



Our Place

Family Resource and Early Years Centre



Ontario

**A place for Parents and their children
To learn, grow and have fun!**

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www.ourplacekw.ca

<http://www.ourplacekw.ca/schedules/november%202013.pdf>

NEWSLETTER

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.

NOVEMBER 2013

EVENTS

- **CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

Saturday, November 9th

From 8am to 1pm

Activities included: Bake Sale, 'Penny' Carnival, Silent Auction, Craft Vendors and Children's activity area (Face Painting, Art Area, Story Time, 'Fish for a Prize' and a Stuffed Animal Adoption)

Location: Our Place Gym – please enter using the gym doors facing the parking lot

This is our most important fundraising event of the year!

We also need:

- *donations of new items for the Silent Auction and 'Penny' Carnival*
- *donations of gently “loved” stuffed animals for our Stuffed Animal Adoption*
- *help with setting up and cleaning up the event on the Friday night & Saturday*
- *volunteers to work the day of the Bazaar helping with activities & sell tables*
- *and donations of baked goods for the Bake Sale!! We need your baked good to sell!*

For more information phone Angie at 519-571-1626 ext. 33 or by email aking@ourplacekw.ca

- **SURVEY**

From **October 21st to November 8th**, Our Place, in partnership with Family Resource Programs Canada, is asking participants to complete a short survey to get feedback on programs and services offered by Our Place Family Resource and Early Years Centre. Paper copies are available in the Resource Library or participants can also complete this survey online by following this link:

<http://frp-evaluation.ca/psurvey.php?surveycode=P13-499-R>

Complete the survey and we will enter you into a draw to win a basket filled with fun activities and a \$25 gift card for you and your family!

- **CHILD HEALTH FAIR**

The Region of Waterloo is hosting a Child Health Fair on Thursday November 21st from 3:30 – 7:30 p.m. at Cardinal Leger Elementary School – 345 The Country Way, Kitchener. This event is free to families with children age 0-6 years, offering growth and development, dental, nutritional and age-appropriate speech assessments. Community agencies that provide services to families in the area will be present for networking opportunities with parents. Call **519-571-1626** to register. Interpreters may be provided - please ask when making an appointment. **Walk-ins will be accepted if there is space.**

INFO

- Remember to bring indoor shoes for kids and adults! You and your children must have dry footwear at all times. Coats and wet footwear should be left on the racks provided.
- 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 prefer to lock up your stroller while visiting Our Place – you are welcome to bring your own lock and use the locking rings in the hall by the stroller parking area. A bicycle lock is suggested if you wish to use the locking rings.
- During the winter months, for any unexpected closures and cancellations due to weather, please call us at [519-571-1626 ext. 29](tel:519-571-1626). A message will be recorded that lists any of the cancellations.
- Registration ballots for Creative Cooking & Social Club must be completed by November 2nd if you want a chance to join that program. The draw will be held on Nov. 4th – don't miss out! Online ballots are available by going to our website www.ourplacekw.ca
- Registration for November has started and can be done by phone* or in person **after 1:30 p.m. daily.**

If the phone line is busy, please leave us a voice message with the program you are interested in registering for. Reception will return calls confirming registration.

****Payment for programs must be made at time of registration, if you require financial assistance please call 519-571-1626 ext. 25 before registration starts****

- Outdoor Clothing Exchange: there is a variety of seasonal outdoor clothing for children and adults available throughout the year at the “Our Place Closet”. All are welcome to take any items that they are in need for. In order for this exchange to continue, we ask that everyone please give any items that they no longer need for someone else to use. Donations accepted: winter coats & boots, hats, mitts, and snowpants. The Closet is located at the far end of the centre near the couches & table.
- 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. If you would like more information about our Health Policy: <http://www.ourplacekw.ca/Our%20Place%20policies/Health%20Policy--revised%20October%202009.pdf>
- Programming can be held out in the Outdoor Learning Area at any point during the School Readiness programs. We ask that you dress your child for the weather outside.
- **Centre Closure:** The Centre will be closed for Staff Training on Friday November 29th at Noon. We will re-open on Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m.
- **Parent Council Meeting:** Monday November 25th @ 9:30 a.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.
- **‘OneList’:** Looking for Childcare in the Region? 'OneList' puts an end to running from place to place to find suitable care for your child. No more calling multiple programs. No more filling out multiple application forms. With 'OneList', you may choose to register at as many early learning and child care (ELCC) programs as you like. The program will contact you when there is a space is available. It's just that easy! Click here: <https://regionofwaterloo.onehsn.com/>
- Like us on **Facebook & Twitter!** Our Place now has a Facebook page & Twitter account that will provide up to date information about current programs and events. www.facebook.com/Ourplacekw or on Twitter [ourplace@ourplacekw](https://twitter.com/ourplace@ourplacekw)

NEW PROGRAMS

- **Music & Movement at OLD NAVY:** Move and groove with us at Old Navy! A great way for children and parents/caregivers to let off a little steam while moving, singing and exercising together. This program is for children birth – 6 years.
Friday mornings 10:30-11:15 a.m.
Location: OLD NAVY at Sunrise Plaza (Ottawa & Fischer-Hallman)
- **Drop in Sensory Play:** Spend time with your child in a calming environment designed for sensory stimulation of all types. This ASD-friendly program is open to all children birth-6

years and their parents, caregiver and therapists. (**Friday afternoons are dedicated to children impacted by Autism and their therapists**)

Tuesday mornings 9:30-11:00 a.m. (program cancelled on Nov. 26th)

Friday afternoons 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. (program cancelled Nov. 29th)

- **Autism Services Waterloo Region:** The focus of this service is to strengthen community cohesion with a vision for all families who have a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder access support and direction required for their unique situation. Support is provided to all families, with or without a diagnosis and regardless of age, to discuss what resources are available to them in order to make informed decisions.

Friday November 9th

From 9:30 - 10:30 am

- **Dual Language Travelling Road Show:** The Resource Library is hosting a 'Dual Language Travelling Road Show'. This Road Show is a collection of dual language books available to Our Place Family Resource and Early Years Centre until December. Stories in over 16 different languages are available for families to borrow. Regular lending guidelines apply. Stop by the Library and ask us for more information.

- **Vision Screening:** The University of Waterloo, School of Optometry will be performing vision screenings for children 6 months to 6 years of age. The examination will include an assessment on your child's visual acuity, eye coordination and depth perception. Questions you may have regarding you or your child's vision can be answered. Book your child's appointment by phone us at 519-571-1626.

Tuesday November 20th

From 9:30 am -12:30 pm.

DONATIONS & FUNDRAISING

- PLEASE bring in a box of kleenex with your children. We are in desperate need of kleenex donations as well the usual donations of salt, sugar, flour and unscented baby wipes.
- Help keep our community warm. We need winter clothes for kids and adults (coats, shoes, boots, hats, mittens, snowpants etc.)
- We are looking for donations of good, new or used toys to sell and raffle off at the bazaar. We are collecting stuffed animals to be adopted out at the Christmas bazaar too.
- We are taking orders for 'The Amazing Play'dough'. Our play-dough is non-toxic and safe for all ages. We use all natural ingredients in our play-dough. You can purchase your play-dough for \$2.50. All proceeds benefit Our Place Family Resource and Early Years Centre. Place your order today! ourplace@ourplacekw.ca or call 519-571-1626 or visit the front reception area of Our Place.
- **Shopping Cards:** Our Place also raises funds by providing our families with shopping cards. 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 we can earn between 4% and 5% when you buy our shopping cards. Shopping cards also make great gift ideas! Shopping cards are available, are for things like: Groceries, Restaurants, Movies, Clothing, Toys, Gifts, Gasoline and much more! Cards we often keep on hand that you can purchase immediately are: Zehrs, Sobeys, HBC, Giant Tiger, Tim Hortons, Starbucks, Shoppers Drug Mart, M&M Meats. To get more information or to order cards email ckratky@ourplacekw.ca or (519) 571-1626 ext. 24

- **Zehrs Save-A-Tape Program:** This easy fundraising program has been extended until December 31st. Every Zehrs receipt you give us is worth \$\$ - \$450 in receipts = \$1.00 for us to use in our programs for supplies & equipment. We will accept your Zehrs receipts up until December 13th.
- The **Christmas Gift Drive** is almost upon us! This event is sponsored by the Family Outreach Program at Our Place and it provides gifts to families who are experiencing hardships at this time of the year. All children in our community deserve a special gift at this time of the year!

How it works: You select a snowman from the bulletin board in the hallway. The snowman will have details about the individual on it i.e. age & gender. You then register this snowman with the front reception desk – so that we know the tag has been selected. You then bring your gift to the front office with the snowman attached. Please do NOT wrap your gift, instead bring it in a gift bag. The cost of each gift should be around \$15-\$20. Please remember to include batteries if the gift requires it.

We do accept any general toy/gift donations or any gently used toys would be appreciated – please let the front office know when dropping the items off that they are for the Christmas Gift Drive.

FEEDBACK

- We always welcome feedback from participants on programs, needs or any aspect of your experience at Our Place. Please feel free to share feedback with any staff member or email to dsnyder@ourplacekw.ca Remember Our Place is your place!

SAVE THE DATE

- Our Place Family Christmas Party
Thursday December 19th - in the morning.
More details will be available shortly. Please watch for them on Twitter, Facebook or on our website & December calendar.
- **Christmas closures:** Thursday December 19th at noon until Saturday January 4th. The centre will be closed during this time and will re-open on Monday January 6th at 9:00 a.m.