



early childhood community development centre

## COMMUNITY FORUMS WILL EXAMINE CHILDREN'S EARLY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

*For Release: November 7, 2007*

In recent years, children 0-6 years of age have been the focus of considerable local research and planning. On Wednesday, November 28, 2007 politicians, school officials, teachers, parents and the public will have opportunities to learn more about this research and about local initiatives designed to support families with young children. Two identical sessions are planned: one at 7:00 am for public officials and decision makers and one at 5:30 pm for educators and parents. Both will take place at the Quality Hotel Parkway Convention Centre in St. Catharines. Members of the media are welcome to attend either session.

Entitled *Bridging Knowledge and Action: the Early Years Niagara Story*, the two events are sponsored by the Early Childhood Community Development Centre's Understanding the Early Years Niagara Region project (funded by Human Resources and Social Development Canada) and Early Years Niagara. Dr. Robin Williams, Niagara's Medical Officer of Health and Commissioner of Public Health will moderate the 7:00 am session. Dr. Andrea Feller, Associate Medical Officer of Health will provide remarks at the 5:30 event. Each session will feature an introduction to the various community plans that guide public decision-making about children's health, education and well-being; highlights of recent local research related to children's learning and development and community conditions; and presentations by the Niagara Branch of Free the Children, the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee of Niagara Falls, and Canadian Tire Financial Services.

Glory Ressler, Understanding the Early Years Research Coordinator, explains the rationale behind the sessions: "as a group, children in Niagara are doing reasonably well when compared to their peers elsewhere in Canada, but when we dig a little deeper we see that within the region itself, there are some quite dramatic differences in children's overall development. This can affect their ability to learn and ultimately, their ability to succeed on the job and in life. Our goal in organizing these forums is to provide all interested parties with an overview of what we know and are doing for young children now, as well as help the community look ahead and prepare for the best future possible."

**Bridging Knowledge and Action: The Early Years Niagara Story**

Wednesday, November 28, 2007

Registration: 7:00 am & 5:30 pm

Quality Parkway Convention Centre, 327 Ontario Street, St. Catharines

*Any member of the media who would like to attend Bridging Knowledge and Action: the Early Years Niagara Story is welcome to do so.*

*For interview or additional information, please contact Glory Ressler at 905-646-7311, ext. 319 or email:*

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