

Umbrella Family at Ray Lewis – Neighbourhood night notes
April 2, 2009

Attendance: Ben, Colin and Timothy Schamerhorn, Darel, Taylor and Riley Dalgleish, Nick, Brayden and Amy-Lynn (Trueman) Gerrard, Lina Liu and Stephanie Duan, Laurie Jeandron, Christine Biggley, Nikki Duckett, Leah Samdass, Beckie Schramek, Nayer Khan, Denise Forget, Marg Cake, Angel Mina, Marie Cantwell, ECISS, Kevin Heer – Ray Lewis Principal, Mary Lou Miller, Ray Lewis Kindergarten Teacher. Barbara and Linda – CFA's from Hamilton Public Health.

The meeting began at 6 p.m. with a light supper provided. At approximately 6:15, the meeting was called to order and chaired by Laurie, and all families, staff and guests were introduced.

3.0 Laurie gave a brief overview of the purpose of neighbourhood nights and the hope that our event will continue to grow and include more members of the Ray Lewis Child Care community.

4.0 Reports

4.1 Each of the staff members in attendance presented a brief discussion about the current interests and curriculum focus in their group. Staff members shared photos, or sample documentation.

4.2 Mr. Heer spoke about the partnership with the child care and the sharing of space, and children. He identified that there is a “continuation of program” for the school age children who attend our before and after program. Key parts of the partnership include: sharing the facility (ex: fire alarm plans, lock down practice) Mr. Heer spoke of the desire to continue the partnership and strengthen it in the future.

4.3 Mrs. Miller: spoke about the child care and kindergarten programs meshing together. We both work on social skill building...and skills from the child care centre transfer into kindergarten. Mrs. Miller also identified that there was a great relationship between the child care centre and the kindergarten program including the sharing and exchange of information.

4.4 Marie Cantwell, E.C.I.S.S: described her role in the child care centre as a liason for children and families with the various programs that they are involved in. Marie spoke about adapting programs and enhancing programs to meet the needs of all children

5.0 Main Topic

Barb and Linda (Certified Food Advisors) from the Public Health Department presented a workshop on healthy snacks and lunches. They discussed

Canada's Food Guide, Made smoothies, and offered various healthy snacks. Hand outs were available to all.

6.0 Where do we go from here?

Throughout the meeting we discussed ways to encourage more attendance at such meetings and will try to do this in the fall at our first neighbourhood night and build on the positive experience that we shared in the first two meetings. The staff members would like to include parents in discussions about the program and documentation, to lead to a greater understanding of their child's experience on a daily basis.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.