

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 7, 2008

TO: All Child Care Service Providers

FROM: Darlene Edgar
Chair
Inclusive Child Care Supports Committee

SUBJECT: Changes to the System

During the past year, the Inclusive Child Care Supports Committee (formally known as the Special Needs Resource Committee) has worked diligently to improve the coordination of services to support child care service providers who are working with children with developmental and or behavioural challenges. In order to work toward a level of service that is consistent across the Niagara Region, a tool has been developed as a method to provide consistent services to children through Resource Teachers. The level of service tool will determine a range of hours that the child will receive on a monthly basis through your Resource Teacher agency. The assigned number of hours is a guide as we must recognize that there may be circumstances which will not always make it possible to achieve the number of determined hours. You will be notified in writing of the number of hours that the child will receive.

Another change that has been happening over the course of 2008 is the process to access additional supports within child care centres. As of January 1, 2009, all child care centres will have to make application for this funding to Children's Services. In addition, child care centres who receive approval for funding will be responsible to hire their own staff. As of January 1, 2009, the Resource Teacher agency **will no longer be responsible to provide staffing for additional supports**, (if they had been doing so previously). There must be a demonstrated need for additional supports. Documentation from the child care centre and the Resource Teacher involved with the child must be submitted for consideration of the application.

Centres who are currently receiving the additional supports through another agency and not directly employing that educational assistant will need to make application for funding to Children's Services by **December 15, 2008**. Please make sure that documentation is completed by then to ensure that services continue to be funded as of January 1, 2009.

The application for additional supports is available on line through the Early Childhood Community Development Centres web site. The form is available in the Inclusive Child Care Supports Committee area and is found under the Community Communiqués - Application form-Specialized Support Funding.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at: darlene.edgar@niagararegion.ca

Or by phone at 905-984-6900 ext 3876.