

THE INCLUSION NEWS

Winter 2026



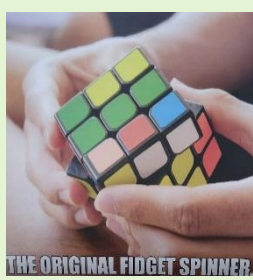
Welcome

Happy New Year!

With a new year we welcome renewed energy, fresh ideas and a lot of snow! Children’s Inclusion Services Supervisors will be reaching out shortly to set up a time to sign the service agreements for 2026. This is a great time to ask questions about our services and processes.

Recruitment strategies continue to be underway at CLH. Thank you for your patience as we focus on recruitment of qualified resource consultants.

We are always looking for reasons to cheer and celebrate. Most of the time, we include a Cheering Section in our newsletter where we can recognize and celebrate great examples of inclusive practices in our community – and we don’t want to miss anything! If you’ve got something to cheer about, please let us know by sharing with any CLH staff so we can spread the inclusion joy.



Remember this toy? Perhaps it was really designed for self-regulation...



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

UP AND COMING

The entry to school process for September 2026 is underway with school entry packages going out to families last December. Resource consultants will be checking in with educators to prepare reports and discuss intake meetings. Parent Information Night for the HWDSB is on January 27th and the HWCDSB is on January 28th. This is a big transition for families and can be overwhelming. Connect with your resource consultant for tips, resources and “getting ready for kindergarten” opportunities that will assist in reassuring families in the preparation process. Have you ever wondered about **universal design for learning**? What exactly does this mean? How can it be applied? Most importantly, how can this make inclusion easier? In 2026, we will focus on bringing these ideas all together.



SCHOOL ENTRY PODCAST

Click on the image above to hear this 13-minute podcast. Listen to a resource consultant discuss responsibilities to engage families as partners in early learning. Entitled ENGAGING FAMILIES AS PARTNERS, this considers families with children with disabilities and will support with ideas that can be used when preparing children for entry to school.

Important Dates

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

- *Family Day – Feb 16/26*
- *Good Friday – April 3/26*
- *Easter Monday – April 6/26*
- *Victoria Day – May 18/26*

2025 SERVICE DATA

# OF CHILDREN WITH RESOURCE CONSULTANT SUPPORT	421
# OF CHILDREN IN B/A SCHOOL WITH RC SUPPORT	162
# OF ISRG TOOLS COMPLETED	174
# OF INCLUSION FACILITATOR LINK REGISTRATIONS	50
# OF LCCP CONSULTATIONS	5423



THE CHEERING SECTION



HAMILTON EARLY LEARNING CENTRE: A WELCOMING SPACE WHERE EVERY CHILD BELONGS

On the left: Elizabeth, Nicole P, Ashley, Jill, Sara and CLH RC, Ethar.

On the right: Nicole M, Melissa, Donna, Nicole P, Jill, Ethar (CLH RC), Brieanne and Cindy.

For the staff at Hamilton Early Learning Centre, inclusion is more than a policy; it is felt in every interaction. Over the last few months, the team welcomed two children with different and complex needs into different classrooms. The team collaborated with families and partners at Community Living Hamilton and Ron Joyce Children's Health Centre to create individualized plans, carefully planning for each child's strengths while remaining responsive to their unique needs, and adjustments were made as needs changed. Even when one child transitioned from the toddler room to preschool, the team supported the transition while never losing a sense of belonging. Through their kindness and flexibility, educators became role models for the children, who in turn naturally invited their peers into play. Time and again, these small moments reflected a community grounded in empathy, connection, and genuine care.



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

THE SQUEAKY WHEEL CANADA

The Squeaky Wheel: Canada, which airs on AMI network, is a satirical, news and sketch comedy show similar to “This Hour has 22 Minutes.” The show pokes fun at the ableist society, stereotypes and stigmas people with disabilities face every day and the actors and production crew are comprised of individuals with disabilities (including some with developmental disabilities). Season 1 was nominated for two Canadian Screen Awards --- Best Sketch Comedy Series & Best Sketch Comedy Performance (individual or ensemble).

At the end of 2025, the show utilized 3 Community Living Hamilton locations to film segments of season 2. Participating in this production presents an exciting opportunity for Community Living Hamilton to help raise awareness about the barriers and misconceptions people with disabilities continue to face. By opening our doors to a show that challenges ableism through humour and creativity, we are contributing to a powerful conversation about inclusion and representation in media. Our involvement supports visibility, advocacy, and change, aligning with our mission to build a community where everyone is valued and included.

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