

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

President

Nancy Hamm

Lyn Baptist
 Nadine Cannata
 Ross Caradonna
 Rocco Fabiano
 Vanessa Grant
 Mimi Hollenberg
 Nada Martel
 Lena Paniccia
 Linda Pincott-Kitchen
 Gina Remy
 Ricki Sharpe
 Lyn Wharton
 Rick Williams

Looking Back, Looking Forward

In April of this year, we officially formed Child Development Institute following the voluntary merger of Earls court Child and Family Centre and The Crèche Child and Family Centre. We are pleased to report that since that time we have already seen the benefits of coming together. We have maintained all programs and have begun to strengthen our service by sharing our expertise with one another. We have started the process of planning programs for children aged 0-12 and their families with the goal of offering a more seamless approach to service where possible. And we have even grown; we will open a new Early Learning Centre in St. Jamestown in January. While change is never easy, we commend our talented staff for their commitment to providing outstanding service to children, youth and families in this community. You will see in this issue of Developing News the extent of this impact on children and families and the enthusiasm and dedication of all our staff, Board members, volunteers, and program partners.

Child Development Institute has been engaged in a lively strategic planning process since June of this year. The goal has been to develop a plan that sets out a vision for Child Development Institute over the next three to five years and strategies for how to get there. Our strategic plan will help us to set priorities and ensure that we are staying on course to meet our objectives.



The children of The Crèche circa 1925

Development Institute to become a respected centre of excellence providing outstanding services to children, families and communities and to be recognized for responsive, seamless service, collaboration, embracing diversity, and creating and disseminating leading edge child-centred research. In order to bring this vision to reality, we have set out the following five key strategic priorities:

1. To strengthen and sustain program excellence.
2. To increase our financial resource base and achieve stable funding for all programs.
3. To invest in our staff team.
4. To strengthen our brand image and improve communications.
5. To pursue targeted expansion of programs.

If you have any questions on the strategic planning process, please feel free to contact Shanan Spencer-Brown, Director of Planning & Development at 416-603-1827 ext. 2276.



Children playing in front of the original building for Earls court circa 1932

Following a management retreat in June, our strategic planning consultant facilitated four staff input sessions over the summer. This feedback became part of a larger body of data that informed the next phase in the process - a full-day meeting with the Boards of both Child Development Institute and our new Foundation held in mid-September. Over 30 people participated in a visioning exercise and a series of activities designed to focus on key priorities of the agency that would become part of the final strategic plan. We were very pleased to find that the priorities outlined by the Board members were well aligned with the input provided by staff and managers.

The draft strategic plan was then presented to our key funders for their comments and it was recently approved in principle by our Board of Directors. Through this process, we created a vision that is compelling, relevant and urgent. This vision is for Child

Giving Girls A Second Chance

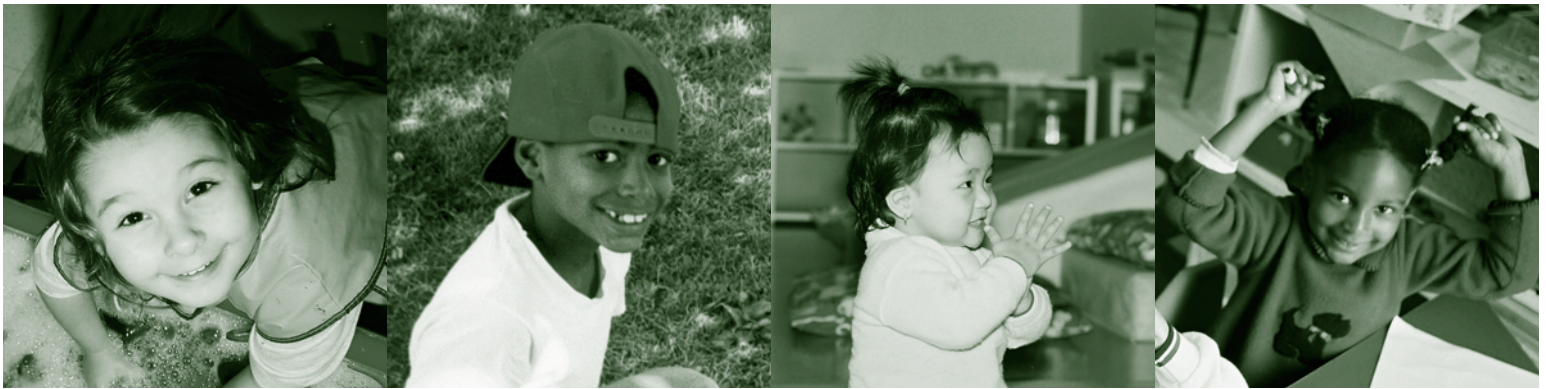
The Earlscourt Girls Connection (GC) was launched in 1996 in response to our research indicating that girls were not responding to interventions that did not take into account their gender-specific needs. The Girls Connection has two goals: to change the life course of high-risk, antisocial girls who without help are on a trajectory of early school dropout, delinquency, substance abuse, and early pregnancy; and to document our findings in order to stimulate the establishment of similar programs in other communities.

This is 11 year-old Rebecca's story. When Rebecca came to the GC program she swore at people who didn't give her what she wanted, she would throw objects across a room when she was angry, she would steal money from her parents, school supplies out of kids' knapsacks, and break into mailboxes to take baby bonus cheques. Rebecca also used to cut her arms with scissors and threatened to kill herself.

The GC is proud to help girls like Rebecca work hard, make changes, and start to transform their lives. As a result of a great deal of effort on Rebecca's part, one-on-one coaching, and participation in the girls SNAP™ group she has made a stunning turnaround in her behaviour. She is currently a part of our Leaders-In-Training group, as well as the Girls Growing Up Healthy group with her mother.

As well as helping Rebecca learn new behaviour, the GC team has also had a chance to help Rebecca and her mother improve their relationship. As a result of Rebecca's mother's participation in the SNAP™ parenting group, she has learned how to be patient with her daughter, listen to her, and ask questions to show interest. Rebecca and her mother have dedicated themselves to making better choices and developing a caring and loving relationship. During this past Mother's Day, Rebecca gave her mother a card stating "Happy Mother's Day to a NEW mother" because Rebecca was so happy to have a mother who was so different from the one she had before.

Since the inception of the GC, we have served close to 400 girls and their families with consistent client satisfaction rates over 90%.



Helping Parents to Succeed

A survey of Canadian parents of young children found that while most parents recognize the vital role they play in terms of their children's healthy development and they are highly committed to this role, they lack the knowledge and skills to be positive and effective parents. The report concluded that too few parents use the positive parenting practices that we know support children's healthy social, emotional and cognitive development and many lack the knowledge, confidence and support they need to do so.

At Child Development Institute, we understand the importance of parenting to positive child outcomes. Parents in all our programs are offered personalized support through one-to-one work with our staff. We also offer parent training in several group programs, including:

The Incredible Years - an evidence-based 12-week program for parents (and corresponding children's social skills group) that has been shown to significantly increase positive parenting skills, reduce children's behaviour problems and increase children's social competence. These outcomes have been shown to last over time and to build on children's success in the school years and beyond. Currently Child Development Institute offers this program for parents of pre-school children at several of our sites and in partnership with three community-based child care organizations. Extensive evaluation has shown that this program produces clinically significant positive changes in close to 70% of children with behaviour problems, a result which is unmatched by other similar programs.

Right From The Start - using attachment theory as a framework, Right From The Start is an 8-week parent training course developed to enhance caregiver skills in reading infant cues and responding sensitively. The primary goal of the program is to improve parent-child interaction in order to foster infant attachment, which is an important precursor to healthy child development. This program is offered to parents of children aged 0-2.

SNAPP (Stop-Now-And-Plan-Parenting) - this group helps parents to change their children's difficult behaviour by offering support around monitoring, tracking, rewarding and dealing effectively with behaviour. This group is offered to parents of children aged 6-12.

Always Here To Help

In Canada, it is estimated that over 800,000 children are exposed to domestic violence. Children who witness woman abuse are often as affected as if they were the one being abused. These children may have emotional or behavioural difficulties; they feel sad, angry or responsible; or they experience problems in school. Another potential negative outcome is that a child who witnesses domestic violence grows up to be an abusive adult or victim, thus repeating the cycle of violence.

At Child Development Institute, we offer a number of services to help women and children begin to recover from the devastating effects of domestic violence. In our **Here To Help** program, children who have witnessed woman abuse participate in a structured and safe group program where they discover they are not alone, the abuse was not their fault and that it's okay to talk about their feelings. In the mothers' group, women learn how to develop a safety plan and how to parent after violence and they benefit from decreased isolation and strengthened self-esteem. This program is offered in several languages. In our **Family Violence Shelters Program**, women and children receive on-site professional counselling in the shelter by one of our clinicians, who also provides support to shelter staff around issues related to parenting and child development. Our **School Liaison Program** offers support to children residing in shelters and attending local schools. The School Liaison Worker meets with each child and his/her parent to orient them to the school and serves as a resource to the child, parent, school and shelter, promoting open communication and problem solving. Child Development Institute is the sponsor for the activities and services of **Central Agencies Sexual Abuse Treatment (CASAT)**, a coalition of approximately 40 Toronto agencies whose mission is to promote maximum recovery from child sexual abuse. CASAT works to improve services for children, youth and families affected by sexual abuse.



Summer Fun For Disadvantaged Kids

Camp Wimodausis was established in 1982 to provide a therapeutic day camp experience for children aged 6 to 11 whose social circumstances and behavioural problems would otherwise prevent them from attending a summer day camp. The campers exhibit a range of problems including oppositional, hyperactive, impulsive and aggressive behaviours. The primary focus of the camp is to provide opportunities for the children to have fun in a safe environment and teach them how to use SNAP™ (Stop Now And Plan) – a self-control and problem-solving skill, which they can use in their daily lives to control their behaviour.

We were able to give 48 children a wonderful camp experience this summer including 11 year-old Brian who was rejected from several camps this year and sent home from his camp last year for disruptive behaviour. Brian's mother had run out of options until she heard about Camp Wimodausis. She warned us that Brian had a history of stealing, aggression with peers, and trouble at school. Brian resisted coming to camp and his mother had to do everything in her power to make him attend. He arrived uninterested and was non-compliant, non-participatory, and taunted the other children. Our camp counsellors were persistent and tried various methods to connect with Brian. After a week, Brian started to participate and laugh with the other children. He started to want to come to camp and his mother reported that his behaviour at home improved dramatically by using SNAP™ when he felt anger coming on. Brian finished the camp as one of our best campers and his mother has kept us updated on his positive change.

Child Development Institute Announces Establishment of New Foundation

Child Development Institute Foundation was recently created to help increase the profile of Child Development Institute and generate funds for our work.

We are so pleased to announce the following Directors of the Foundation:

President

David Feather

Mark Farrell

Steve Gross

Lisa Novak

Kim Race

Mercedeh Sanati

Cate Woodward

The Foundation is currently engaging in a planning process to establish ways to support Child Development Institute in achieving its mission. If you have any questions about Child Development Institute Foundation, please contact Shanan Spencer-Brown, Director of Planning & Development at 416-603-1827 ext. 2276.

Mark your calendars! Child Development Institute Foundation is pleased to announce our upcoming fundraising event:

FRESH Start 2005

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

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 further information,
contact Manny Wong at
416-603-1827 ext. 2306.

Reaching Children Around The World

The Centre for Children Committing Offences (CCCO) is the national division of Child Development Institute. It was established in partnership with The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation to improve the lives of high-risk children and their families. The CCCO's initiatives target research, training and dissemination activities aimed at preventing juvenile delinquency. The three key focus areas are risk assessments (EARL-20B and EARL-21G), police/community protocols and gender specific model interventions (Under 12 Outreach Project and Earls court Girls Connection). Our model interventions, risk assessment tools and SNAP™ Resource Kit are being used across Canada, the United States and Europe. Some of our highlights from 2004 include:

- Sweden conducts a national study utilizing the EARL-20B. Findings indicate that assessments using the device are much better than unstructured clinical evaluations and that the tool could be used to support clinical decision-making
- CCCO team goes to Scandinavia.
 - ⇒ Leena Augimeri, CCCO Director conducts a key-note address on gender specific interventions to 550 participants from across Norway and Scandinavia; a parallel workshop is then conducted along with Nicola Slater on SNAP™ (Stop Now And Plan) to 300 participants
 - ⇒ Kathy Levene conducts a key-note address in Amsterdam on aggressive girls
- Miami Dade Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) in partnership with the University of South Florida chose the EARLs as their base risk assessment tool
 - ⇒ JAC staff received intensive EARL training and ongoing consultation
- Hamilton's Under 12 Outreach Project (our full replication site) housed at Banyan Community Services received 1.2 million dollars to conduct a 3-year pilot; the external evaluation begins
- 300 professionals from varying school boards, police and community agencies learn to use the EARLs in a workshop on Reducing the Risk of Violence hosted by the Toronto District School Board
- The EARLs get translated into Norwegian, Finnish and adapted in New Zealand
- CCCO continues to receive orders for our SNAP™ Resource Kit, training and consultation on a daily basis from across Canada and the world; our new SNAP™ Puppet is released
- The U.S. Department of Justice invites Leena Augimeri to act as a consultant pertaining to funding initiatives on young children in conflict with the law
- CCCO continues to make its presence in communities across Canada (e.g., Yukon, Alberta, Ontario, Newfoundland), United States (e.g., Miami, Arizona), Europe (e.g., Norway, Finland, Sweden, Amsterdam, United Kingdom), and the world (e.g., New Zealand, Japan)
- Three book chapters are issued on the EARLs and the Earls court Girls Connection; the long awaited book, The Development and Treatment of Girlhood Aggression is released



Child Development Institute with The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation: From l-r: Tim Brodhead, Margaret Walsh, Dr. Christopher Webster, Diana Hillman, Chris Koegl, Nancy Hamm, Linda Leus, Leena Augimeri, Peter McConnell, Tony Diniz, Nicola Slater

Volunteers Make a Difference

Volunteers make a difference. Just ask 8 year-old Janet who is a part of our after-school Homework Club that offers tutoring to children struggling in school. Janet is in grade 3 yet reads at a level below grade 1. English is a second language for Janet's parents so she isn't able to get the help she needs from home. At school, Janet has fallen behind in the curriculum and her teachers don't have the time necessary to give her the one-on-one attention she needs to catch up. When Janet joined our Homework Club, she was paired with a new volunteer who wanted to read with children. The two have formed a wonderful friendship and the volunteer has worked diligently to practice phonics and word pronunciation with Janet. In the past few weeks, we have noticed a significant improvement in Janet's reading ability - she now recognizes words and is learning new strategies to overcome difficult words. Without a doubt, this volunteer has made a huge difference in Janet's life and the experience has made a difference in the volunteer's life, "No matter what kind of day I've had, I always leave Homework Club feeling better", says our dedicated volunteer. There are currently over 100 active volunteers with Child Development Institute and there are more volunteer opportunities at our eight locations. Call Gaela Mintz at 416-654-8981 ext. 103 and we'll find the right match for you.

Child Development Institute

Head Office
197 Euclid Avenue
Toronto, ON M6J 2J8
Tel: 416-603-1827
Fax: 416-603-6655

46 St. Clair Gardens
Toronto, ON M6E 3V4

162 Parliament Street
Toronto, ON M5A 2Z1

Secord Community Centre
91 Barrington Avenue
Toronto, ON M4C 4Y9

Annex Early Learning Centre
161 Madison Avenue
Toronto, ON M5R 2S6

Cabbagetown Early Learning Centre
162 Parliament Street
Toronto, ON M5A 2Z1

Parkdale Early Learning Centre
119 Close Avenue
Toronto, ON M6K 2V2

Wellesley Early Learning Centre
495 Sherbourne Street
Toronto, ON M4X 1K7
(opens Jan. 2005)

Parkdale/High Park Ontario
Early Years Centre
2918 Dundas Street West
Toronto, ON M6P 1Y8

mail@childdevelop.ca

www.childdevelop.ca

Charitable Registration No.:
11929-2795-RR0001

Tony Diniz
Executive Director

Kathy Levene
Associate Director