

A Summary of the Niagara Licensed Child Care Centre Numeracy Project

Project Summary

The Niagara Child Care Centre Numeracy Project was designed in response to the need for building children's foundational math skills in the early years. Through the project, one hundred and fifty licensed child care centres in Niagara received a resource kit of early math materials valued at over \$1,000. Additionally, child care staff were provided with an opportunity to attend a four hour training session to gain strategies for incorporating the numeracy kits into their daily program planning.

Project Details

- A pilot project through the Young Children Priority First advisory committee began in 2008; four numeracy kits were purchased by the Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara and the ECCDC and trialed within Niagara Community Child Care, St. Thomas Child Care, La Boîte à Soleil – Tanguay, and Western Hill Early Learning & Parenting Centre and 35 of their staff attended a pilot training session
- Numeracy Project Grant was approved by the Ontario Trillium Foundation in November 2009
- The cost to roll out the Numeracy Project was \$215,000
- The Ontario Trillium Foundation Provided \$132,100 of the project funding
- Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara provided \$30,000 and hundreds of volunteer hours towards the project
- Louise Kool and Galt provided resource discounts of approximately \$35,000
- The ECCDC, with funding from Niagara Region Children's Services, provided in kind contributions of over \$10,000 for project design, development, and coordination

Compiling the Numeracy Kits

- 150 Numeracy Kits were distributed to Niagara's Licensed Child Care Programs
- Total value of the Numeracy Kits was \$150,000
- 27 Kiwanis Club members contributed 250 hours compiling the kits as well as providing a rental facility to store the materials for two years and moving vans to deliver materials to the hotel venues when required

Numeracy Project Training Sessions

- 25 Numeracy training sessions were offered in Welland, St. Catharines, Fort Erie, and Niagara Falls
- A total of 85 hours of training was delivered by ECCDC staff
- 750 staff of licensed child care programs attended the training sessions
- 18 Kiwanis Club members attended and supported these training sessions, volunteering more than 60 hours

Niagara's Children

Approximately 6,000 children enrolled in Niagara's licensed child care programs will have access to the numeracy resources and will have encouragement and guidance in discovering various math concepts including; number sense and numeration, measurement and measurement sense, geometry and spatial sense, patterning, data management, and probability.

