

ONTARIO EARLY YEARS CENTRE, LONDON-FANSHAWE

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OEYC-LF is a program of MERRYMOUNT CHILDREN'S CENTRE



September 2010

What's Happening...

- There will be no regular program on **Labour Day weekend- Saturday, September 4 and Monday, September 6.**
- **Community Playgroups** will be starting again this month. Check out the "Fall Community Playgroup" for start dates and locations.
- **Breast Feeding and Well Baby/Child Clinics** will be moving to Thursday mornings starting Thursday – October 7th. Clinic hours will now be in the morning from 9:30am to 11:30am.

Looking for more information on our programs or resources? Check out these websites.

www.familyinfo.ca or www.merrymount.on.ca

Hours of Operation

Monday	Closed
Tuesday to Friday	9-4 pm *
Wednesday evenings	5:30-7:30 pm
Saturday	9-4pm

*Closed daily from 12-1 pm



Enhanced 18-month Well-Baby visit

Eighteen months is a milestone in a child's development and a visit to a family physician or other health care provider at this time is important. For more information please visit:

www.ontario.ca/18months



Baby Fun

Tuesday 1:30-2:30pm

"Baby Fun" is a great opportunity for you and your baby to explore different textures, sing songs and learn finger plays.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>
September 7	Applesauce Painting
September 14	Water Play
September 21	Musical Instruments
September 28	Down on the Farm

Preschool Friday Mornings –Each Friday there will be special activities and books, for children 3½ to 6 years. Everyone is welcome to participate but adult supervision will be required due to small pieces. Pre-printing and pre-reading skills are always included.

September 3-	On the Farm	September 17-	Fall Fair Fun
September 10-	LaRibambelle	September 24-	Apple Time- Let's Cook

London Fanshawe Workshops:

To register for centre workshops please call 519-455-2791, e-mail us or visit us in person. **Workshops require a minimum of five people to be offered.** Reminder calls are made a few days before the workshop. If you are not able to attend, let us know, so space can be offered to those on the wait list.

Up Coming Workshops for September & October

See the Program and Workshop flyer for more details.

Power Struggles
Thursday, September 23
10:00 to 11:00 am

Early Literacy for Infants
Thursday, September 30
10:00 to 11:00 am

What does my child need to be "ready" for kindergarten?

Kindergarten has changed from when we were in school. Kindergarten previously lasted for two to three hours a day and focused primarily on the development of social skills. Today, many kindergartens last a full day (approximately 6 hours), have a major focus on reading and writing skills, and require significant amounts of seatwork. This has implications for what skills our children need to have acquired prior to starting kindergarten.

- **Children need to be socially and emotionally ready for school.** This is one of the most important areas of readiness for children. Children need to be able to cooperate with their peers in group situations and activities. Children also need to be able to control their impulses and be able to relate to non-family authority figures.
- **Children need to have acquired motor skills.** Motor skills include large muscle activities necessary for walking in a straight line and throwing a ball. Motor skills also include small muscle skills such as drawing, coloring, cutting, and beginning handwriting.
- **Children need to be cognitively and intellectually ready for school.** Intellectual readiness is a term used to describe the learning skills a child needs to make a smooth transition into kindergarten. These skills include knowledge of colors, numbers through 10, at least some of the letters of the alphabet (e.g. particularly the letters in his/her name), and shapes. Other skills that children need are the ability to assemble simple puzzles, answer questions about his/her environment (e.g. how many legs does this spider have?), and understand similarities (e.g. how are an apple and an orange alike?), differences (e.g. how is an apple different from an orange?), and opposites (e.g. ice cream is cold, coffee is hot).
- **Children need to be curious and eager to learn.** Our children will be most successful if they learn to ask questions, think independently, and be creative. Our children need to be curious about the world, interested in how things work, and know how to creatively approach problems. So, if your child asks you a question like, "Do mosquitoes sleep?" resist the urge to answer (you may not know anyway!) or to give them the answer right away. Instead try asking them, "What do you think?" or "Where do you think we could find the answer to that question?" By doing this, you are encouraging them to think for themselves. This also helps build a child's self-esteem!