

DAY CARE FOR EVERYONE!

vol. 1, no. 3 published by the daycare organizing committee / feb. 1973



Introducing ourselves, again

The six of us make up a daycare information and resource group. We have a pool of information available for use by anyone interested in daycare, whether they want to set up a centre or just need to pick our brains. We feel we have a fairly sound knowledge of the regulations regarding daycare. We also have a daycare library, a file with information on daycare, and we're working on a slide show. Our address is 171 College St. (at Mc Caul), second floor. Our phone number is 923-2392.

Susan Bickell

Graeme Carrasco

Pam Dufresne

Lucy Katzberg

Jackie Larkin

Julie Mathien

WHAT'S INSIDE

Hard Nosed News pg 2

Small Town Daycare pg 3

After the War:

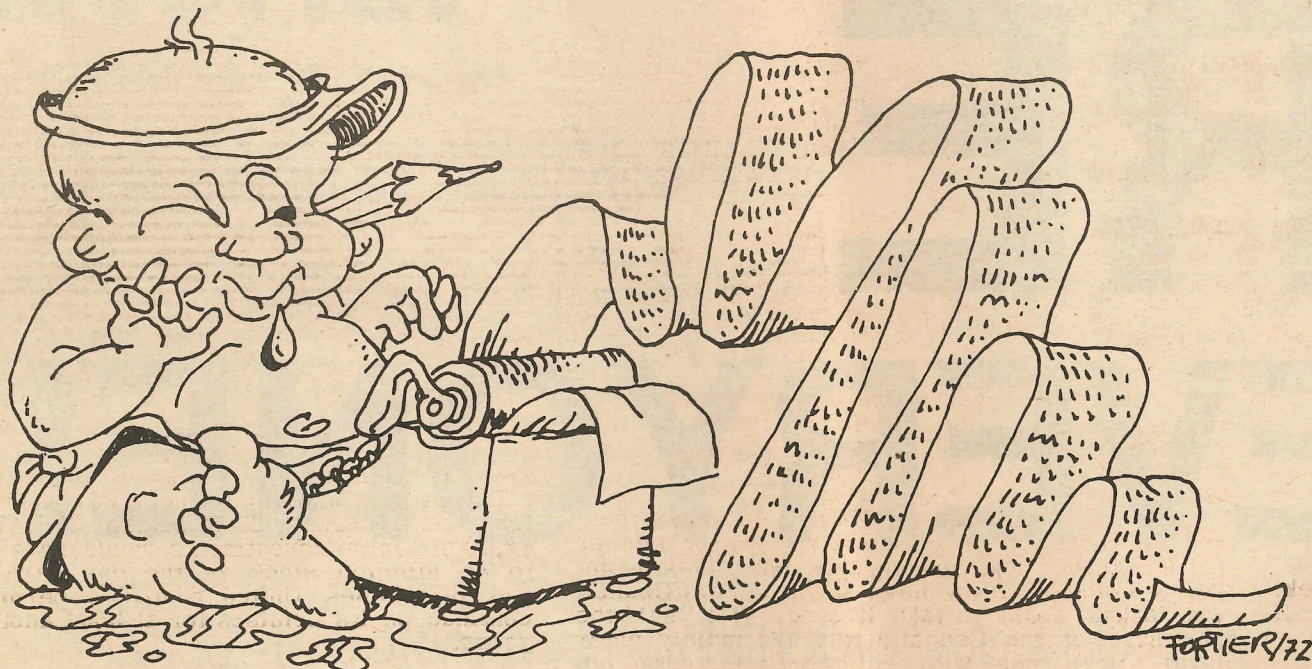
Daycare since W.W.II pg 5

Community Daycare

West End Y pg 9

Industrial Daycare pg 12





actions

In several Canadian cities the militant demand for daycare is growing. A group of women have occupied a provincial daycare information centre in Vancouver, stating they will remain there until the minister responsible comes from Victoria to discuss their concerns—the amendment of daycare licensing legislation and the provision of infant daycare centres and 24-hour daycare facilities.

In Montreal the 8th floor of the Leacock Building at McGill University has been occupied by 35 parents, children and students. They plan to stay until the university negotiates an acceptable settlement providing facilities and finances to make available daycare for 50 children from the university and surrounding community.

Campus Community Co-operative Day Care Centre #2 is in its tenth month of occupation of the Devonshire Place building at University of Toronto. The Devonshire Community continues to negotiate with the university for a suitable settlement.

NEWS REVIEWS

... The Globe and Mail reported on December 29th that Helen Brew, a child specialist from New Zealand, objects to the idea of 'having specialists to bring up your child' and fears that Womens' Liberation Movement proposals for child care might lead to extended emotional illness among children left in day care centre. In the article she objects to placing the child in a nursery or day care centre just so the mother can go to work. We would suggest that she read Ruth Sidel's book WOMEN AND CHILD CARE IN CHINA, THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, and recent research at Harvard Child Study Centre (Bruner, etc.).

... The news from Halifax is that at least three day care centres may close there unless they get increased funding from the Provincial Government. These centres will be unable to continue operating unless the daily rate of \$3.50 per child provided by the Province is increased to \$6.00.

Mr. L.R. Glait, Principal of Brockton Technical High School, wants a nursery centre established at the school as part of a training program in child care for students. It is, of course, important that students are provided with the opportunity of learning about young children, but is the nursery to be merely a training program for these students or should it also be a useful daycare centre

related to the real needs of working parents in the community?

... 'Two bedrooms from \$170, DAY NURSERY. . . available at reduced rates to tenants' read the advertisement in the Toronto Star. The Day-care Organizing Committee feels that day care should not be an issue to be used by large development corporations to fill up their apartment buildings. Surely, the care and education of children is not an area where developers should be involved.

... Federal expenditure on daycare services may reach 8 million this year, twice as much as was spent in 1971. The Toronto Board of Education gets 150 million per year for the city of Toronto—a rather large sum compared to the 8 million spent by the government on day care for the whole of Canada. The Royal Commission on the Status of Women recommend 2.5 billion dollars as an initial sum for setting up Universal Daycare.

... Under present legislation, the municipalities pay 20% of operating fees of a government day care centre, while the Federal and Provincial Governments pay 50% and 30% respectively. There has been some criticism that the municipalities are not taking advantage of this legislation and claim they cannot afford to pay their share

Last year the provincial government under Project Day Care offered \$10 million for construction of new day care centres in the Province of Ontario. Some municipalities applied under this program, but Hamilton did not. Lloyd Priest acting director of city welfare says Hamilton has more privately operated day nurseries than most areas. 'If there was a need, Hamilton would have taken advantage of Project Day Care', he said.

However, Polly Richardson, coordinator of the early childhood education program at Mohawk College says there is a need for more daycare in Hamilton. And Margaret Ruthertford of Hamilton, director of Brant Pre-schools in Burlington says there is a waiting list for day care of over 200.

Gloria O'Reilly dreams of the day she can put her children in day care, so she can attend an adult retraining program to obtain her high school diploma. Gloria, who is 22 and on mother's allowance, placed her name three months ago on a waiting list for day care at the Hamilton Daycare Centre—the only licensed centre in Hamilton that can accept children under the age of two. She was told it could take as long as six months for an opening.

CENTRE TO OPEN AT GRACE CARMEN UNITED CHURCH

Five daycare workers are involved with community groups in the College-Dufferin area of Toronto. By March 1st they hope to have an over-2's centre, with a capacity of 20-25 children, operating in Grace Carmen United Church. For information, contact Kathy Gallagher at 533-0242.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION FOR DAYCARE

Parents' Association for Day Care is the North York group fighting for by-law changes to permit enrollment of non-resident children in daycare centres situated in apartment buildings. Their recent activities centred around the December municipal election, in an attempt to publicize their concerns and assure commitment from candidates that they would prioritize the changing of the bylaw. PADCFee! they were very successful in raising the issue and in gaining public support through petitioning. If you are interested in this campaign, contact Roslyn Doctorow, 493-5835, or Anne Greenwood, 222-3844.

SIMCOE CENTRE CLOSES



Credit: Robin Williams

Simcoe's centre had a great many things going for it, financially. Most of the very high costs of starting up a day care centre had already been met in Simcoe's centre, largely by two L.I.P. grants, which netted nearly \$18,000 (Parents' fees from February 29-December 31 1972, netted \$8,000) Capital investments would have continued to be minimal since as the day care program had St. James United Church's permission to continue on its premises for at least another three years.

Also, had the centre been assured financial stability by being taken over by the town, it would have been sure to acquire an adequate number of full-time, full-fee paying users. Simcoe's maximum fee of \$5.25 per child per day would have soon covered operating costs. The average amount it cost to actually maintain a child in a day care centre in Toronto is \$5.00 a day. In Simcoe, the centre's per diem cost (expenditure per child per day) was rapidly approaching this \$5 figure.

There are many other small towns in Canada. If Simcoe had such a hard time keeping its day care centre, imagine how difficult it must be for other small towns to establish theirs. Obviously the initiative for providing public day care facilities must not remain with the municipality. There is a pressing need for much extended child care facilities in Canada, and a danger of profit-oriented private enterprise providing day care when governments will not.

Simcoe was a case in point where community groups were much more willing to support a day care centre than the municipality. Community groups should be eligible for government grants for day care capital costs, as well the municipalities, Indian Bands, and retarded children's nurseries that are eligible under existing legislation. The difficulties that plagued Simcoe's centre illustrate the unfeasibility of the present system.

by Lucy Katzberg



Credit: Paul Campbell

of the centre's precarious existence, it was unable to attract enough children into the full-day programme to help defray operating costs; only half of the children attended full time.

But the Town Council refused to understand; and the centre, in desperation, applied for another L.I.P. grant; and happily got one. This grant kept it going until November when the Town Council was asked again to take it over. 'No!' said the members of the Council, who are mainly older (over-forty) men with children all grown up. 'OUR children grew up with out any day care centres, so who should anyone else need them—OUR wives did very well without. . .', they said, or words to that effect. But, most of all, they were unhappy about the finances of the day care centre; their main concern was that the centre was not paying for itself. And among the citizens of the town the main objection was on the order of: 'Why should MY taxes go to pay for somebody else's child to attend a day care centre?'

But the Town did give the centre \$2,000 when the second L.I.P. grant ended. After all, it was election time and the day care centre was rapidly becoming a political issue. The second L.I.P. grant was definitely to be the last one, and many people became very concerned about the service. Simcoe's newspaper, 'The Reformer', took a poll. The local radio station provided a lot of coverage. Response from the town indicated great sentiment in favour of the centre and even people who would not themselves have use for the service, people with no children or grown children, became involved in support of the daycare issue.

To quiet the controversy until after elections, the \$2,000 was given money which tided the centre over until January 26, 1973. On January 22, the Simcoe Town Council met for the third time to decide whether it was willing to take over the centre. Council again refused. It agreed only to continue its subsidization of parents eligible under the Family Benefits Act or under the General Assistance Act. The centre could have continued to operate only if a private group took it over, and no group expressed interest. Consequently, the centre was forced to close on January 26.

Project Day Care (the 1971 day care construction program wherein \$10 million was to be given towards the total capital costs of all child care centres which could be constructed by May 31, 1972) estimated the cost of building a 45-place day care centre to be \$155,400.

Simcoe did not apply for Project Day Care money. Without Project Day Care, 50 per cent of these costs are paid by the federal government, 30 per cent by the provincial government, and 20 per cent by the municipal government. Well, 20 per cent of \$155,400 is still \$31,080—a considerable sum for any municipality. And these figures do not include operating costs, such as salaries, which continue year after year.

The municipality has, of all three levels of government, the least amount of money, being mainly dependent on property and sales taxes. And yet it is the municipality which is supposed to initiate public day care centres. Small wonder then that, in 1972, municipal day care centres comprised only about 15% of centres in Ontario, and only 2% of those in Canada.

Once upon a time

Once upon a time, in the Ontario town of Simcoe (population: 13,000), there was a daycare centre—the only day care centre in the whole town. There were a lot of happy two-to-five year olds in this day care centre. There were between 25 and 30 children in it throughout the week. They played games and did what adults call 'creative' things.

But often their parents would worry about the possibility of the centre's closing. There were four times since the centre opened in March, last year, until the centre closed on January 26, this year, that the parents were warned that the centre might close in two weeks. And, of course, it finally did close.

Because it ran out of money.

The centre once had money, most of it L.I.P. money. It was able to start because it got an L.I.P. grant last March, but the grant was supposed to finance the centre for only three months. After that, the people who liked the centre, and there were many of them, hoped that the Town Council of Simcoe would take care of the centre, and make it into a municipal day care center.

And there were many reasons for hoping.

It was obvious that a day care centre was needed in Simcoe. During the first ten months of operation, 65 families applied to send their children. And this was in spite of the fact that, at any time, the centre might close. And about three years ago, in response to a survey by the Norfolk Social Planning Council, three thousand people in the area said they would use a day care centre if one were available. The Town Council was very interested in this survey; it gave money for more research to study whether day care was REALLY needed in Simcoe. But it never quite got around to believing that it was, not quite enough to start a centre.

So, finally, the Norfolk Social Planning Council got a L.I.P. grant to start a centre and SHOW them. Surely, after the Town Council saw that the centre was being used and that there were waiting lists, they would take care of the centre when the L.I.P. grant ended.

But it didn't happen that way. When the L.I.P. grant ended, the Town Council refused to take the centre over. Says the centre's supervisor, Maryann Hicks, 'It expected us to have 25 full-time children a day at the end of three months, and to be running the centre at no deficit.' The Town Council couldn't, or wouldn't, understand that the initial costs of starting any day care, and especially this centre, were very high. Under the conditions of the L.I.P. grant, five staffers had to be hired immediately, even though the centre did not initially have full attendance. Moreover, the staff and resource people starting the first day care centre in Simcoe had to learn through experience how to save on purchases for the centre. Also, because

CHILDRENS' BOOKS

One of the main problems encountered when doing a review of children's books is that often that adult likes in a book and what a child likes are two very different things.

Accordingly, these books are certified user-tested with various groups of children over a period of roughly two years. In addition, these books are guaranteed not to drive an adult up the wall when they're read every night for two weeks. Children have the habit of latching onto books that could kindly be called unspectacular—and they should certainly be allowed to do so—obviously they're not unspectacular to them. How would you like it if some giant censored your books? However, I see no reason to recommend these; they'll turn up anyway. These are books that have been particularly helpful for the under eighteen month-old gang.

BIRDS*; WILD ANIMALS*; FISH*; Brian Wildsmith, Pantheon Press; \$3.50 ea.

Each of these books deals with a variety of species within the three groups. The illustrations are downright luxurious—beautiful colours and movement—and can catch the eye of even the youngest baby (a four-month-old will often grin and scratch at the pictures). The text is simple and pleasant. Each illustration names the particular bird, beast or fish along with the group it lives in, some real, some fanciful. Thus we have 'a pride of lions' and 'a flutter of woodcocks'. The words are a fine introduction to the delicacy of the language.

THE APPLE; THE EGG; Dick Bruna, Follett Pub. Co., \$1.25.

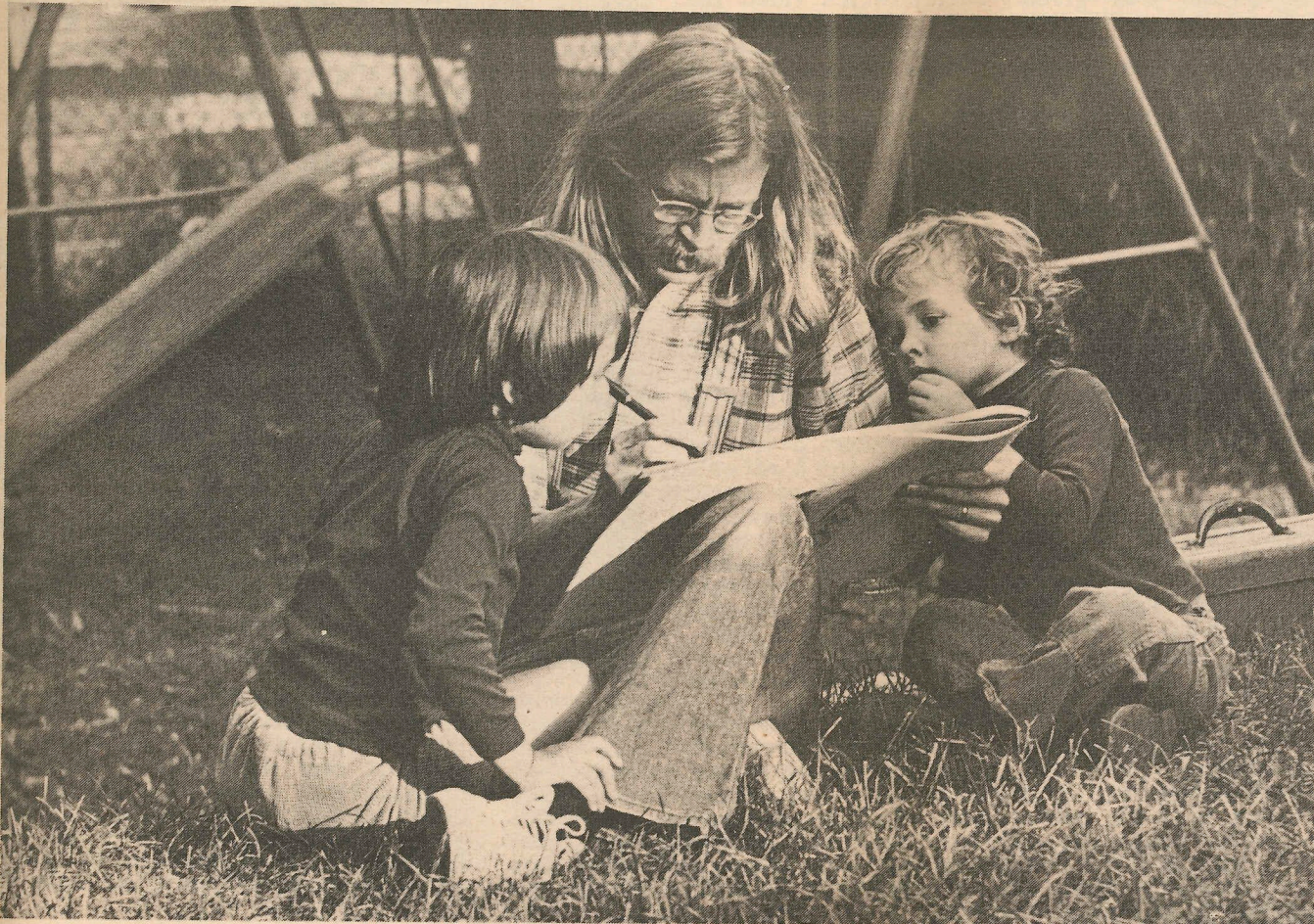
These are only two of many books by Dick Bruna that have recently been translated from the Dutch. They are small, inexpensive and nicely bound to last. The stories are told in plain verse and the illustrations are bright and bold, simple shapes in primary colours. They are enjoyable and a good beginning to an appreciation of form and colour.

BABY'S FIRST TOYS, BABY'S THINGS, Platt and Munk Pub., about \$1.00.

These two cloth books follow a familiar pattern, unfortunately usually badly done. They consist of coloured illustrations of the objects most familiar to your average toddler. However, these differ from most of their counterparts. They're made up of very well executed, brightly coloured photographs and can be a nice source of discussion for a child who likes to concentrate on the concrete rather than the abstract. This kind of conversation helps to validate a small child's perception of what he sees around him.

by Julie Mathien

*Available in Public Library.



Errors last issue

We left out the following daycare centres:

Victoria Daycare Services, 539 Jarvis
925-3419 or 925-0947

University Settlement Day Care Center (infants), 23 Grange Rd. 364-9133

Friends Day Care Centre, 60 Lowther Avenue, 921-0368

West End Y Day Care Centre, 931 College Street, 536-1166

Other corrections:

Crescent Town Day Care Centre DOES have a subsidy arrangement with Metro.

Tiny Tots is a private school, not a daycare centre.

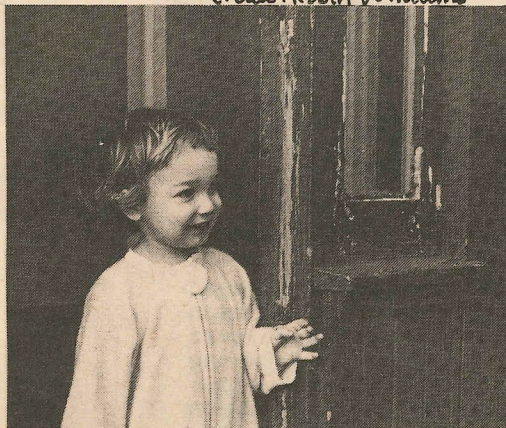
The correct phone number of St. Andrew's University Day Care Centre is 921-7078.

The correct phone number of Swallows Day Care Centre is 536-0574

Hillcrest Day Nursery should have been listed as a non-profit nursery.

Books About Daycare

credit: Robin Williams



The Daycare Book

Increasing numbers of working and non-working women and some men are seeking adequate day-care facilities for their pre-school children. The lack of sufficient facilities has provoked widespread concern with the question of social priorities in a society which relegates day-care to the inadequate budget of 'welfare' departments while millions of dollars of tax-payers' money are spent on forgivable loans to corporations and public relations projects for the provincial government.

Recently, the Canadian Women's Press—a co-operative press initiated for the purpose of publishing materials by women and about 'women's questions'—released a well-designed and thoughtful booklet entitled 'The Day Care Book'. The booklet is not intended as a step-by-step guide on the mechanics of establishing day care centres. Instead it raises the political, social and economic questions relating to the provision of day care.

The first article entitled 'The Case for Universal Day Care', places the day care question in the context of present need and the limited facilities now available. It provides a useful overview of the various forms of day care now being provided and makes the argument for massive government involvement in the establishment and financing of a universal system of day care.

The comprehensive introductory article is well-complemented by Grace Hartman, National Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Union of Public Employees. She argues that day care must be understood as a 'right', not a privilege, which women must demand in order to insure that both they and their children are given the opportunities which they deserve.

For those who prefer animation to the written text, a cartoon article by the sole male contributor to the booklet will take the reader through the various prejudices expressed by the anti-daycare elements of the population. It then proceeds to explore and reject the various alternatives that do exist—with the exception of co-operative parent-controlled centres. The day-care battle conducted by some University of Toronto parents over the last three years provides the theme for the latter part of the cartoon story.

Two other articles in the booklet concentrate on the necessity for co-operative day care centres, controlled by the parents, volunteers and staff. A bibliography is also included.

The booklet is clearly a useful source for those attempting to come to terms with some of the social and political dimensions of the day care question.

An Annotated Bibliography Part 1

MAKING PLACES, CHANGING SPACES. The Farallones Scrap-BOOK. This book is very useful once a day care centre or nursery school exists: Many things to do and make; excellent ideas for constructions (climbing toys, 'places' to make, playgrounds, conga drums), using cheap or 'found' material; finding and using trash. Good descriptions of various carpentry tools and how to use each; also how to fire-proof the articles you've made. The book begins with sweetened prose-poetry which I had to skip, but the rest of it is definitely worth it. Costs \$4.75, distributed by Random House.

THE DAYCARE BOOK; Canadian Women's Educational Press, 280 Bloor St. W. Toronto. \$1.50 / single copy; bulk rates available. This is especially useful for groups just beginning to be interested in daycare. See article on the book elsewhere in this paper. The only possible fault I find with the book is that it does not equip groups to go through the myriad procedures and bureaucratic wrangles involved in starting a daycare centre.

THE DAY CARE OF CHILDREN: An Annotated Bibliography; published by the Canadian Welfare Council (now called the Canadian Council on Social Development). Exactly what it says it is—comprehensive, about 68 pages long. I think it costs \$3.00—available from 55 Parkdale, Ottawa, Ontario.

WORKING MOTHERS AND THEIR CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS; Available from Women's Bureau, Canada Department of Labour. Handy when you need statistics.

DAY CARE—report of a national study by the Canadian Council on Social Development, 1972. This one is probably useful if you want a fairly comprehensive picture of the day care scene across Canada. It is available from The Canadian Council on Social Development, 55 Parkdale, Ottawa. ALSO I think it costs \$3.

...By March, Daycare Organizing Committee will be able to distribute an Information Sheet on setting up daycare centres. This one is written specifically for community and parent groups which want to set up co-operative daycare centres which will be able to meet provincial licensing standards. It's free. Write: Day Care organizing Committee, 171 College Street, Toronto 2B, Ontario.



Credit: Robin Williams

AFTER THE WAR HISTORY OF DAY CARE SINCE W.W.II

The public provision of daycare services in Toronto, as elsewhere, has a brief history. Until World War II, childcare facilities were limited to those provided by a few private welfare agencies, and female religious orders. During the war, however, the supply of male labour became scarce as men were sent overseas. Women moved in to take over the jobs left by their husbands, brothers and friends. In order to induce women to till the vital production jobs, governments established childcare facilities throughout the country.

During the war years 19 day nurseries (full day care for children age 2 - 5), 22 daycare centres (hot noon meals and before and after school care) and numerous feeding stations were wet up in the city of Toronto.* These were funded by a joint federal and provincial plan and were viewed by many politicians as a wartime expedient. It was expected that the women would fade back into their kitchens once the war was over.

By 1946 the day nurseries in the city had an average attendance of 463 children and a waiting list of 242—a clear indication of need. Nevertheless, a deadline of June 30 was set for their closing.

The government wasn't prepared for the outcry that this decision created.

All over the city, community groups, labour organizations and groups of parents protested the decision. The women who had been working during the war had not stopped working in 1945. Many continued to work through necessity—some because they were single parents, others because two incomes were necessary to maintain families. Wages were low and living costs high—especially housing costs. The housing shortage was so acute that the municipality was putting ads in out-of-town papers saying, in effect, 'Don't move here; there isn't room.'

The first battle over the closing of the centres saw the community emerge mildly victorious. Thirteen of the nineteen nurseries were taken over by the city. The attitude of city politicians towards the provision of such services was made clear, however, by the decision to place the administration of the centres under the welfare department. There was no acceptance of the idea of day care as a 'right'—instead it was for those in special need. The introduction of a means test a few years later was the logical extension of this view.

DAYCARE CUT

While the city kept a number of the nurseries open, the daycare centres fared less well. Only six of the twenty-two centres were left open—at a time when all were operating at full capacity and the combined waiting list totalled 1,000. It was around the question of day care (meals and after school care) that the fight of the next two years was to centre.

The year 1947 showed no marked decrease in female employment. Food prices were high relative to wages, and the housing shortage continued. The post war boom had not yet developed. A survey of working mothers, done by the Toronto Welfare Council showed 40% living in two rooms or less, often sharing a kitchen or bathroom.

The scattered groups fighting for daycare came together to form the Day Nursery and Daycare Parents Association. The February of 1947, the Parents Association appeared before the Special Advisory Committee on Daycare Services. This committee had been appointed by City Council in November of 1946 to deal with the daycare 'problem'. Although the committee had been appointed four months previously, the February meeting was its first. The deputation presented a brief stressing the inadequacy of the six centres and stressing the need for more senior nurseries. Facilities were so scattered that many children had to change neighborhoods three times in their travels from day nursery to senior nursery to daycare centre. The committee responded by exchanging personal views on the daycare question. The TORONTO DAILY STAR reported that all but two of the committee were opposed to the expansion of daycare services—hardly an auspicious beginning.

The committee, headed by Alderman Roelfson, met again at the end of the month to receive information from community groups attesting to the desperate need for daycare. In the face of these pleas, the committee magnanimously decided to do a survey, even though any information they could possible need was in the files of social agencies across the city and was accessible to them without a survey. This set the stage for one of the biggest boondoggles in the history of Toronto city government.



Five months later the committee had taken no action—in spite of the fact that it had been instructed by city council to SET UP a daycare programme, and in spite of constant prodding from different community groups. At this time, the Day Nursery and Daycare Parents' Association was demanding the re-opening of the sixteen daycare centres which had been closed in 1946, more senior nurseries to give half-daycare to kindergarten children and a pilot project which would combine the different forms of childcare in one centre. The parents also had a number of specific criticisms of conditions in the six operating daycare centres.

(It was during this period—June 1947—that the Day Nurseries Act was introduced by the provincial government. While the act was, for its time, a forward piece of legislation, it did not deal with the question of daycare facilities. The area of childcare remained completely a municipal responsibility. Although the Act has been revised since 1947, it has changed very little in substance.)

By the end of October the Advisory Committee was subject to heavy criticism for its failure to make a report. It had not met since June, undoubtedly contributing to public dissatisfaction. The committee was obviously balking at any extension of services. Alderman Roelfson made his views clear when he stated: 'The city is already spending \$12,000 on six daycare centres. If we let it get out of hand, it's liable to cost \$1,000,000.' The City Council instructed the committee to report before the end of the year.

On November 6, the report was presented. There were 2600 children in Toronto awaiting accommodation in daycare centres. The 681 spaces available were filled. It was recommended that City Council set aside funds in its 1948 budget for 12 new centres and a pilot project centre of the sort advocated by the Parents' Association. The 12 new centres would not be able to accommodate 2600 children, but it would mean an expansion of the services. The survey itself, and the report of the committee had simply stated the demand that existed for daycare—it did not make any recommendations as to who 'needed' such facilities. However, the definition of 'need' held by some of the committee members was clear. 'After all', remarked one alderman, 'we don't want people driving up in limousines to drop their children off.' Alderman Roelfson, reacting to the pressures to expand daycare services, said: 'I don't need to be told through the press or any other organization what my duty to my fellow citizens is.' The report assumed that the Welfare Department of the city would establish the criteria for need.

The Parents' Association supported the recommendations of the report as a preliminary step and requested the pilot project be established in the south-west area of the city at Bloor and Bathurst. However, they demanded that the monies be appropriated immediately, rather than in 1948. City Council refused to meet this demand—Alderman Roelfson voting with the majority.

'ROUND WE GO

Now the minuet began in earnest. In January of 1948, the welfare committee unanimously appropriated \$100,000 for the 12 daycare centres and pilot project (which as requested was to be set up in Bloor St. United Church). On January 27, the city began negotiations with the provincial government on a cost-sharing plan for the meals and after school care. (the Province had, by this time assumed 50% of the operating costs for day nurseries.) Early in February, the Board of Control shelved daycare plans pending the outcome of talks with the province. The Parent's Association continued its pressure. On March 4, Mayor McCallum stated that he was personally opposed to the extension of daycare centres unless the province assumed its share of the funding. On March 11, Board of Control cut the necessary \$100,000 for the Welfare Department's budget. The heated debate among council members, themselves, the Parent's Association and other groups continued for a number of months.



AFTER THE

The parents were supported by the community groups, social agencies, organized labour, the press and a few city politicians (some of whom had very impractical ideas for financing the service). The city continued to refuse to appropriate any money until the Drew government contributed—even though the original proposal had been in no way contingent on provincial funds. By summer, the Mayor had made it clear that he was washing his hands of the daycare question and that unless parent's groups could get other levels of government to contribute he would not deal with the question again.

The 12 centres were never set up and the pilot project was established at Jesse Ketchum School as an extension of already existing facilities.

WELFARE GETS INTO THE ACT.

In the meantime, the Welfare Department had not been idle. On Feb. 12, many daycare parents were panicked to receive letters from Commissioner Rupert, demanding that they 'prove' their need for daycare. By March 25, eleven families had been forced to remove their children from the nurseries—others being considered more needy. The Parents' Association protested with yet another delegation to city hall, but were rebuffed with remarks about 'subsidized babysitting'.

On April 19, Welfare Commissioner, Rupert, recommended that fees in the 13 day nurseries be raised. The fee raise was approved and the result was that many fees were more than doubled. Families where one parent was working would be required to pay 75¢ a day for the first child and 60¢ a day for subsequent children. This was a rise from 35¢ and 15¢ respectively. If both parents worked the fees would be \$1.00/day/child. At this time, the average weekly salary was \$43.00 and many parents earned less. It was entirely possible for a two-parent family to be paying \$10.00 per week out of a combined income of \$80.00—more than 10% of the income. The motion to raise the fees passed in the face of heavy community opposition early in the summer of 1948. Commissioner Rupert expressed his heartfelt wish that somehow fees be eventually 'adjusted' so that parents would pay the entire cost (\$2.29/day) and thereby relieve the city of its responsibilities. When the Parent's Association accused the Welfare Department of attempting to empty centres by raising fees, they were told, with an amazing lack of logic, that if they had to remove their children from daycare because of the prohibitive fees, it would prove that they did not really need daycare in the first place.



ER WAR



The City Council arranged a 90-day reprieve for the three centres while it determined what to do next. During that next period pressure was applied by the groups which had been involved previously. The Parents' Association emphasized the pressed need for more facilities which a 650 child waiting list and representatives of individual childcare centres also spoke out.

Before the question of the three centres was resolved, a storm broke in April around the proposal by the Welfare Committee that a central registry for screening applicants who wanted subsidies to be instituted. The proposed 'means test' was argued as a means of 'really checking on the need.' Although this brought an angry response from some aldermen, the council approved a 6-month trial period. At the same meeting, a proposal by the Welfare committee that facilities for childcare be included in the Moss Park and Regent Park housing developments was turned down by Council. The Toronto Housing Authority argued that there was no need, since their surveys indicated that the 'average incomes of tenants bring them well above the 'underprivileged class'' The Welfare Commissioner, the Parks Commissioner, and the Building Commissioner also lined up in opposition to the new facilities—either because they opposed childcare in principle, or because it would complicate the planning for the development.

SCREENING PROBLEMS.

On the question of screening applicants, the Parents' Association was vigorous. The association accused the city welfare department of attempting to reduce the number of families using daycare and nursery facilities by making parents feel like relief recipients. 'The department worries, hounds and harries everybody in an attempt to make the demand meet the facilities,' they argued.

The furor over the screening subsided temporarily as the focus of concern shifted to defining the need for more facilities. In May of 1950 a joint committee of the Welfare Department and the Welfare Council of Toronto released a report indicating considerable need in a number of areas of the city and a waiting list of over 1000. Soon afterwards, the Welfare Committee of Council approved spending \$330,000 to build two new centres to replace the 3 private centres due to close after the 90-day reprieve (the East End, Victoria, and Grange Road centres.)

NEED APPARENT—RESPONSE NEGATIVE

FIGURES ON USERS OF CHILDCARE 1950

- 38.7% - sole support mothers
 - 53.9% - mothers working to maintain living standards, furnish homes, pay medical bills
 - 4.9% - mothers absent or ill
 - 2.5% - children with 'special problems'
- Average income \$40.00 / week
(family income range \$30-\$50/week)

Board of Control reacted in a manner similar to that during the earlier crisis around the three centres. It avoided making any clear decision. The question of the \$330,000 expenditure was referred back to the welfare Committee, on the grounds that general policy on childcare was necessary. (of course, no progress had been made towards the development of such a policy during the 90-day period). The mayor again reiterated his view that the city could not bear the cost.

The STAR accused certain members of council, of seeing childcare centres as the 'camel's head for statism'. The political rationalizations of the mayor and others were explained by the STAR in this manner: 'Since it is deemed politically unwise to attack progress with such a wide logical and sentimental appeal, they (concillors) fall

back on the claim that (it) is not the city's business.' Throughout this period, the STAR actively supported the demands for more day and nursery care. City politicians sympathetic to the need for more centres, or wishing to capitalize on the publicity, raised the question of Council's budget priorities - such as a one million dollar allocation for the Royal Agricultural Fair.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Parents' Association collected a petition of 1,172 names protesting against the threat of closure faced by the three centres. The Consumers Association, the Congress of Canadian Women, Women Electors, the National Congress of Jewish Women, and other groups sent communications and delegations to City Hall. The Toronto and Lakeshore Labour Council (CIO-CLC) voted unanimously to undertake a campaign of petitions, letters and phone calls to city officials. Labour Council delegates noted that the \$7,000 needed to renovate the East End centre was no more than the price of two of the big limousines that the controllers drove around in and suggested that if Council cut out its 'banquets for visiting parasites' it could find the necessary funds.

The crisis around the closing of the three centres was resolved in such a way as to enable Council once again to avoid the question of developing a general policy on childcare. The province announced it would share the cost of renovating and operating the East End centre. The Drew government maintained that the city had never approached it for help. The children at the Grange Road centre (which had to relocate) were given three rooms in the Ryerson public school (on approval) of the Board of Education and Property Committee of Council. At that point five other schools had day nurseries in them. The Victoria creche was given another year by the landlords to relocate.

Soon after, the City Council approved in principle the proposed two new centres and decided to consult with the province on the possibilities of a 50-50 division of construction costs. The City's meeting with the Minister of Public Welfare asked for assistance on construction costs and for cost sharing in the field of daycare facilities. The results of the meeting were not promising. The province refused to aid in the building costs of the new centres, and the request for aid for daycare was unsympathetically received. Goodfellow, the Minister of Public Welfare argued brilliantly: 'Day care centres are most unfair things, especially the noon meals. If we are going to have these noon meals, they should be given across the board.' He then stated that no one should receive such care; 'This thing could extend until we would have the state taking over the children. The foundations of our society are weak enough already without straining them further.'

In spite of appeals by community groups and city officials, the province refused to get itself involved in financing daycare. All it would do was alter the Day Nurseries Act to include 7-year olds who were not in the first grade. The battle for daycare services had essentially been lost, and during the next few years, centres, with a few exceptions, were gradually eliminated.

By early 1951, the city Welfare Department was also cutting back on the numbers of children it was subsidizing in centres. The new screening registry, which had been given a 6-month trial, was made a permanent feature. The city backed off from the idea of building two new centres after the provincial government refused to provide financial support. There were protests from the Parents' Association, but no systematic opposition to these developments until May, 1951, when the Welfare Department again raised the fees that parents were required to pay for day nurseries. Based on a comprehensive means test (approved by the provincial government), the new rates raised fees 300% for some parents. The Welfare Commissioner, whose hostility to childcare had been clear throughout, predicted that attendance would fall with the new rates and that this would 'prove that the actual need of the day nursery service was not as great' as some were arguing.

Parents immediately protested by organizing a 100 women delegation to a Board of Control meeting. The Parents' Association brief argued that the city had turned the nursery program into a 'custodial relief project.' Isabel Bevis, spokeswoman for the Day Nurseries and Day Care Parents Association, made her sentiments clear: 'I'm utterly disgusted with the type of men you have in your department...They make me feel so low and so degraded.' The protest resulted in a suspension of the fees increase until the Council could receive a report from the Welfare Commissioner on the effects of the fee increase. The Commissioner was to report on the effects of the four demands made by the Parents' Association. They were: 1) no increase in fees, 2) an end to the screening depot, 3) an end to the means test and investigators, and 4) the re-establishment of a waiting list method of admission.

At City Council meeting where the mothers made their protest, certain politicians red-baited the delegation, and one woman who had arrived to express her opposition to the protest described it as a 'communist inspired revolt'.

Continued on Page 10

MORE CENTRES THREATENED

By the end of February, three centres which were run by social agencies faced closing: two because fire regulations required renovations for which money was not available and one because the centre had sold the building and had been unable to relocate. The city newspapers were quick to voice their opinions. The TORONTO DAILY STAR argued that it was time to expand service, not to reduce them and urged that the city provide the necessary renovation costs. The more conservative TELEGRAM focused on the need for provincial and federal responsibility in the field and warned against abuse of the facilities by those who did not really 'need' them. When Controller Saunders expressed the view that working mothers concerned should be put on relief since it would be cheaper for the city, the STAR responded with the argument that childcare services foster a spirit of independence and prevent pauperization. To those who implied that school lunches were a communist plot, the STAR listed a series of historical experiences in other countries with school lunches and sought to prove that they were entirely respectable and had even been introduced by such respectable conservatives as the Churchill cabinet in England.

E. C. E. CONFERENCE

On January 20, 1973, the Ontario Teachers' Federation held an Early Childhood Education Conference at the Humber College of Applied Arts and Technology. The sponsorship of the conference by the Ontario Teachers' Federation is interesting to note in light of the current battle between the Association of Early Childhood Education Teachers and the Ontario Teachers' Federation, for jurisdiction over the certifying of day care personnel.

WORKSHOPS

Three out of a total of twenty-one workshops were available at the conference. Something of the range of the workshops should be indicated by the following sampling:

SWEDISH PRESCHOOLS

The workshop on Swedish Preschools was one of the most informative. The main thing realized was how extensive this service is and how far behind we are. The Swedish government pours a huge amount of money into a vast variety of child care programmes that go from infancy to adolescence. The fly in the ointment is that the compulsory school age in Sweden is seven, and that the preschool programmes take care of just over half the children who need it. The centers, however, are beautiful, and, most important of all, are small, having no more than 45 children, with a low child staff ratio, generally 1:5.

The workshop on 'Early Childhood Education in the High Schools' introduced participants to two nursery programs where vocational high school students with 'limited reading

and mathematical ability' worked for short periods, to aid the student 'in developing certain skills, as well as providing him with an elementary knowledge of child care.'

Students work for four consecutive weeks in the nursery school in Eastdale Vocational School under the supervision of Elizabeth Tremain, and are then replaced by another batch of students. One drawback of this program is that children readily form attachments in four weeks. Elizabeth Tremain could recall only one child who could watch student workers come and go with equanimity.

One might ask why such training programs for high school students apparently include only vocational students with limited academic ability, students who are patently slated for dead-end jobs. The care of children is of major importance to our society and such training programs should be available to male and female students at all academic levels.

One can't help sensing the implication that institutions for preschoolers don't seem very important or demanding since these programs don't include students with high, as well as low, scholastic aptitudes.

CO-OPERATIVE DAY CARE

The workshop on co-operative day care was given by Marie Abrams of Parents' Co-operative Preschool International, and Jean Stevenson of the Day Nurseries' Branch. The PCPI is involved in half-day co-operatives only, and the D.N.B. is slightly shaky in its support of co-ops. The workshop was very much in favour of co-operatives, but for odd reasons.

The one that stood out was that women involved with their children in (presumably half-day) co-ops would have more insight into their child's activities, and would therefore put off going back to work.

The latest dope on staffing of co-ops is: you can have two volunteers take the place of one trained assistant in centers WHERE THERE IS AN ORIENTATION PROGRAM. An orientation programme is a good idea. However, the rationale for this—'otherwise, you'd be replacing one good person with two untrained ones'—strikes a nasty chord.

INFANT STIMULATION

Norma Macdiarmid of Mothercraft led the workshop on infant stimulation. It was a very general discussion centering at one point on books and children, and, at another, on the need for parent education. Macdiarmid was asked if Mothercraft had a volunteer programme to facilitate parent education. The answer was no, with the assurance, however, that a volunteer wouldn't be turned away.

FAMILY DAY CARE TRAINING

Several participants in the workshop on 'Family Day Care Education Training' expressed concern about the quality of home care arrangements for pre-schoolers, given the low level of training supervision of home care workers. Elizabeth Engell, Co-ordinator of Family Day Care Education at the Sheridan College of Applied Arts and Technology, hoped that her course would improve the quality of these services by 'train-

ing mothers in infant development so that their role would not be just that of caretaking, but also that of teaching.'

One can see that there may be benefits accruing to home care training programs. However, there is a basic paradox involved when one talks about upgrading the quality of government sponsored, private home care. For the main reason that Family Day Care appeals to our government, as an alternative to group care, is that the former is less expensive for the government; and the only reason it is less expensive is that the Family Day Care worker is paid an abominably low wage. The worker must pay for the children's food, equipment, extra upkeep costs on the home, etc. out of his wage of about \$4 a day per child. Consequently, he usually nets less than half the minimum wage.* If one wants quality day care workers one should be paying them a good deal more than this. But, one suspects that if the government had to pay Family Day Care Workers a decent wage, the allurements of Family Day Care, as an alternative to group care, would diminish considerably.

*Information on a Vancouver study on the costs involved in Family Day Care can be obtained from D. Thomson at 1616 West 7th Avenue, Vancouver 9, B.C.

by Lucy Katzberg

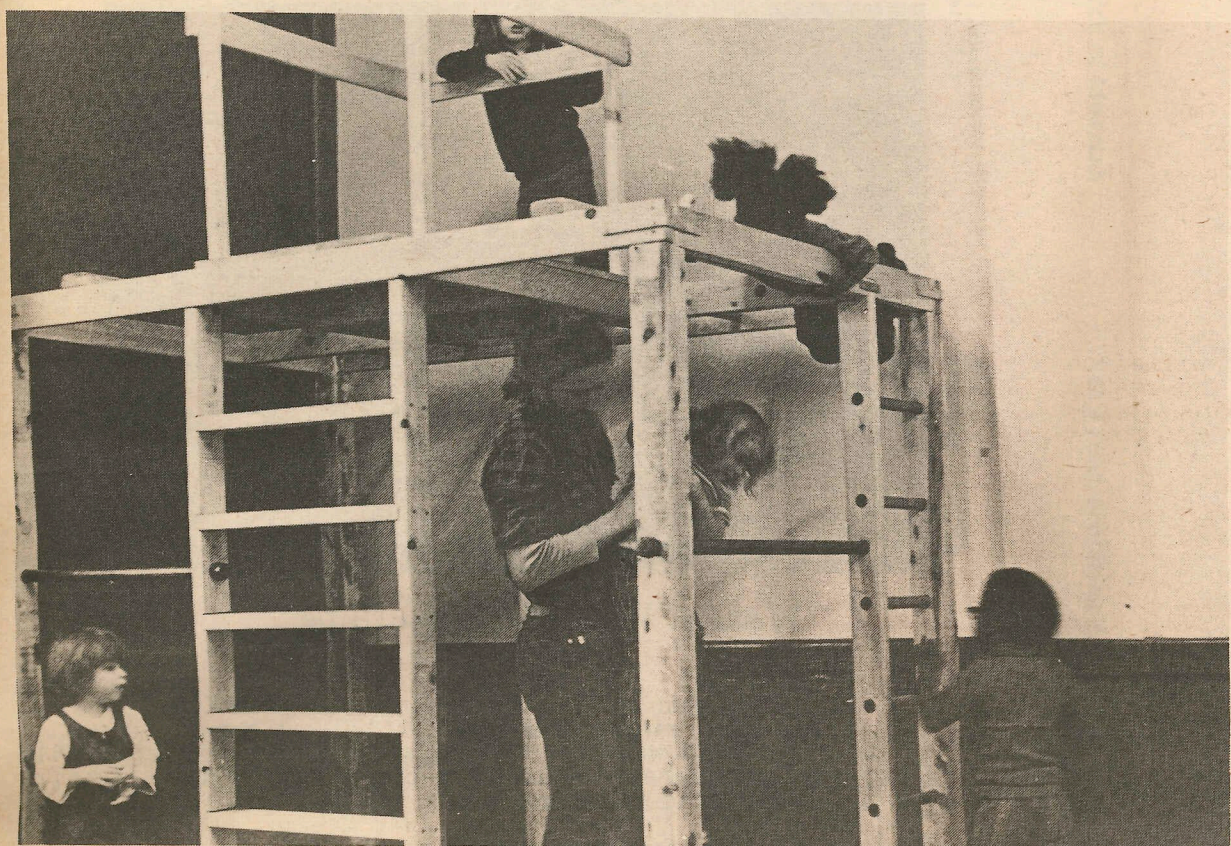


credit: Robin Williams



credit: Paul Campbell

west end "y"



credit: Robin Williams

West End "Y"

COMMUNITY DAY CARE



credit: Robin Williams

West End "Y"

It is always difficult for a community to establish alternative services from those provided by the state. It becomes extraordinarily difficult in the case of a low income, new ethnic community trying to provide alternative day care facilities.

In December, 1971, several women from the College/Dovercourt area neighborhood approached a community worker at the West End YMCA with their need for a good day care program. They emphasized the lack of play areas, and the lack of places for parents and their children to socialize. They pointed out that the private nurseries in the area were beyond the means of most working families, since these nurseries charged \$25 to \$30 per week. The mothers also ruled out the municipal center in the area, because its use was limited to single parent families and very low income parents, and because they felt it did not respond to the needs of the community.

The outcome of the discussion was an application to the Federal Government for a Local Initiatives Program grant to be used to fulfill day care needs in the area. On January 1, 1972, they received a \$15,000 grant.

The YMCA donated two large rooms and a kitchen, and paid approximately \$1,000 for renovations. On January 17 the centre opened. On the first day, the centre cared for five children, and by the middle of February the quota of 35 children had been reached. By that time there was also a long waiting list.

Of eight staff members, four were immigrant mothers from the neighborhood, and four were interested people, also from the area. In June, a license was obtained from the Day Nurseries Branch, making the centre eligible for alternate funding should the LIP grant end.

The centre means different things to different parents. To some it means English lessons for themselves and their children, leading to increased educational opportunities and integration into Canadian society and culture. To others it means a place to come to for help with immigration difficulties, and financial, medical, or housing problems. For some, it is a place to have coffee while their children play. For others, it means some time to spend away from one's children, time to pursue other interests.

The centre has also given people in the community a voice in how their tax money is spent, and a lesson in politics when negotiating with the Federal Government for L.I.P. extensions. It has become a place for people to emerge from the isolation enforced by city living, and to relate to others in the community.

The centre attempts to respond to the needs of the community. A minimum of restrictions is imposed on the children. Age, toilet training, and the economic situation of the parents are ignored as far as is possible. Children are kept busy with a variety of activities and are exposed to concepts which generally are not available at home, via socializing with others at the centre, educational toys, trips to the museum, etc.

As a rule the parents do not have time to volunteer hours in the centre during the day, but they are still actively involved. They supply transportation, and other resources. When staff members are ill, parents occasionally fill in. And, once a month, the parents and staff members meet to discuss policy and programs. The meetings are translated into three different languages. It was difficult, at first, to involve some of the men, since in many immigrant communities children are considered the responsibility of the women. Gradually, however, men are becoming interested, and are contributing their opinions at parent/staff meetings, instead of letting their wives do all the talking. After the meetings, parents help repair or paint furniture, and help clean up the centre.

The cost of all this, over the past year, has been \$45,000. \$38,000 has been spent on salaries (\$100 a week for eight staffers), and \$200 a week for food and supplies. Initially, it cost \$2,000 for wood for furniture, toys (some from the Salvation Army), and play ground equipment. In addition, \$500 was spent initially for fire doors.

The centre is now firmly established in the community. The children have a place they regard as their own, and the parents have a centre staffed with people who care about their children. The children use their time productively, have learned co-operative behavior, and in many cases they have learned to speak English.

The problem of establishing alternatives to services provided by the state is difficult to solve in any community. In the College/Dovercourt area, people have learned that by organizing themselves, they can have day care facilities of their own design.

by Joan Blunt

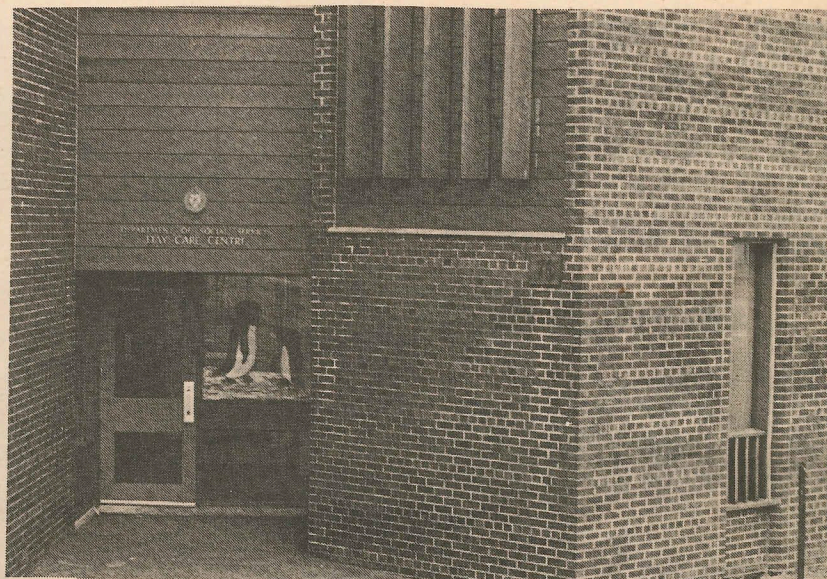
costs: municipal ↔ co-operative

In the last several years there has been an increasing move for small community groups to attempt to set up cooperative day care centres. Many other groups are interested, but feel they would like to know the experience of other established groups on the costs of setting up such a centre. We have compiled Table #1, that shows relevant information for thirteen centres set up in the last five years in Toronto

The greatest stumbling block to most groups is the initial capital costs of setting up the centre. The main expense involved in starting a day care centre is renovations to the building to bring it up to day nursery standards for fire and health. Renovation costs ranged from under \$100 (mainly paint and clean up) to \$25,000, with an average of \$5300.

Very, very much depends on the condition of the building where the proposed day care centre is to be located. The sources of these moneys were mainly churches (on an individual congregation level) and, recently, the Local Initiatives Program. One centre received money from the city, as they were located in a city-owned building; another two centres received money from organizations within the University of Toronto. Rent paid by these centres ranged from none to \$300 per month. There is no good average figure for this category as a lot depended on the relation of the community group to the owners of the building.

Salaries paid to full time staff ranged from \$340 - \$500 per month, with the average being \$418. The total salary cost for any centre would depend on the number of staff employed, which depends on the number of children and the amount of volunteer help. Day Nurseries Branch has recently held that two trained volunteers are equivalent to one trained assistant for the calculation of adult-child ratios.



credit: Robin Williams

Warden Woods Municipal Centre

Fees paid by the parents for full day care for one child ranged from \$40-to \$120 per month; the average was \$80-\$90. Some centres, sponsored by LIP money, were able to charge less during the period of LIP sponsorship.

The provincial government has the responsibility to provide day care to a wide variety of communities. For some of these communities the municipal centre is not acceptable because of the lack of user control. The government should provide capital cost grants to Community groups as well as the municipal governments, Indian Bands, and the Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded, already covered in the Act.

We have compared the costs from the centres set up under the 1972 Project Day Care program with costs (where available) similar to these community day care centres. (Table #2) The obvious reduction in initial capital costs results mainly from careful selection of the building for the centre, and from the majority of the labor being contributed by parents and volunteers. Thus, because there is greater effort put into the community centres (in the form of parents doing shifts, clean ups etc.), there is less cost involved in operation and establishment.

The provincial government should make capital costs grants available to community groups, not just for the sake of expenses—as this represents something of a rip-off of the labour of the parents involved—but also for the concept of user control of day care centres. The quality of service purchased by the government in community centres is at least comparable to that in private and municipal centres, and incorporates the benefit of community involvement.

Susan Bickell



credit: Robin Williams

Campus Community Co-op Centre #1

TABLE 2	RENOVATIONS (average cost per child)	EQUIPMENT (total cost)	FOOD COSTS (Average 70¢/child/day municipally)
Project Day Care (municipalities)	\$3320 (new building) \$1764 (renovated)	\$15,549 (Warden Woods: 50/child)	municipally
Community Day Care	\$625	\$3,400 (Emmanuel-Howard Park: 35/child)	average 35¢/child/day (Campus Community Co-operative Day Care Centre)

continued from page 7...

After the war...

City Council had become increasingly immune to the concern of the parents. It voted 17-5 to implement the fees increase as of September, 1951. During the fall of that year, newspapers and organizations exposed the results of the increase. The Women Electors pointed out that 'many children withdrawn from the nurseries are being placed with neighbours and relatives in precarious arrangements for which they pay between \$7 and \$8 per week'. This 'black market' nursery system was completely unsupervised by any public agency. The Toronto Welfare Council pointed out to Board of Control that private day nurseries, operating for profit, were charging a maximum of \$2.40/day compared to the city nursery fee maximum of \$3.00 / day.

As a result of the drop in attendance at the centres, Board of Control voted to shelve any plans for new centres. In February, 1952, Council approved a reduction in the maximum fee for nurseries from \$3 to \$2.50 / day. Reports of the Welfare Commissioner himself had shown that 54 children had been removed immediately after fees were raised in September. By this point much of the organized protest had petered out. Those parents most angry at the increase had been forced to find other arrangements. Some parents who had been involved in the struggle for many years had given up, or their children were now at public school.

End of Part One

This part of the article is essentially a chronology of the events based on interviews and extensive clippings kept by parents who were involved in the battles to keep the childcare centres open after the war.

The next issue will include the second part of the article, which will concentrate on an analysis of the events and a look at the general political and economic framework of the period.

DATA ON NON - PROFIT CENTRES : Table 1

DAY CARE CENTRE	STATE OF BUILDING	RENOVATIONS	MONEY SOURCES	#STAFF	WAGES	FEES	RENT	JANITOR	FULL DAY?	#KIDS
St. Andrews Univ. DCC	fairly old church	\$5,000-equipment \$15,000-total for small toilets, heavy wiring, building's alarm system & fire house	G.S.U. Atkinson Foun- dation	4 staff 1 sup 1 parent	sup:\$500 rest:\$340	\$90/mo 80 if shift	NO	free, parents	yes	40
Walmer Rd. Baptist Church	fairly old church	\$1,000: knocked out wall, fire alarm & fire doors, no small toilets		5 staff	\$450- \$500/mo	\$80/mo	yes	part of rent	yes	45
Hillcrest DN	fairly old church	No major renovations, like fire alarm system. Use large toilets.	\$1,000 loan from church, paid bk in 2 yrs.	6 teachers 2 assist. 2 cooks		\$80- \$85/mo	\$320	part of rent	yes & 1/2 day& kindergarten	65 36
Vaughan Rd. NS	fairly old church	Considered full day pro- gram but renovations too costly		2 staff mothers volunteers						
Emmanuel-Howard Pk.	fairly old church	\$3,000: fire alarm-paid by church. \$3,400: rooms&equipment (\$500: small toilet).	\$2,000 loan from church to get program started	5 staff	Total/mo. \$1,916	\$80/mo	free	free	half-day kindergarten	35
Triad (defunct)	fairly old church	\$1986: total 981: fire alarm 51: insurance 21: incorporation 463: general fix-up 100: 3rd sink 120: chairs 150: cots	political groups, one union, general solicitation	4 staff--110/wk 3 assist.-90/wk L.I.P. \$		\$20/wk	\$300/rent \$100/util.	yes	yes some 1/2 days	start at 10
Church of Messiah	very good condition	\$25,000: fire alarm, 2nd door for escape, kitchenette, high construction costs.	Church paid in full	2 full time 1 part time	full/465/mo part/50/mo	\$90/ full dy \$30/ 1/2 dy	no	yes	6 full 34 1/2 day	40
Univ. Settlement House (under 2's)	good. concrete building	\$2,000 to do very little mainly putting in a sink, making a few shelves, dividing one room. All equipment made by par- ents. Building already had a nursery school	City: city owns building	1 director 1 assist.	\$460/mo 350/mo	\$120/mo	no	yes	yes	10
Campus Community Co-operative DCC (under 2's)	fair.	\$12,000/ fire alarms 10 fire doors, fire escape for 3 floors, sink in kitchen, etc.	University of Toronto	3 co- ordinators	\$225/mo	\$40-110 according to income	\$60/mo	parents	yes	18
West End Y DCC	fair	\$500/fire alarm doors. \$300/2 toilets; 1 sink \$1,000/equipment	LIP	8 staff	\$100/wk	\$10/wk	no	1 staffer	yes some 1/2 days	35
St. Mathias	75 yr.old church, small	\$200/fence \$800/fire alarm \$200/windows \$25/exhaust fan \$20/build ramp	LIP & parent fees	1 carpenter 1 cook 1 community worker 4 teachers	\$100/wk	\$80/wk	150	parents & carpenter	yes	13
Snowflake	old residence	Hard to estimate, as LIP paid salaries and 17% of salaries as operating costs. Rent fire alarm system(\$40/ mo.). Built own equipment, fire escape and renovation	LIP*	3 co-ordina- tors, & volunteer shifts	\$360/mo	sliding, based on shifts worked, \$40&up	400	parents	yes & part-time	15 full time
Grace Carmen	70 year-old church	no major ones, will get equipment from parents' fees.	LIP* & parents' fees	5 full-time-- 2 part time-- 1 cook 1 janitor	\$400/mo \$240/mo	\$80/mo	no	yes, paid	yes	25

*LIP pays 17% of the salaries as operating costs of the project. Also they allow parents' fees to be put into a capital cost fund to buy extra equipment.

from Day Care Organizing Committee
171 College St., 2nd floor
Toronto, Ontario

to

editorial

UNION-MANAGEMENT DAY CARE—YES OR NO?

Should a Day Care Centre be organized in a factory? Should Unions set up Day Care in co-operation with bosses? These questions were raised, but not answered at the recent conference on Industrial Day Care in Toronto.

The Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America have set up several Day Care Centres in the United States. 1% of a wage increase (later increased to 2%) won from 70 employers in the Baltimore area was allocated to building and operating Day Care in a five-state area around Baltimore. The Day Care Centres are run by a Union and Management Board of Trustees. They house nearly 1000 children. Parents pay \$5.00 per week, per child.

The establishment of these Centres raises serious questions for working mothers and Day Care organizers. It is my position that Day Care operated by Union-Management Committees fosters paternalism on the part of both Union and Management.

Day Care Centres, established by Union Management cooperation, can tie women workers to a particular work place—in many cases to a low-paying job. In fact, they are sold to Companies on the basis of providing them with a 'more stable work force.' Take these quotes from the Amalgamated Clothing Workers pamphlet on Day Care:

'The advantages offered to the manufacturers by this program are many. The most apparent benefit is that it ensures a more stable dependable work force. . . . it offers the manufacturers involved a stronger competitive position in employment. . . .'

But what job stability means for workers and bosses is two different things. Not wanting to lose day care arrangements, a parent will be hesitant to look for a better job. And what happens if workers in these factories go on strike? Who then makes the decisions on whether a Centre closes down? A joint Management-Union Board?

It is clear that Industrial Day Care Centres are established near places where a large majority of women work. That means that the sex-typing of jobs will be reinforced as women more and more gravitate to companies that provide Day Care.

When workers allocate part of a wage increase to building a Day Care Centre that Day Care becomes a direct tax on the users—the women workers. After all, it is their money that pays for the Centre and their dues which allow the Unions to make charitable donations. (ACWU donated \$110,000 to John Hopkins Medical Centre for childhood research.)

No, particularly in the clothing industry, Union Management Day Care is not the answer.

The Union's main fight should be on the factory floor. If it really backed women's demands, the Union could push for general wage increases instead of a % increase which benefits more highly paid workers (men) more than women. They could work towards equal job opportunity for men and women, ending the classification, either hidden or open, of certain jobs as men's jobs and certain jobs as women's jobs. Union officials could encourage women to apply for job postings and run for local Union offices.

On the Day Care front, Unions should take the initiative to push the Government for community controlled Day Care in local neighborhoods. It is quite possible for the Government to do this. Particularly if they taxed the Corporations. Community-controlled Day Care would mean that Day Care expenses would come out of the general tax barrel, not out of the pockets of the worst exploited workers in North America.

Day Care in the public services is another question. Public services, like hospitals, libraries, and Government offices are paid for by the taxpayers. That means that demands on these institutions will put pressure on other levels of the Government for Day Care services to be provided from the 'proper treasury' and not cut into the funds for other essential services.

More and more ordinary working people are becoming aware of the great shortage of day care. Now is the time to mobilize these people into a mass public campaign for day care. In the meantime, pilot projects train us in how to set these Centres up and how we can control them when the Government provides money for more Centres. When you think seriously of Union-Management Day Care ask yourselves this: Over a hundred years ago there was a struggle over public schooling. If you had lived then would you have wanted your child's schooling to be provided by Labatt's Brewery?

