

## Child Development Institute

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Charitable Registration No.:  
11929-2795-RR0001

Tony Diniz  
Executive Director

## Start Right Camp Helps Kids Succeed

### Camp encourages social skill development

When Ava first arrived at Child Development Institute's social skills camp, she barely spoke. Not even at school. She was reluctant to take part in any group activities and almost never initiated interaction with other children.

And when she did talk, it was a struggle. "She was so quiet and it was difficult to understand her," says Ursula Ziegler, Community Child Worker in the Social Skills program. "It was hard for her to talk because she didn't get enough practice."

That's where the Start Right summer camp can help. Every August, the Start Right summer camp has worked with children who need help improving their social skills. Through games, stories and other activities, children, aged 4-6, develop skills to help them play cooperatively and articulate their feelings. The program supports social, emotional and behavioural learning so that children can relate better to others and get ready for learning in the classroom.

Ten children are enrolled in each

morning session, with only 5 children in each group. Working in such small groups means fewer

distractions and more opportunities for turn taking and sharing. The camp has been such a success in previous years that this August, sessions were extended to two weeks. And that extra time clearly benefited children, like Ava.

After the first week, Ava showed remarkable progress. Suddenly she was responding to others. Her words were increasing everyday. She was raising her hand to answer questions.

"Ava was smiling more and laughing," says Ursula. "Seeing her as an active part of a group was really exciting. And seeing the joy she got from succeeding was so rewarding."

**"After the first week, Ava showed remarkable progress. Suddenly she was responding to others."**



## Golfing for Kids: KPMG's Golf Getaway Supports Child Development Institute

KPMG has generously supported our work for many years, by providing financial contributions and volunteers. This June, they raised over \$5,000 for Child Development Institute through their "Muskoka Client Golf Getaway" event. Participants were asked to make a donation to Child Development Institute and all contributions were matched

by KPMG's Transaction Advisory practice.

"Giving to communities is an important part of life at KPMG," says Richard Grudzinski, Managing Partner of KPMG's GTA Transaction Advisory practice. "Child Development Institute is a wonderful organization and we are pleased to support their work."

Thank you KPMG and all your golf getaway participants for supporting Child Development Institute and making children in your community a priority!

## Reaching New Communities

### Early Learning Centre now serves St. Jamestown

This year Child Development Institute reached even more children with the opening of the Wellesley Early Learning Centre in St. Jamestown. The centre, opened in January, provides interactive care and learning programs for preschoolers aged 0-5. And child care services - particularly for infants - are desperately needed in this densely populated community. In North St. Jamestown (North of Wellesley), for example, the percentage of children aged 0-4 is 20-50% higher than the rest of Toronto.

"Despite the need, child care centres are limited in this area," says Kelly O'Gorman, Director of the Centre. "And most do not take infants under two. That's one of the reasons this centre is so important."

Not surprisingly, they've already reached their capacity of

## Hard Kids Softened at Camp

### Home behaviour improves after learning SNAP™

Camp Wimodausis is a special day camp for boys and girls ages 6 to 11 with behaviour problems that prevent them from attending other summer camps. Forty-eight children attend the camp each summer and are taught SNAP™ (Stop Now And Plan) - a self-control and problem-solving skill, which they can use in their daily lives to control their behaviour.

Eleven year-old Bobby was referred to the camp for the first time due to stealing, lying, school problems, aggressiveness towards peers, and not listening to his parents or teachers. Even Bobby's mother had low expectations for camp, "Bobby has always hated camp. I expected him to quit." Though originally resistant to joining in camp activities, Bobby soon became involved

**"Within a very short time, they see improvements in their child's language and social skills, and behaviour at home."**

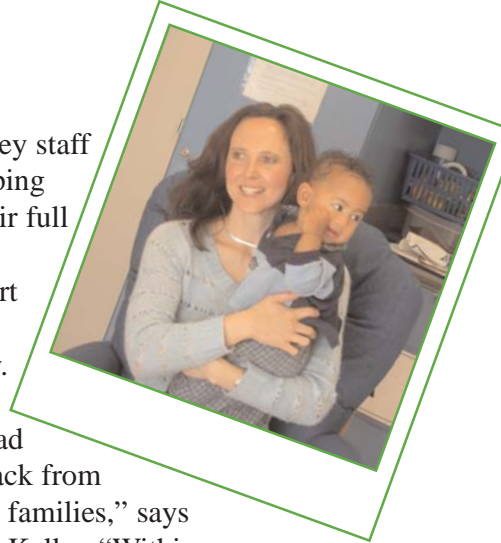
**"We were completely happy, it moved us to see Bobby participating at last. He is even better behaved at home, more calm and thoughtful."**

62 children. Wellesley staff is committed to helping each child reach their full potential, through activities that support development and encourage creativity.

"We have already had such positive feedback from

families," says Kelly. "Within a very short time, parents see improvements in their child's language and social skills, eating habits, and behaviour at home."

Congratulations to the entire team at Wellesley for their success in St. Jamestown!



with all aspects of camp and always appeared to be enjoying himself. Bobby's mom noticed that Bobby began to use SNAP™ at home and their clashes subsided, "We were

completely happy, it moved us to see Bobby participating at last. He is even better behaved at home, more calm and thoughtful."

Camp Wimodausis receives no Ministry or United Way funding and is reliant on donations from individuals and grants from foundations and corporations.

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# Developing News

Newsletter for Child Development Institute Donors

Fall 2005

## Helping Girls Through Adolescence

### Girls Connection committed to staying involved

The Girls Connection is a program for aggressive and antisocial girls incorporating anger management and skill building interventions for both the girls and their parents. This gender-specific program was developed by Child Development Institute in 1996 for girls under the age of 12 in response to a concern for the effectiveness of a mixed-gender program for girls referred for aggressive behaviour problems.

The Girls Connection is committed to staying involved with the girls for as long as necessary to see them graduate from high school and stay out of trouble along the way. The Leader-In-Training (LIT) Program was created for 'graduates' of the Girls Connection program to help with the transition to high school and into adolescence, which is a challenging and turbulent for most girls and especially those at risk of antisocial behaviour. The LIT Program is a place for girls to learn communication, problem-solving, leadership, self-care, employment, and life skills, and provides home-based academic tutoring.

**"If I wasn't part of the LIT program, I don't know what I would be doing, but probably getting into trouble."**

Cheryl was referred to the Girls Connection by a school teacher for her aggression problems. Her presenting problems included being physically and verbally abusive to others and she had trouble making and keeping friends. After two years in the Girls Connection, Cheryl greatly improved her self-control skills and is no longer physically abusive. She has now been a part of the LIT Project for two years where she has been a positive role model for younger girls in the program. Cheryl has made better friendship choices and is developing her leadership skills to become more responsible for her future. "I have learned helpful skills and I have begun to develop those skills."



Cheryl is starting high school this fall and the LIT Program will be there for her to help her succeed. With the support of the program, Cheryl will be able to continue developing her skills and maintain positive supports at Child Development Institute. "If I wasn't part of the LIT program, I don't know what I would be doing, but probably getting into trouble."

The Girls Connection receives no Ministry or United Way funding and is reliant on donations from individuals and grants from foundations and corporations. Thank you to all our supporters.

### Our Mission

Child Development Institute, in partnership with parents and communities, is committed to strengthening families and promoting healthy child development by:

Providing child development, early intervention, and family violence services for children under the age of 12 and their families; and

Building knowledge through research in child development, parenting, childhood aggression, children in conflict with the law, early childhood disorders, child abuse, woman abuse and related areas, and sharing this knowledge both locally and internationally.

### Our Values

Service Excellence  
Responsiveness  
Innovation  
Collaboration  
Research & Evaluation  
Sharing Knowledge  
Diversity  
Social Justice

### Board of Directors

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# Strengthening families.

## Fresh Start 2006

Child Development Institute Foundation is pleased to announce that our annual fundraising event, Fresh Start will be held on: Wed. March 1, 2006 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

The Academy of Spherical Arts  
38 Hanna Avenue

Art draw  
Scotch and beer tastings  
Live jazz  
Pool on antique billiards tables  
Gourmet hors d'oeuvres, food stations and delicious desserts

For more information, contact Shanan Spencer-Brown at 416-603-1827 x 2276

women for themselves and their children, as well as on service providers. The aim of this study, which is being conducted by Child Development Institute in partnership with the University of Toronto, is to examine and assess the implications of child welfare reporting legislation on women who are victims of intimate partner violence, their children and the service professionals who help them and their families. Through understanding the social impact of child welfare policies on women, children and professionals we will draw conclusions and present recommendations for providing child protection in the context of domestic violence. The study includes in-depth interviews with key informants as well as focus groups with various sectors, including police, Violence Against Women organizations, healthcare, child welfare and survivors of abuse. The final research findings will be presented at a Symposium to be held at Hart House at the University of Toronto on November 22. This research is being funded by a United Way of Greater Toronto Social Research Grant.

# Promoting healthy child development.

## Helping Kids with Delinquent Behaviour SNAP™ is selected for Young Offender project

Our Centre for Children Committing Offences (CCCO) responds to the increasing number of children coming into contact with police. By focusing on research, dissemination and training, we help kids under 12 stay out of trouble and avoid police contact. The CCCO is an effective and widely recognized program; in June we received the National Award for Outstanding Research and Evaluation from the Child Welfare League of Canada. And now the benefits of the CCCO and its SNAP™ strategy are being recognized in the United States.

The Crime Task Force of Miami-Dade County in Florida has selected the CCCO to implement SNAP™ in their pilot Young Offender Project. SNAP™ (Stop Now and Plan) is a self-control and problem-solving strategy that helps children and parents cope with feelings that trigger problem behaviour. The CCCO will provide consultation on program development, SNAP™ training and evaluation. This project is a great opportunity for CCCO, Miami-Dade County and all the children who will benefit from SNAP™. Congratulations!

## In Whose Best Interest?

### Child Development Institute studies child welfare policy and domestic violence

Thousands of families in Ontario each year are affected by domestic violence. In 2000, changes to Child Welfare legislation led to exposure to domestic violence being defined as a potential form of emotional abuse. This change was followed by an increase in child welfare referrals, particularly from police. There is a need to assess the impact of this policy on women's reporting of domestic violence and the help seeking actions of



## New Services to Reach More Children Partnering with local organizations to help children

Child Development Institute continues to build towards a Centre of Excellence by expanding our services to meet the needs of children and families. We are committed to sharing our knowledge with other professionals and organizations who are also dedicated to the health and well-being of children and families. We are proud to announce partnerships with the Jamaican Canadian Association, Central Toronto Youth Services and the Toronto Police Service to launch new programs that will extend the reach of our evidence-based programs.

Child Development Institute will partner with the Jamaican Canadian Association to launch the Engaging Diverse Communities project, which will research, develop and then implement culturally appropriate outreach strategies for children exhibiting aggressive and antisocial behaviours in their community. We will train staff at the Jamaican Canadian Association in our evidence-based ORP and SNAP™ intervention programs to help pilot and develop a program that fits the real world needs and issues of the Jamaican Canadian community.

## Accenture Employees Roll Up their Sleeves in Support of the Parkdale-High Park Ontario Early Years Centre

On August 27, a group of Accenture professionals participating in an Accenture "Corporate Citizenship Canada - Toronto" initiative helped to "spruce up" our Ontario Early Years Centre in Parkdale-High Park. They re-painted our kitchen and meeting room, and they catalogued over 600 toys and assembled more than 175 early literacy kits. Beyond devoting their personal time to these important tasks, Accenture also provided a \$5,000 donation to the OEYC to purchase the painting supplies, a computer, some new children's books and parent resource materials, and new toys for the lending library.

Child Development Institute has developed and maintained partnerships with the Toronto Police Service, child welfare and local school boards to provide services to the most at risk children in our community - school children who exhibit antisocial behaviours. The Children Under 12 in Conflict with the Law: Enhanced Service Utilization project will enhance effective referral and engagement practices in order to reach the most challenging families that often do not seek services.

Child Development Institute will partner with Central Toronto Youth Services to provide school-based children's mental health services for children and youth attending elementary and secondary school in the South Quadrant of Toronto. The approach will provide evidence-based services to meet needs identified by the school boards and services will be offered in the context of a 'whole school' approach.

These projects are being funded by the Toronto Region of the Ministry of Children and Youth Services' Children and Youth Mental Health Fund.

Last summer, another group from Accenture took on an even larger project to help us update our Annex Early Learning Centre, including providing a \$10,000 donation. Thank you Accenture for your very generous donation of time, talent and funds!



## Your Support Makes a Difference

Thank you to all our donors who have given a gift since April 1, 2005.

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The Circle of Friends is a group of special individuals who believe enough in our work to provide an annual donation of at least \$1,000 to be used in a wide range of prevention and intervention programs. We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of our Circle of Friends:

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Your support makes a tremendous difference to our work. And now it is even easier to give...

- Many companies have a donation matching program. Will your employer match the amount - and double the impact - of your charitable gift? Check with your Human Resources department or corporate donations officer for more information.
- You can now donate to Child Development Institute online. It's a quick and convenient way to give. Check out <http://www.childdevelop.ca/howhelp/donate.html> to make a donation now.
- Fall is United Way's workplace fundraising campaign. Why not consider designating your United Way contribution directly to Child Development Institute? It's easy to do (just fill in the back page of the pledge form) and will improve the lives of children in your community.