

# Newsletter



## A message from the Executive Director

The warmer weather is arriving and we are asking for your help preparing our children for outdoor play.

Weather permitting, we spend at least two hours outdoors daily, one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon. Many of our programs go outside as early as 9:00am. Please be sure to provide:

- A sunhat
- Close toed outdoor shoes – flip-flops are not appropriate as they cause many trips and falls
- Labelled reusable water bottle
- Please apply sunscreen on their child prior to their arrival each day.

## A message from the Board of Directors

As the largest co-operative daycare in Waterloo, the success of Bright Starts is a combination of highly skilled staff, dedicated parents, and a group of wonderful little learners. Thank you to all who attended our Annual General Meeting. As a co-operative facility, the success of Bright Starts depends on the combined efforts of both staff and family volunteers. As such, I want to thank and welcome our new and returning Board members; your time and effort clearly helps to make Bright Starts a successful and sustainable facility. As a reminder, our next Board meeting is June 19th. Watch the newsletter and main white board for future meeting dates. We will also be sharing information soon on volunteering for Board Committees that help the Centre run smoothly. So parents/guardians, please let us know if you are interested in attending one of our Board meetings, or if you want to volunteer some time and energy to helping to continually strengthen Bright Starts moving forward. Wishing you all a safe, happy, and hopefully relaxing summer!

### Our 2018/2019 Board of Directors:

**President** – Scott Leatherdale

**Vice President** – Jessica Lang

**Past President** – Kelly Tunney

**Treasurer** – Mark Stuart

**Secretary** – Stacey Acker

### Directors:

Amina Gilani

Lindsay Ford

Leanne Varey

Nadia Martin

Mahyar Shafii

Alex Zorzitto

Jennifer Bleakney

Nomair Naeem

Jennifer Tung

Tetyana Reichert

### HiMama Communication App - What to expect

HiMama is an electronic communication tool used by our educators to inform parents about their child's day.

Toddler and Preschool rooms can expect: to receive a daily report containing information about how much your child ate and how long your child slept. A summary of daily activities or special events will also be included. You can anticipate a weekly individual photo of your child that illustrates a developmental milestone or a captured photo that describes what your child is doing in that particular moment.

The infant room will continue to use the written daily information sheet which provides a detailed description of your child's caregiving routines. A weekly individual photo will be sent through HiMama that captures a developmental milestone or a special moment that says "look what I am doing today".

Please note the needs of our children come first and the dynamics of each program can vary daily and will influence the amount of time educators have to send photos and respond to emails through HiMama. It is preferred that messages requiring responses are communicated through the main office.

### Annual Erick Traplin Concert:

Please join us along with UW's Early Childhood Education Centre for our annual Erick Traplin Concert. The event will take place on Friday June 1st on the Village 1 Green. Erick's performance will begin at 9:45 AM, we will be leaving Bright Starts at 9:15AM sharp...get ready to dance, sing and have loads of fun! If you would like to join us for the concert please sign up on the sheet located on your child's classroom door.

**Fun Fair:** We are planning to hold our 4th annual Bright Starts Family Fun Fair on July 12th. Our past two Family Fun Fairs have been a huge success and lots of fun. More information will be available soon.

**Did you know...**that your every day shopping can help Bright Starts?

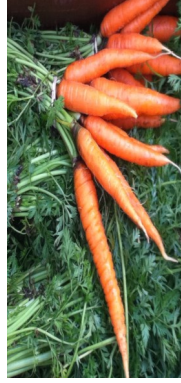
Purchase gift cards every month for groceries, gas, and other retailers. It helps Bright Starts and there's no extra cost to you. Order by December 2 to get them in time for Christmas.

Label your child's belongings using Mabel's Labels. Part of the proceeds goes to Bright Starts.

### What's my child eating?

On May 7th we switched to our summer menu. Our spring and summer menu will provide a few "finger" options allowing the programs to experience picnic lunches outside during the warmer months. The menu is posted:

- [Online](#)
  - Front foyer
  - By the kitchen
  - In classrooms
- Questions? Ask the kitchen staff



**Summer Vacations:** Please take a few minutes to share your summer vacation plans with us. A form will soon be posted in each of the classrooms asking you to share with us any dates which your child will not be attending Bright Starts this summer. This helps us to prepare and plan for our summer catering and staffing needs.

### IMPORTANT DATES:

#### **Bright Starts is CLOSED**

May 21st - Victoria Day  
July 2nd - Canada Day  
August 6th - Civic Holiday  
September 3rd - Labour Day

#### **Fundraisers**

Scholastic Book & FundScrip Orders

June 8th (FundScrip)  
June 15th (Scholastic - last order until September)  
July 13th (FundScrip)  
August 10th (FundScrip)  
September 14th (FundScrip and Scholastic)

#### **Events**

June 1st - Annual Erick Traplin Concert  
June 14th - Preschool Graduation  
July 3rd - Bright Starts CELC's Summer Camp Program begins  
July 12 - Family Fun Fair

#### **Board of Directors Meetings**

June 19th  
July 17th  
August 21st  
September 18th

### Leaving Bright Starts:

September is quickly approaching, please remember we require two months written notice prior to withdrawing. Please use this **WITHDRAWAL FORM** or speak to Stacey, Kathy, or Karen in the office. Please remember to return your key fobs, they are reprogrammable and we would like to recycle them to new families enrolling. Have a child graduating, and you will no longer have a child in our program? Please consider donating your registration fee back to Bright Starts. Your contribution will go towards fundraising efforts and will be recognized with a leaf on our family tree located in our main foyer.

### Share your comments and praises

- Fill out our online [feedback form](#)
- Complete a hard copy feedback form and drop it in the comment box (located in the front foyer)

The Board will review comments monthly.

If you have an immediate concern, please contact the office. This process is not meant to circumvent existing policies and procedures.

### **Contact Us**

[www.brightstartsearlylearning.ca](http://www.brightstartsearlylearning.ca)

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Co-operative Early Learning Centre Inc.