

RURAL FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Director Annual Report 2022-2023



MISSION

VISION

CORE VALUES



Mission: Rural Family Connections supports families in the Ottawa area by providing accessible, integrated and play-based early learning and childcare programs. Through this programming we provide families with a safe, secure space to grow and flourish as a family and community.

Vision: To provide resources for all families in an inclusive, encouraging, and supportive environment, one that fosters healthy development for a strong start in life.

Core Values:

- **Compassion:** We believe compassion, understanding and kindness are fundamental in establishing strong, healthy relationships with the families we support.
- **Transparency:** Open communication and honesty is paramount to building a solid relationship with our community.
- **Collaboration:** We believe a collaborative approach between families, staff and community partners ensures a family's ability to grow and thrive.
- **Inclusion:** We provide a welcoming atmosphere, where families feel represented and respected in our community.
- **Advocacy:** We are a voice for families, our early learning staff and community.
- **Respect:** We value our differences as individuals and the importance of each of our contributions to the larger community.

Highlights of the year

- Rural Family Connections applied for and were accepted under the **Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care Program (CWELCC)** in November 2022 for our Licensed Home Childcare & Metcalfe Nursery School
- Refunds and reimbursements of 25% were given to parents retroactive from April 2022
- In January 2023 RFC reduced their tuition fees by a total of 52.75% for our Licensed Home Childcare and Metcalfe Nursery School
- Fees will have a further reduction in the coming years until we reach a per diem rate of \$10-\$12 per day
- Rural Family Connections was honoured to run the craft station for the Metcalfe Fair in the fall & to be a part of the Metcalfe Meet & Greet in the Spring
- RFC launched a new and improved website along with active postings on our Social Media pages



Rural Family Connections Board of Directors



JACKIE HUTT
Chair: 2 years

SHANNON DUYVENDKYK
Past Treasurer
(June 30, 2023)

BILLY CHEUNG
Past Chair: 9 years

NATALIE ELLIOTT
Secretary: 9 years

NATALIE ALKADHI
2 years

SANYU BANDELE
1 year

AMMA OSEI-DONKOR
1 year

Rural Family Connections Management Team



Nadia De Franco

- Executive Director
- Nadia joined RFC in May of 2022 as the Home Childcare Manager and transitioned to Executive Director in March of 2023

Allison McLaren

- Manager of Metcalfe Nursery School & EarlyON Child and Family Centre
- Allison has been with RFC & Metcalfe Nursery School for over 35 years!

Angie St-Amour

- Manager of Licensed Home Childcare
- Angie joined the RFC team in March of 2023

Rural Family Connections Staff



Administration

Nicole Hampton → Administration
Leigh Gillies → Administration Support Staff

Licensed Home Childcare Consultants

Shahla Jassim → Registered Early Childhood Educator
Stephanie McNeill → Registered Early Childhood Educator
Laura Mei → Registered Early Childhood Educator

Metcalf Nursery School

Lorna Greer → Registered Early Childhood Educator
Elsa Justice → Educator
Dana Garbutt → Educator

EarlyON Child & Family Centre

Erin Smith → Parent Facilitator, Registered Early Childhood Educator
Candi Elrick → Program Facilitator, Registered Early Childhood Educator
Deborah Cross → Program Facilitator

Licensed Home Childcare



- CWELCC was effective November 2022 with a 25% reduction in fees (and retroactive) from April-December 2022 and a 52.75% reduction for 2023
- A new parent portal was launched to minimize the use of paper and to optimize parents use of the database for any changes to their child's registration
- In March of 2023 we welcomed a new Home Childcare Manager who is a Registered Early Childhood Educator and who came with previous knowledge/experience in Home Childcare
- Monthly meetings were held with the Licensed Home Childcare Network of Ottawa, which gave us a bigger voice when it came to CWELCC implementation in Licensed Home Childcare, including a meeting with Jason Sabourin
- New parent and provider handbooks were published
- We held 2 in person Provider Trainings and Social events
- We ended the 2022/2023 year with 50 licensed home childcare providers

Metcalfe Nursery School



- CWELCC was effective November 2022 with a 25% reduction in fees (and retroactive) from April-December 2022 and a 52.75% reduction for 2023
- The 2022/2023 school year started off with KinderCamp which ran for 4 weeks in July at full capacity
- From September to June we offered a toddler program 2 days a week and preschool program 3 days a week. Both programs were full for the school year
- MNS had 6 field trips with families joining in and walks to the local park and the Metcalfe Library. Field trips included the Log Cabin Apple Orchard, Millar's Country Market pumpkin patch, Cosmic Adventures, Tulip Farm, and Metcalfe Fire Station. We ended the year with our classic Baxter's Pond Study & Pot Luck Lunch
- In the spring we began welcoming parent volunteers back into the classroom during program hours. This was a welcome change after the last 2 years of Covid cautionary measures. When the invitation was put out for volunteers the response was very positive with parents very much wanting to be a part of their young child's early learning experience.
- With the larger number of families this year, we held two separate graduation days – one for the toddlers and one for the preschoolers. Both were full-house outdoor events!

EarlyON Child & Family Centre



- Our year started with our outdoor Playgroups in the Park program from July 4th to August 18th. We offered 32 playgroups and received a lot of positive feedback from families taking part in the playgroups.
- Our September to June schedule was very busy operating out of 5 locations (Metcalf, Greely, North Gower, Kars and Osgoode).
- We offered indoor playgroups Monday to Friday, 2 locations each day and 1 on Tuesday for a total of 9 playgroups a week.
- We are very fortunate to have a strong RFC staff team with 3 experienced facilitators, one of whom is our very active Parent Facilitator.
- Caregiver and Me workshops were provided during playgroup hours, on 2 Saturdays and Virtually in the evenings. These included Sensory play, Managing Emotions, Learning French, Outdoor Trail Walks, Postpartum, Lactation Consultants, Infant Massage & Pediatric Nurses, just to name a few.
- An anonymous survey was conducted in June to provide feedback for the 2023/2024 school year
- We served a total of 253 children, who made 1321 visits to 2022 / 2023 activities and a total of 182 adults, who made a total of 948 visits during 2022 / 2023.

Thank you for a great
2022/2023
School Year!

