



*St. Mary's Family Learning Centre*  
*Ontario Early Years Centre*  
**Talk 2 Me**  
*Preschool Speech & Language*



# February, 2012

## Calendar Connections

*Windsor's Parenting Centre"*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			<b>Play &amp; Parenting</b> 9:30 - 11:30 am.  <b>BABY Group</b> 1:30 - 3:30 pm.	<b>Nobody's Perfect</b> 9:30 - 11:30 am.  <b>Play &amp; Parenting</b> 1:00 - 3:00 pm.	<b>Play &amp; Parenting</b> 9:30 - 11:30 am.	<b>Trivia Night</b> <i>At Fogolar Furlan</i> 7:30 pm.	
			<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	
		<b>Parent Interaction</b> 9:30 - 11:30 am.  <b>Play &amp; Parenting</b> 1:00 - 3:00 pm.  <b>ESSO Math</b> 1:15 - 2:45 pm.	<b>Play &amp; Parenting</b> 9:30 - 11:30 am.  <b>BABY Group</b> 1:30 - 3:30 pm.	<b>Nobody's Perfect</b> 9:30 - 11:30 am.  <b>Play &amp; Parenting</b> 1:00 - 3:00 pm.	<b>Play &amp; Parenting</b> 9:30 - 11:30 am.		
<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	
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<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	
	<b>Family Day</b> ~ <b>Centre Closed</b>	<b>Parent Interaction</b> 9:30 - 11:30 am.  <b>Play &amp; Parenting</b> 1:00 - 3:00 pm.  <b>ESSO Math</b> 1:15 - 2:45 pm.  <b>Dads Group</b> 7:00-8:30 pm.	<b>Play &amp; Parenting</b> 9:30 - 11:30 am.  <b>BABY Group</b> 1:30 - 3:30 pm.	<b>Nobody's Perfect</b> 9:30 - 11:30 am.  <b>Play &amp; Parenting</b> 1:00 - 3:00 pm.	<b>Play &amp; Parenting</b> 9:30 - 11:30 am.		
<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	
		<b>Parent Interaction</b> 9:30 - 11:30 am.  <b>Play &amp; Parenting</b> 1:00 - 3:00 pm.  <b>ESSO Math</b> 1:15 - 2:45 pm.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">  <p>Do you have questions or concerns about your young child's speech and language development?  <b>Call Talk 2 Me ~ 252-0636</b></p> </div>				
<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>					

# February 2012

## Question Most Often Asked...

**My child is going to school in the fall. Do you have any information on how I can help my child get ready for school and make this a successful transition for them?**

Starting school is a big milestone for you and your child. In April, our “Going to School” program with Family Child Care will be offered to parents of children entering JK/SK. Parents will have an opportunity to network with other parents and receive information about how to make the transition to school a successful one. There is a bulletin board in the Main Play Area with various handouts and resources, as well as a “Going to School” resource package for parents. Ask a staff person for more information.

### Things to look for in February...

#### Trivia Night

An interactive fun evening!!  
Saturday, February 4th, 2012  
Fogolar Furlan Club of Windsor (Udine Hall)  
Doors open at 7:00 - Cash Bar  
Tickets- \$10.00 each  
Proceeds to support St. Mary's Family Learning Centre

#### Dads Group

Tuesday, February 21, 2012  
7:00-8:30pm  
at St. Mary's Family Learning Centre  
Discussions about feeling connected, discipline and the important role that fathers play in raising children.

### Coming Soon...

#### Dads Matter One Day Conference



**Saturday, April 21, 2012**

9:00 am

Location: 3400 Somme  
(CAW Local 195 Hall, by Central Stamping)

For fathers of children 0-6 years  
Information, Recreation, Food and Door Prizes!!  
Supporting you in your important role as a father!  
Registration required ~ call: 519-252-9696

## Getting Ready for Kindergarten

Starting school is a big step in your child's life. It is an exciting time, a time for many firsts. Before the first day of school, take some time to visit the school with your child so that the route to school, the building and the school surroundings become familiar.

**Here are some other suggestions to help your child get ready for school.**

### At School

Children will:

- \* Make a variety of choices (e.g., choosing activities in the class, materials to use).
- \* Share materials and space with other children.
- \* Need to adapt to new people, situations, and routines.
- \* Dress themselves to go home and to play outside.
- \* Communicate needs to other children and adults.
- \* See adults and other children write for different purposes. Children will use materials for writing (e.g., crayons, markers).
- \* Listen to stories, poems, rhymes, and books with information. They will have books to hold, look at and read.

### At Home

To prepare your child, you can:

- ⇒ Help your child make choices at home (e.g., clothes to wear, activities to do).
- ⇒ Provide opportunities for your child to be with other children, to learn to share, wait, and take turns.
- ⇒ Provide new situations for your child (e.g. going to the library for story time).
- ⇒ Encourage your child to practise putting on jackets, snowpants, boots, etc. independently.
- ⇒ Encourage your child to use language to make needs known and to solve problems (e.g., getting a drink, going to the bathroom, asking for help).
- ⇒ Involve your child in writing (e.g. drawing, making cards, and signing.) Talk about your child's name and the letters in their name. Encourage and celebrate your child's attempts to write.
- ⇒ Tell stories and say poems and rhymes in your own language. Read to your child and talk about the pictures, the ideas, and the words and letters. Point out words, numbers and signs in the community. Visit the library with your child.

## Volunteer Corner



Welcome new volunteers...

*Deanna DeBiase*  
*Devon Devogelarere*

These wonderful volunteers assist us in the child care program, Play & Parenting sessions and Talk 2 Me programs. Thank you for your commitment, support and enthusiasm!

We are still looking for volunteers to assist with our child care program. We need volunteers on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and Wednesday afternoons.

Volunteers ~ did you know that we have a Volunteer Suggestion Box near the sign-in book in the Volunteer corner? It's easy: write down any ideas, concerns or suggestions you may have and place them in the box. Your feedback is very valuable!

**Thanks for all you do for our Centre!!**

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## Special Meeting

**Parents** - You are invited to a meeting on **Monday, February 27th from 1:15-3:00pm** to discuss the idea of changing the name of the Centre. The Board of Directors completed a strategic plan in 2010 and we are moving forward with some of the ideas generated from that process.

We want your input!

Please talk to staff for more information if you are interested. Limited child care will be available.

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## Thank you to everyone who Donated to our Centre in January!

We couldn't do it without you!

*Pam Barnett*  
*Mariela Valdez-Morales*  
*Phil Paolini*  
*Todd and Krista Loughead*  
*Travis Loughead*  
*St. Mary's Church*  
*Giovanni Caboto Club*  
*Martha Tinning*  
*Dan Sebben*



## Family Day

Family Day is a new statutory holiday to be celebrated on the third Monday of February. This holiday was introduced to give Ontario families what they value above all else: time together!



## Family Day Activities

Here are some literacy rich activities you can do with your child on Family Day (or any day)!

Make a book at home from family photos. Children love to hear stories and see pictures about themselves, so they would enjoy a storybook you make at home using photos from a family event, a birthday or special event such as a trip to the zoo or grandma's. All you need is photographs and a little photo album.

- Glue photos onto a heavy piece of paper (an index card is fine).
- Write a few words about each photo.
- Put the photos in order in the album. Don't forget the title page and author's name (you!).
- Enjoy your very own book at home for your favourite beginning reader who will very likely want to read it again and again!

Tell a story about how your child was named. Did you name your son for his grandfather or your daughter for her auntie who was your oldest sister? Do your children know your family's traditions for naming children? Does your child know a lot or anything at all about the person for whom you named him or her? Share the story of how you named your child or family stories. Don't be surprised if your child asks for these stories over and over!

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## Celebrating Your Family Board

If you would like to share a picture of your family with us for the board (bulletin board in the hallway near the washrooms), please bring it in and we will be happy to display it.



# Community Calendar



Do you want to learn parenting strategies to increase positive behaviour, encourage cooperation and respond to aggression?

## COPE

**Community Parent Education Program**  
A FREE 10 week parenting course for  
Moms and Dads of children 3 to 6 years of age

Held at Children First  
3295 Quality Way, Suite 102

Thursday evenings 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
Starting February 23, 2012 thru May 3, 2012  
(no class on March 15, 2012)

Registration on February 23, 2012  
is mandatory for this course.

For more information or to sign up, call  
reception at Children First: 519-250-1850, Ext. 0  
(no childcare available for this group)

In addition, we offer a fun and exciting Children's  
Social Skills Group (run concurrently with the COPE  
Parenting Course) for children between the ages of  
4 - 6 who are currently involved in service with  
Children First. Limited spots are available.

## Just for Moms and Babies

*A group providing health information and support for  
mothers with babies birth to six months*

Free six week series offered at the following locations:

### City Locations

**Salvation Army Church**  
3199 Lauzon Road, Windsor  
Wednesdays 1:30-3:00pm  
February 8 - March 14, 2012  
May 16 - June 20, 2012

**Salvation Army Church**  
1201 Grand Marais Rd. West  
Thursdays 9:30-11:00am  
January 12- February 16  
April 5 - May 10

### County Locations

**Windsor-Essex County Health**  
**\*\*Leamington Office\***  
215 Talbot St. East, Leamington  
Tuesdays 1:30 -3:00pm  
January 17 - February 21, 2012  
Tuesday 10:00 -11:30am  
May 15 - June 19, 2012

**St. Simon & Jude Parish Hall**  
267 Meunier, Belle River  
Tuesdays 1:30 -3:00pm  
March 13 - April 17, 2012

## Look Who's Talking

An information workshop for parents/guardians of  
preschool children with communication difficulties  
starting JK/SK in September 2012.

If your child is entering JK or SK (and your child is  
currently receiving services through the  
Talk 2 Me System), this workshop is for you!

**Wednesday, March 21, 2012**

7:00-8:00 pm.

**Location: Children First**  
3295 Quality Way  
Windsor, Ontario

**RSVP by March 9, 2012**

**Call: Joan at 519-252-0636 ext. 408**

Hosted by Talk 2 Me (Children First, John McGivney  
Children's Centre and St. Mary's Family Learning  
Centre), this valuable workshop will have  
representatives present from each school board, CCAC  
and agencies providing preschool speech and language  
to discuss services available for your children and  
answer any questions you may have.

**Guest Speaker: TBA**

**Topic: Early Literacy**

*\*REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED\**



## Income Tax Completion Service

Free service for families living with low income.  
Offering year round tax services for current and prior  
years taxes (back to 1999).

- Run by CRA trained volunteers
- All income tax is e-filed
- Weekly walk-in service where income tax is  
filed same day
- Drop off locations in the city and county where  
income tax information can be left and  
completed return is available the following week
- Extra walk-in clinics are run during income tax  
time to meet the demand for service
- Increases income through qualifying tax benefits  
such as GST / HST, OSTC and your income tax  
refund

*Made possible by funding from Pathway to Potential*

### Walk in Service

Mondays 4:00 to 6:00 pm and Fridays 1:00 to 4:00 pm

### Citizen Advocacy

235 Eugenie St. W., Suite 105A, Windsor, ON  
519-966-5010