

SPECIAL NEEDS RESOURCING NEWSLETTER



WINTER 2022

Welcome

Once again we find ourselves adapting to changes in a pandemic world. CLH is committed to the continuing of in-person services. If these visits are concerning, or you have questions, please reach out to your Resource Consultant or SNR Supervisor. It is with mixed emotions that we announce the retirement of May Biello, who has been with CLH for more than 40 years. To read more about her journey, see page 3. We also welcome 3 new Resource Consultants to our team: Sheri Noblett (Hamilton West), Aura Patrau (Hamilton East), and Nicole Woods (Mountain). Our 22nd podcast is now available and you can listen by clicking the image on page 2. In this episode, Michelle Woods discusses The Magic of Mealtime. The transition to school process is underway for all children eligible for Kindergarten in September. Along with this, our Family Engagement committee has created a new module intended to help educators navigate through the steps. Ask your Resource Consultant for the Supporting the Transition to School resource on her next visit.



On December 13/21, SNR staff virtually shared words of encouragement with each other as a reminder of our everyday strengths, gifts and contributions.

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

Honourable mention goes to the LCCPs who embraced the **Presuming Competence Challenge** in the fall. Educators from the following centres took on this reflection exercise:

St. Matthew's House, YWCA Downtown (P2), The Nesting Nook, St. Paul HWCCCC, Wesley Child Care Centre, Bright Path Waterdown, Waterdown District Child Care (After School Program), St. Thomas More, Today's Family – Franklin Road, St. Martin's Manor, Today's Family Greendale, Jamesville Bennetto, Sunshine Daycare, Fantastic Scholars West, St. Therese of Lisieux, La Garderie Le Petit Navire, Spring Valley YMCA, Umbrella Family Lincoln Alexander and Mountain Nursery School. Thanks to you all for your dedication. Promised resources as part of the fall launch are on their way to you shortly.

SHELLEY MOORE INCLUSION CHALLENGE #2 **SCAFFOLDING**

Shelley Moore teaches us about the perfect baked potato – one that has all the options of toppings available to make it truly great. We can apply this thinking to inclusion in the same way. Anticipating the options within a goal, adjusting the variety and complexity, and then allowing the children to make the best choice, is both effective and efficient. If we anticipate the options, the need to make modifications later is greatly reduced.

This quarter, we will focus on scaffolding, building on learning and teaching by anticipating the options, observing children's skills, and creating independence. See the accompanying poster for more details on the inclusion Challenge.

Responses to the challenge can be submitted to CLHSNR@clham.com or through the CLH staff.



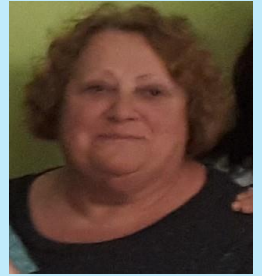
PODCAST STATS

We have been publishing our Embracing Inclusion podcasts since May 2020. Here are a few stats:

- Total number of unique downloads - 3632
- Most popular podcast since it's debut – Compassion Fatigue
- Podcasts were downloaded most frequently when educators could not access in-person supports in 2020. In fact, on June 23rd that year, a record high of 83 podcasts were downloaded in a single day.



MAY BIELLO – 41 YEARS AT CLH



May started her journey with CLH as a student at the Child Development Centre in 1975. The CDC was a segregated program before Bill 82 was introduced in 1982. The early 1990's brought the start of inclusive education as children transitioned into child care centres. Everyone was unsure as to how all this would work, but May recalls that it quickly became clear that just having children with disabilities in the same classroom as their peers was the first step to developing acceptance and a sense of belonging. She shares that she knows that the goals of inclusion has been met when she hears children say phrases such as "He likes crackers and toast, and if you want to talk to him, use these pictures". May would like to extend a great big thank you to all centres that first had a part in building an inclusive play setting for children here in Hamilton. Without this dedication, there would have been no opportunities for children to develop in an inclusive environment. She would also like to thank her past and present co-workers and community partners. All of these relationships have made her many years a pleasure. And to you May, we applaud you as you take on your next chapter. May you look back with fondness on all you have experienced and be proud, as inclusion grew up right before your eyes.

A Heartwarming Story

This is a true story, told by Mom Adiba Nelson, to a group of educators when discussing true belonging. One particular school day when her daughter had forgotten her lunch at home, Mom decided to go to the school to drop it off. She had not had a lot positive experiences with her child at school, so liked the opportunity to visit when possible. Once there, her daughter was out for recess playing tag. As her daughter was in a wheelchair, she noticed that the teacher had made her wheelchair "home". To be safe from the person who was it, the children would have to keep one hand on the wheelchair. Mom had tears in her eyes when she realized that her daughter could not only play tag with her peers but represent a safe place to be .

The Upstream Solution

It's more important than ever to support each other, identify challenges, and work collaboratively. Click on the boat below to watch **The Upstream Solution**, a two minute video that brings these concepts together.



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Important Dates

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

- *Family Day – February 21, 2022*
- *Good Friday – April 15, 2022*
- *Easter Monday – April 18, 2022*

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 **1,600 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