2026*
- *Canada Day – July 1, 2026*
- *Labour Day – September 7, 2026*



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.**

 **COMMUNITY LIVING**
Hamilton



For more information on Community Living Hamilton, please visit our website at:
www.communitylivinghamilton.com