

Child care and early learning updates e-newsletter

September 29, 2026

Welcome to The Regional Municipality of Durham's child care and early learning updates e-newsletter. These e-newsletters provide licensed child care operators in Durham Region with updated information related to child care.

This edition includes the following topics:

- Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system update
- Kindergarten staggered starts – important reminder
- Special Needs Resourcing (SNR) update
- Temporary Program Assistant (TPA) funding update
- Emergency Funding
- Fall ID and Benefits Access Hubs
- Business Technology Coordinator staffing update

Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system update

The Child Care and Early Years Division (CCEYD) welcomes the federal and provincial governments' announcement of a four-year extension to the CWELCC system agreement. Additional information about the announcement is available through the [federal](#) and [provincial](#) news releases. Further details will be shared as they become available.

Kindergarten staggered starts - important reminder

If you have any children attending your site who did not begin full-day kindergarten on September 8 due to a staggered start, you must report this information to your Fee Subsidy caseworker prior to September 30.

Please include:

- The child's name.
- The specific days the child attended the child care site for a full day due to the staggered kindergarten start.

This information must be reported to ensure the appropriate full-day attendance code is available. If the information is not submitted, the full-day code will not appear, and your site will not receive the correct payment for those days. Please ensure all applicable staggered-start days are reported promptly and accurately.

Special Needs Resourcing (SNR) update

The CCEYD is pleased to share continued momentum in this year's professional learning opportunities. An email was recently distributed providing access to the recordings from the first four Belonging by Design Speaker Series sessions, allowing those who were unable to attend live an opportunity to engage with the content and learning.

These recordings are intended solely for Durham Region early learning and child care professionals. To respect presenter agreements and the integrity of the learning experience, recordings are not to be shared publicly or distributed outside of the Durham Region child care and early years community.

The email also included information regarding the rescheduled Reframing Behaviour in Early Learning: Anti-Ableist and Restorative Approaches session, along with a registration link for participants to register or re-register for the new date. Please ensure that you share with your teams accordingly.

There is continued strong participation in Dr. Shelley Moore's Infrastructure of Inclusion fall learning series, and Emily Mostovoy-Luna's Leading the Infrastructure of Inclusion series. We are encouraged by the enthusiasm and commitment demonstrated by educators, supervisors, managers and leaders across the Durham early learning and child care community. To support a meaningful learning experience for all, we ask participants to attend fully, keep their cameras on whenever possible, and actively engage in discussions and breakout room activities. This helps to foster a more connected, collaborative, and impactful learning environment while also demonstrating respect for our presenters and fellow participants.

Additional in-person learning opportunities are taking place in November, providing valuable opportunities for networking, collaboration and deeper learning. Information regarding all SNR learning opportunities, recordings, registration links and upcoming events can be found on our website under [Resources for Child Care Professionals](#).

Temporary Program Assistant (TPA) funding update

A reminder that the application window for Temporary Program Assistant (TPA) funding remains open throughout the year. TPA funding is intended to support programs in implementing inclusive practices and responding to evolving classroom needs by enhancing educator capacity and supporting the learning environment. TPA funding is intended to be temporary and is not guaranteed.

Programs are encouraged to connect with their assigned Resource Consultant (RC) to discuss emerging needs, challenges and strategies within the program. Through collaborative consultation, programs and RCs can determine whether TPA funding may be an appropriate support and explore available resources and options to foster inclusive and responsive early learning environments.

If you are unsure whether your program's circumstances align with the TPA funding guidelines, we encourage you to reach out to your RC. While the funding criteria provide general direction, there may be extenuating circumstances or unique program situations that warrant further discussion and consideration. RCs can help clarify eligibility, explore available supports and determine whether a funding request may be appropriate.

Child care programs experiencing ongoing operational needs that exceed TPA funding are encouraged to review their program and staffing models and consider adjustments that support sustainable and inclusive service delivery. Licensed child care operators are reminded of their regulatory obligation to support the inclusion of all children. Durham's SNR agencies are available to help programs meet these obligations; to explore reasonable accommodations, available resources and collaborative planning before determining that a child's needs cannot be met within the program.

Early discussion with your RC is particularly important when programs are experiencing significant challenges. RCs can work collaboratively with programs and the CCEYD to ensure available strategies, supports and funding options have been fully explored before exclusion, expulsion or withdrawal of care is considered.

Emergency Funding

A limited amount of Emergency Funding is available to support licensed child care centres and home child care agencies who are enrolled in the CWELCC system in meeting the requirements of the Ministry of Education (licensing) and the Department of Health. This support is designed to help service providers come into or maintain compliance and is designed to help cover essential, one-time, unexpected costs that go beyond regular program allocations.

To promote fairness and transparency, an [application](#) process has been established to assess eligibility for Emergency Funding. As part of the application, service providers must clearly outline how their program is currently at risk of non-compliance and provide relevant documentation. Service providers must exclude any recoverable Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) from their project costs when completing an Emergency Funding application. The information submitted in the application is critical in demonstrating the necessity of funding to maintain safe, compliant operation that does not fit into the

centre's CWELCC allocation. Service providers will be responsible for reconciling funding received.

The deadline for submitting [applications](#) for Emergency Funding is October 30.

Fall ID and Benefits Access Hubs

The Region of Durham is hosting [Mobile ID and Benefits Access Hubs](#) this fall. The Hubs will help residents access a variety of government supports and services they may be eligible for. At the Hub, residents can:

- Access the Canada Pension Plan, Canadian Dental Care Plan, Canada Disability Benefit, Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Program, and other government benefits and programs.
- Get or replace government identification (ID), such as a Social Insurance Number (SIN), birth certificate (free for eligible individuals with low income) and health card. Services will also be available to obtain or renew photo ID and driver's licenses (fees may apply).
- Learn about government benefits that can help boost your income and find out which ones you may qualify for.
- File taxes, if your tax situation is simple and you have no income or a modest income (for details on booking an appointment, visit durham.ca/IDandBenefitsHubs).
- Get help with forms, applications and service navigation.
- Learn about supports and services, such as housing, food, employment, transit, social services, mental health and more.
- Food hampers will be available while supplies last.

The upcoming spring hubs will run:

- Whitby Public Library, 405 Dundas Street West, Whitby: October 19, 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Ajax Public Library, 55 Harwood Avenue South, Ajax: October 20, 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Clarington Library, Museums and Archives, 163 Church Street, Bowmanville: October 22, 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Visit Durham Region's [Mobile Benefits Hubs](#) page to learn more information on hub event details.

Business Technology Coordinator staffing update

The CCEYD is pleased to welcome Jessica Russell as a Business Technology Coordinator, joining Reshan Kanaganayagam in the role. Please continue to direct all access and technology related inquiries and requests to childcaretechsupport@durham.ca.