

Best Start Community Hub at Fairview Avenue

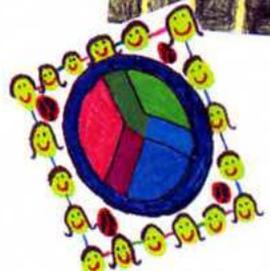
A community hub that supports the four foundations for learning: belonging, well-being, engagement and expression

How Does Learning Happen?

Presentation by

Tamara Pedley, Haldimand-Norfolk R.E.A.C.H.
Jennifer Huxley, Lansdowne Children's Centre

The Best Start for the Best Future



Best Start Community Hub

2003

- Haldimand Norfolk REACH
 - Dunnville Central location chosen for Ontario Early Years Centre (OEYC)

2004

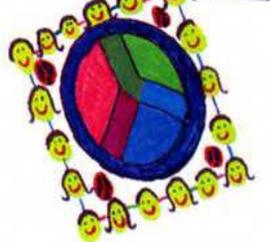
- Haldimand-Norfolk REACH
 - Ready, Set, School, half-day licensed early learning program located at Dunnville Central School

June 2011

- East Haldimand ARC concludes with decision to close Dunnville Central

July 2012

- Best Start Community Hub moves to Fairview Avenue School



Best Start Community Hub

Three areas that we will highlight are:

- Value to the School System
- Value to Families
- Value to Community



Best Start Community Hub Value to School System

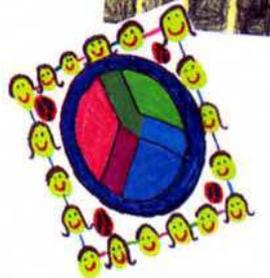
The Best Start Community Hub has provided families with services needed for the transition to school. Many of the children who attended programs have started Kindergarten with a great foundation.

Kindergarten and ECE Teacher



Best Start Community Hub Value to the School System

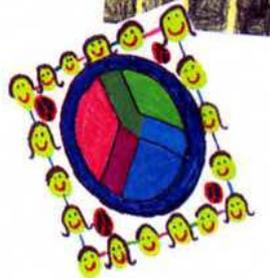
- Variety of programming delivered in the school from prenatal to school age
- Wonderful enriched start to support all children
- Great success in school for all children
- Located in Elementary School engages families early
- Enquiry based learning from infancy to transition to school
- Aids in successful transition to kindergarten
- School seen as a community partner



Best Start Community Hub Value to the School System

Ready, Set, School

- Licensed early learning program
- Positive & responsive educators
- Play-based learning environment that promotes curiosity
- Physical wellness is promoted daily through variety of activities
- Supports transition to full-day kindergarten



Best Start Community Hub Value to the School System

Ready, Set, School

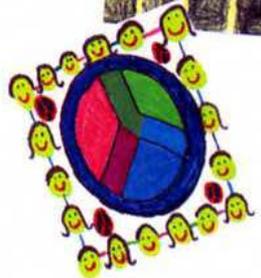
- Social skills are practiced with peers
- Individual strengths are valued
- Children's creativity and curiosity is encouraged
- Caring relationships are fostered





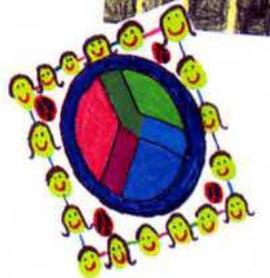
Best Start Community Hub Value to Families

- *Our family enjoys the centre in Dunnville. We especially like that it is located at a public school.*
- *We enjoy the interaction with other children and going to school.*



Best Start Community Hub Value to Families

- Birth to school age services offered in one centralized location
- Safe play-based learning environment
- Variety of programs and services offered in one location
- Child care offered in school setting
- Hub for access to information and resources
- Opportunity to become comfortable with school team and routines before child(ren) enter school
- Build relationships with other families



Best Start Community Hub Value to the Families

Prenatal and Infant Programs

- Parents participate in programs at an early start that include:
 - Prenatal Classes
 - Infant Massage
 - Song & Story Time
 - Well Baby Clinics
 - Car Seat Information
 - Receive resources and services in the community



Best Start Community Hub Value to the Families

Well Baby / Breastfeeding Drop In

- Partnership with HN Health Unit (Healthy Babies, Healthy Children)
- Talk with a Nurse and/or Early Years Facilitator about breastfeeding, life with baby, and child development
- Entry point for most families to enter the school system



Best Start Community Hub

Value to Families

Play & Learn Drop-In Program

- For parent/caregiver and children
- Promotes play based learning and community resource sharing
- Last year served 185 children, 138 parents, and 614 visits

Weekly Programs

- Tuesday and Wednesdays
8:30 am to 11:30 am
- Varied evenings for programs

Monthly

- 2nd Saturday - 9:00 am to noon

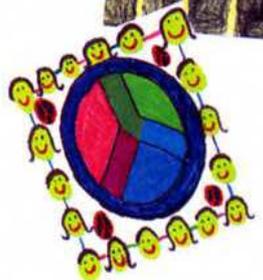


Best Start Community Hub

Value to Families

Play & Learn Drop-In Program

- Promote play-based learning
- Builds positive relationships with program team, school team & school environment
- Focus on developing relationships, cognitive, physical and social skills
- Increases parent's knowledge on child development, parenting
- Become familiar with school routines, personnel and environment



Best Start Community Hub Value to Families

Parent Learning Opportunities

- Child Development Topics
 - Ages and Stages
 - Toilet Learning
 - Nutrition
- Importance of Play
- Physical Literacy
- Early Literacy
- Numeracy

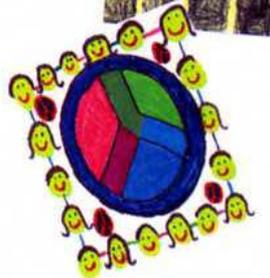


Best Start Community Hub

Value to Families

Parent & Child Workshops

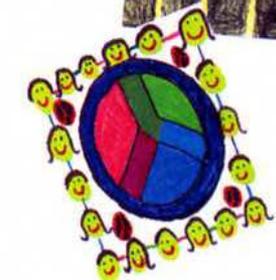
- Baby Picasso
- Infant Massage
- Mother Goose Story Telling
- Gym Time
- Cooking with Kids
- The Value of Play
- Daddy & Me
- Family Math Fun Nights
- Family Literacy Program



Best Start Community Hub

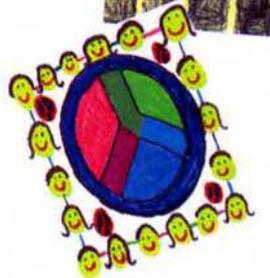
Value to Families

- *My child is now very comfortable in school and doing well due to the community supports we received from having the center in our community*
- *This program has helped my child prepare for school*
- *I have seen a big difference in my daughter since coming and my parents mentioned the change too. Don't know what I would have done without this resource located in our Dunnville community*



Best Start Community Hub Value to the Community

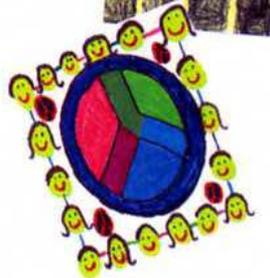
- Shared responsibility; responsive to the needs and priorities of families in Dunnville
- Easy accessibility
- Within current provincial mandates, presence of community hubs are a priority
- The Best Start Community Hub provides space for many community agencies for program delivery, meetings, family discussions, and office space



Best Start Community Hub Value to the Community

- Lansdowne Children's Centre
 - dedicated space for Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy programs
 - Increased service hours for clients
 - More children are seen in their own community eliminating the need for lengthy travel

The Best Start Community Hub at Fairview Avenue School offers Lansdowne Children's Centre therapists the opportunity to provide services in a location easily accessible to our families and within their own community.



Best Start Community Hub Value to the Community

As we implement the Special Needs Strategy in Ontario, we are aware that access to service's in a child's own community is vital.

Presence within the Best Start Community Hub family friendly environment allows Lansdowne and other community partners the opportunity to provide services to our families in the Dunnville area. The location permits families easy access within an area that has limited transportation options.



Best Start Community Hub Value to the Community

- School
 - School / Parent Council Meetings
 - Teacher Training
 - Extra learning space
- Ontario Works
- Please Be Seated Clinics
- Preschool Speech & Language Program
- Haldimand Norfolk Health Unit
 - Breastfeeding
 - Nutrition
 - Dental Screening



Best Start Community Hub Value to the Community

- Haldimand-Norfolk R.E.A.C.H. Ontario Early Years Centre

- Play and Learn Drop-In Program
- Parent-Child Learning Opportunities
- Parent Learning Opportunities
- Professional Learning Opportunities
- Toy & Resource Lending Library
- Referrals and resources

Family Early Intervention Program

- 123 Look At Me! Developmental Screening Clinics

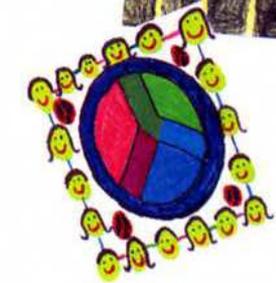
Infant & Child Development Services

Autism Services

Child Nutrition Network

Ready, Set, School

- Licensed Child Care Program



Best Start Community Hub Value to the Community

“I love the centre and the feeling of belonging to the community that it gives to my son and I!”



Best Start Community Hub

- Value to School System

Variety of programming delivered in the school from prenatal to school age

- Value to Families

Build relationships with school, services & families

- Value to Community

Hub of information, resources & services

