



Our Place

Family Resource and Early Years Centre



154 Gatewood Rd Kitchener, ON

Phone: (519) 571-1626

Fax: (519) 571-0621

Email: ourplace@ourplacekw.ca

www.ourplacekw.ca

May Calendar: <http://www.ourplacekw.ca/schedules/May%202014.pdf>

NEWSLETTER

MAY/JUNE 2014

EVENTS

- **Year End Celebration**

*This year we will be hosting our end of year celebration in **September** and tying it in with our 35th Anniversary Celebrations! It's hard to believe that Our Place has been around supporting families since 1979!!! That's lots of children and families through our doors! Please save the date: Saturday September 27th!!! More details will be released once they are confirmed. Please spread the word to anyone you know who may have attended our programs in the past 35 years!*

- **Annual General Meeting**

This year our AGM will be held in September, the date is Tuesday September 30th. Please save the date and we will provide details on this as well once confirmed. We will also be marking our 35th Anniversary at this event – so watch for more details!!

- **Prenatal Health Fair**

Date: Thursday June 5, 2014

Time: 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Location: Kitchener City Hall Rotunda; 200 King Street, Kitchener

On bus route #7 or any bus that stops at the Charles Street Terminal

A healthy pregnancy helps build a healthy baby. Prenatal health fairs are designed for parents planning a pregnancy in the future and for parents in early pregnancy. They offer over 35 displays, mini workshops, videos and access to care providers who will answer your questions. Workshops on Healthy Pregnancy and Car Seat Safety, with interpreters available for the languages of: Arabic, Armenian, Croatian, Farsi, Gujarati, Hindi, Mandarin, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Urdu.

Organized by the Region of Waterloo Public Health.

For more information call [519-575-4400](tel:519-575-4400) or follow link:

<http://chd.region.waterloo.on.ca/en/clinicsClassesFairs/prenatalhealthfairs.asp>

Why become a member of Our Place? Every \$25 Membership purchased buys a "virtual" brick in the Our Place wall. The more bricks we have in our wall, the stronger we are!

Did you know? Our Place operates on a fixed budget based on government funding that has not increased in many years.

Your membership fee provides one of the following:

- A two week supply of raisins for all School Readiness programs
- Four cups with Sippy lids for the School Readiness programs
- Adding four Parenting Resource books for borrowing in the Resource Library
- One Educational DVD to be used in Parenting Support programs
- And much, much more.

So what's in it for you? So you've decided to purchase a membership! It's as simple as inquiring at the Front Office, filling out a Membership Form, paying your \$25, and picking up your coupon book!

Membership includes:

- ✓ A charitable donation tax receipt
 - ✓ Voting privileges at the Annual General Meeting and other Member Meetings
 - ✓ Eligibility to participate on the Board of Directors
 - ✓ A special "thank you" gift coupon book from Our Place that includes: a 50% discount off the registration price of **one** of the following; Toy Lending Membership, Creative Cooking, Make the Connection, Learning Begins OR Social Club
 - ✓ A voucher for a free K-Cup OR snack basket item
 - ✓ A free book to enjoy with your child(ren)
- **Early Learning Programs & Outdoor Playtime:** During the spring and summer months the early learning programs (classrooms) will be using the Outdoor Learning Area if weather permits. Please ensure that your child comes dressed for the weather, with a hat, spring jacket (if needed) and sunscreen. On the days that your child's classroom goes outside, please drop off your child's indoor shoes on the carpet outside their room. If your child does not come prepared to play outside, you will have to supervise them in the gym until their classroom comes into the centre from the Outdoor Learning Area.
 - The Centre will be closed for the Victoria Day long weekend on Saturday May 17th and Monday May 19th. We will re-open on Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m.
 - The Centre will be closed for Staff Training on Friday June 20th from 12:00-3:00 p.m. We will re-open on Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m.
 - Parent Council Meeting: Monday May 26th @ 9:30 p.m. To register please send an email to parentcouncil@ourplacekw.ca . New members are always welcome to join to find out more about the centre and Parent Council activities.
 - Please leave your strollers on the mats in the stroller parking area whenever you visit Our Place. This keeps our hallways free and clear and also keeps the wet puddles in one end of the building near the entrance. Thanks for everyone's cooperation.

- If you or your children are ill, we ask you do not attend programs. If you are registered in a program, we ask you call the centre and let us know you will not be attending that day.
- **Parking Info:** Please be aware that our parking lot is frequently very busy and full on most days. We have drop off spots available – that are available for you to use as a drop off/or pick up area. Please do not use this for long term parking. You should also be prepared to park on the nearby streets (Blueridge & Gatewood) and walk to the centre with your children. There is 2 hour on-street parking on the side streets. We also ask that you please take your time driving through the parking lot and be mindful of our small visitors!
- Like us on **Facebook!** Our Place has a Facebook page that will provide up to date information about current programs and events. www.facebook.com/Ourplacekw
Or you can also follow us on **TWITTER** - [@ourplacekw](https://twitter.com/ourplacekw) or [@OP_Volunteer](https://twitter.com/OP_Volunteer)
- In our efforts to ensure the safety of everyone in our centre:
 - We ask that if you have a ride that is coming to the centre to pick you up – please let the front desk reception know. If we know that you are expecting someone to check in and ask for you, we will ask them to sign in and they can come to find you. If we do NOT know of any pick up arrangements, we will ask the person to wait in the front hall while we come and find you. We ask that **EVERYONE** signs in as they arrive in the centre as this helps keep Our Place a safer place for everyone.
 - We do lock the front doors daily from 3:30-4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The office will remain open during this time but anyone arriving at the centre must ring the bell to gain entry. *We thank everyone in advance for their cooperation.*
- **Our Place Summer Hours:** Starting July 2nd Our Place will operate on summer hours. Monday 9 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.; Tuesday 9:00 – 3:00 p.m.; Wednesday 9:00 – 7:00 p.m. Thursday 9:00 – 3:00 p.m.; Fridays & Saturdays – Closed
- **Scheduled Closures for June & July:** Friday June 26th; Saturday June 28; Monday June 30th; Tuesday July 1st; Friday July 4th; Saturday July 5th; Friday July 11th; Saturday July 12th; Friday July 18th; Saturday July 19th; Friday July 25th; Saturday July 26th

DONATIONS AND FUNDRAISING

- **Limited Time Offer!!!!** Bring in 2 children's Movie DVD's and receive a one (1) year Toy Lending Membership for only \$7.50!!! That's half the cost of the regular toy lending membership!!! This promotion will run from April 1st – June 26th. For more information – please talk to Wanda in the Resource Library.
- **Outdoor Clothing Exchange:** Spring is here and so is the need for outdoor wear for the spring/summer season. Donations of the following are being accepted:
 - Spring jackets, sun-hats, raincoats, rain boots
 - outgrown winter clothing items i.e. coats, boots, snow pants and coats for children and adults! Please consider donating these items to our families in need for next winter.

Items should be clean and in good condition. If you are in need of these items for your family, be sure to check the outdoor clothing exchange cabinets at the end of the hallway.

- **The Amazing Our Place Playdough:** You can get your summer supply of homemade playdough from Our Place. It is *The Amazing Playdough from Our Place* and is available in a variety of colours. The cost is \$2.50 per package. It is non-toxic and safe for all ages. Ingredients: Flour, Salt, Alum, vegetable oil and food coloring. Just ask us at the front desk if you wish to purchase some (by phone 519-571-1626 or email to ourplace@ourplacekw.ca)
- **Photo Fundraiser:** Our Place is holding it's next fundraiser on Friday May 23rd and Saturday May 24th. A professional photographer will be onsite for our Family and Child Portrait fundraiser. Looking for more information? Please Follow this link here: <http://www.ourplacekw.ca/pdf/Our%20Place%20photo%20Fundraiser%20flyer.pdf>
- **Shopping Cards:** Purchase your shopping cards (gift cards) at Our Place! By using shopping cards for making purchases that you plan to make anyway, you can help us raise money for programming! 150 families easily spend between one and two million dollars per year on food, clothing and other essentials. If these families used shopping cards for these purchases, they could raise as much as \$100,000 per year for Our Place without spending 1 additional penny. Typically earnings from shopping cards are between 4% and 5%. Shopping cards also make great gift ideas! Download the attached order form (see link), fill it out, print and remit with payment (cash or cheque) to the reception desk at Our Place. Order forms are due May 26th, 2014 with pick up by June 3rd, 2014. Order form link here: <http://www.ourplacekw.ca/pdf/AVGEN%20OrderForm-March2014.pdf>

NEW PROGRAMS

Registration is now ongoing daily after 1:30 p.m. by phone at 519-571-1626 or after 10:30 a.m. for programs that require payment i.e. Community Kitchen.

- **Fathering Involvement:** This 5 week program focuses on the importance of a Father's role in raising children. Dad's and male caregivers are invited to come out to discover how being an involved Father can build your child's character, confidence and self-esteem. *Facilitated by Keith Milne,PHW.* Early Learning program available for children under age 6 – please enquire at time of registration. *Dates: Wednesdays May 21-June 18th. Time: 6:15-8:00 pm.*
- **Community Kitchen:** A Community Kitchen is a group of people who meet regularly to cook food and take it home to feed their families with every member contributing by planning, preparing and cooking food. Along the way participants pick up valuable information about nutrition, recipes, cooking and shopping tips, and keeping food safe. They also increase their menu planning and budgeting skills, make great connections with others, and learn about resources in their communities. *Dates: Thursdays May 22 to June 19th at Our Place. Time: 1:00 – 2:45 p.m. Cost: \$50.00 per person. Early Learning programs are available during program – please enquire at time of registration.*
- **Stork Secrets:** Pregnant mothers and mothers of babies under two years have an opportunity to talk with peers about their experiences with the challenges and changes during pregnancy and the post partum period. This group provides a safe and supportive place where moms can discuss their feelings of anxiety, depression and feeling

overwhelmed. Information on coping strategies, self-care and health issues will be provided. Early Learning programs are available during the group for children birth to 6 years. This group is on-going, participants can join in at any point during the session. Interested participants **MUST** register with Jennifer Jordan at 519-571-1626 ext. 22. Dates: Mondays from 9:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. and no program May 19th.

- **Baby Connections:** This adult and infant program focuses on building early literacy skills through the use of simple songs, rhymes and books. Families will be provided with resources to facilitate practice at home. Join the fun and see that it's never too early to foster a love of literacy and learning in your little one. **this program is suitable for all parents regardless of home language or literacy level** Dates: Wednesday evenings May 28 – June 18th Time: 6:00 – 6:45 p.m.

THANK YOU

- Thanks to the many wonderful and dedicated volunteers that contribute to the success of our programs and services at Our Place. We couldn't do it all without such a successful volunteer program. Our volunteers come to us in many forms: from the Students from universities, colleges, and high schools; to the community volunteers looking for some work experience; to the parent volunteers who want to give back; to our committees and Board of Directors. Thank you!

This will be a monthly email with quick information. If you wish to NOT receive this newsletter, please send an email to wkampijan@ourplacekw.ca to unsubscribe. And if you want more information about any topic, please contact the Centre or visit our website. Please remember to mark this email address as “not spam” to keep getting the newsletter.