

Child care and early learning updates e-newsletter

March 27, 2025

Welcome to The Regional Municipality of Durham's child care and early learning updates e-newsletter. These e-newsletters provide licensed child care operators in Durham Region with updated information related to child care.

This edition includes the following topics:

- Ontario Early Childhood Education (ECE) grants: Semester updates
- Federal child care funding extension
- Children's developmental and behavioural supports (CDBS) update
- Upcoming events
- Upcoming child care end dates for Fee Subsidy clients attending school
- Mobile ID and benefits access hubs
- Who to call in 2025

Ontario Early Childhood Education (ECE) grants: Semester updates

Effective March 24, [Ontario ECE grants](#) began accepting applications for the spring/summer 2025 semester from past Qualification Upgrade Program (QUP) recipients. All other applicants can apply for the spring/summer 2025 semester beginning April 7.

Federal child care funding extension

On March 6, the Government of Canada reached an agreement with the Ontario government to extend the early learning and child care agreement until March 31, 2031. The extended agreement includes a three per cent funding increase every year for four years, starting in 2027-2028. The extended agreement will support continued access to high-quality, affordable, flexible and inclusive early learning and child care programs and services. To learn more about the funding extension, please reference [Toward \\$10-a-day: An Early Learning and Child Care Backgrounder](#) and [Affordable child care, a stronger economy](#).

Children's Developmental and Behavioural Supports (CDBS) update

CDBS has launched new online tip sheets on various behaviour topics to provide information on some of the most commonly asked questions and strategies used. These tip sheets include:

- Behaviour basics
- Understanding behaviour
- Pairing
- Encouraging cooperation
- Effective instructions
- Visual supports
- Tantrums
- Tantrums quick tips
- Aggression
- Preventing biting
- Reinforcement
- First, then
- Token boards

To access behaviour tip sheets and e-learning modules on Introduction to Behaviour and Preventing the Storm, please visit CDBS resources and learning opportunities on the regional website's [Children with Special Concerns and Needs](#) page.

Reminder: The child care Room Consultation and Child Specific Consultation referral package is now online. To complete a new referral, please access the form at [Children with Special Concerns and Needs](#).

Upcoming events

- Early Learning and Child Care Showcase – Saturday, April 12
- Early Learning Conference – Saturday, April 26
- French Early Learning Conference – Thursday, May 29
- North Durham Early Years Conference – Thursday, June 5
- Home Child Care Conference – Saturday, June 14

For more information on upcoming events, look for the next release of the GROW newsletter available on the regional website under the [resources for child care professionals](#) page.

Participant cancellation

Prompt notification is required if a participant is unable to attend an event, training or workshop. This ensures resources can be managed and reallocated effectively, including expenses for items such as snacks, meals or prepared supplies. Cancellation can be done directly through Eventbrite or by contacting Jennifer Titterton at Jennifer.Titterton@durham.ca.

Upcoming child care end dates for Fee Subsidy clients attending school

Many Fee Subsidy clients are in school programs that are ending in April. Clients with April closures are highlighted in the placement end column on the Fee Subsidy placement lists in the Child Care Operator Portal. Please remind these clients to contact their caseworker to determine if their child care Fee Subsidy can be extended. Verification of classes for the next semester is required for extensions.

Graduating students may be eligible for job search support, allowing child care to continue while seeking employment. April is a busy month with many changes and caseworkers will update the Child Care Operator Portal with extensions as soon as they receive information from their clients. For any questions or concerns, please connect with your caseworker.

Mobile ID and Benefits Access Hubs

The Region of Durham is hosting Mobile ID and Benefits Access Hubs this April and May. The hubs will help clients and residents living with low income to:

- Open a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) and apply for the Canada Learning Bond.
- Access Social Insurance Numbers (SINs), birth certificates, and other forms of ID.
- Get their taxes filed for free.
- Sign up for the new Canadian Dental Care Plan.
- Learn about other income-boosting benefits that they may be eligible for.

Representatives from Service Canada, the Canada Revenue Agency, and Social Services attend events. The upcoming spring hubs will run:

- Brooklin Branch, Whitby Library, 8 Vipond Road, Brooklin: April 5, 2025, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Mearns Meadows, 94 Concession Street East, Bowmanville: April 9, 2025, 12 to 6 p.m.

- Orchard Valley Court, 1580 Kingston Road, Pickering: April 15, 2025, 12 to 6 p.m.
- Beaverton Heights, 121 Nine Mile Road, Beaverton: April 29, 2025, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Lakeview Harbourside, 1529 Ritson Road South, Oshawa: May 5, 2025, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Ajax Public Library, 55 Harwood Avenue South, Ajax: May 7, 2025, 1 to 6 p.m.
- Whitby Public Library, 405 Dundas Street West, Whitby: May 20, 2025, 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Uxbridge Public Library, 9 Toronto Street South, Uxbridge: May 27, 2025, 1 to 6 p.m.

Visit Durham Region's [Mobile Benefits Hubs](#) page to learn more information on hub event details.

Who to call in 2025

The CSD has updated the 'Who to Call' document for child care operators for 2025. This information is available to identify who to contact for support depending on the need.

Name	Role	Contact	What they Support
Nathaniel Nolan	Business Technology Coordinator	ChildCareTechSupport@durham.ca 905-668-4113 x3521	OCCMS, Child Care Operator Portal, technology issues, IT questions, training, etc.
Andrew Mundy	Business Technology Coordinator	ChildCareTechSupport@durham.ca 905-668-4113 x3662	OCCMS, Child Care Operator Portal, technology issues, IT questions, training, etc.
	Fee Subsidy Caseworker	childrensservices@durham.ca 905-668-4113 x1815	Fee Subsidy inquiries, to speak with a Fee Subsidy Caseworker.
Lisa Bruce	Manager of Early Learning	Lisa.Bruce@durham.ca 905-668-4113 x2631	Operator budget consultations.
Janine Keith	Program Manager	Janine.Keith@durham.ca 905-668-7711 x2755	Capacity and training.
Beth Carson	Program Manager	Beth.Carson@durham.ca 905-668-7711 x3532	Quality and compliance.
Stacee Stevenson	Program Manager	Stacee.Stevenson@durham.ca 289-404-4638	Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC)/contracted services inquiries and support.

Emily Witlarge	Program Manager	Emily.Witlarge@durham.ca 905-668-4113 x2437	Enhanced staffing funding, CWELCC expansion, and start-up grants.
Denise Dalton	Program Assistant	behaviouralsupports@durham.ca 905-668-4113 x2829	(CDBS) inquiries.
Jennifer Titterton	Program Assistant	Jennifer.Titterton@durham.ca 905-668-4113 x3401	Training, sector-specific recognition events, development of the GROW newsletter.
Jenna Peters	Program Assistant	Jenna.Peters@durham.ca 905-668-4113 x2136	Contracts/agreements, Best Start Network, and Early Learning administration.
Teresa Baboulas	Program Assistant	Teresa.Baboulas@durham.ca 905-668-4113 x2414	Administrative support related to system planning, CWELCC-funded child care expansions, and contracted services.