



Parent-Child Mother Goose Program®
Le programme la Mère l'Oie pour parents et enfants^{MD}

NEWSLETTER

Good news! The National Parent-Child Mother Goose Program has received charitable status! You can celebrate with us by donating money to help us continue to develop and produce resources and workshops. You will find some donation options on an insert in this newsletter.

Good news! Joanne Good and Guaranteed Good Corp. are donating the profits from a portion of the sales of Joanne's new cookbook, *Hand-me-down Delicious: A Legacy of Family Recipes*, to the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program®. Joanne participated in a Teacher Training Workshop a couple of years ago in Alberta

where she lives. For more information, see page 4 in the newsletter.

Good news! The Elementary Teachers' Federation Whole Child Campaign includes the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program®. We are developing 5 posters for parents and professionals that will be distributed to elementary schools in Ontario and available for purchase from the P-CMGP. New and returning members will receive a Welcome to the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program® poster with acknowledgement of membership. Check the P-CMGP web site – information will be posted as soon as the posters arrive.

SONG: ii Kaalay ii Kaalay

In Somali:

Translation:

Ii kaalay	come, come
Ii kaalay oo aniga	come to me
Ii kaalay	
Kashka laabta igu soo qabo	come so I can hold you in my laugh
Oo aniga ii kaalay	come to me
Hooyadaa ukaalay	
Halkan-bey ubuubtaa	butterfly goes this way (arms go right)
Halkaas bey ubuubtaa	butterfly goes this way (arms go left)
Meel kastey ubuubtaa	and goes to the flowers
Ubixii wadankey ku degtaa	

Good news! The Parent-Child Mother Goose Program® accepted an invitation to participate in the creation of the Canadian Council on Learning's new Canadian Health & Learning Knowledge Centre. Beth Hutchinson, P-CMGP in BC Provincial Coordinator attended the conference with researchers, practitioners, learners /parents and policy-makers from across the country.

Good news! Parent-Child Mother Goose Program® has developed a new participant response form that can easily provide graphs or charts for fundraising and report purposes. We have piloted the form in the Winter and Spring terms in Toronto and Calgary programs. We will revise it and have it available for members soon.

Good news! So much is happening in the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program®. In this issue you can read a participant's response to Storytelling and Building on your Experience Work-

shops in Fort Saskatchewan Alberta, find out how Vernon BC organisations cooperated and partnered to offer the P-CMGP in their community, and find out more about Practicum Training. Make some iced tea, get out the deck chair, and enjoy.

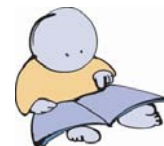
-Glenna Janzen, Executive Director

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Development of the North Okanagan Early Literacy (N.O.E.L.) Project's Parent-Child Mother Goose Programs, 2002 to 2005

~ by Debbie Schiller – Project Coordinator



The Beginning of the N.O.E.L. Project

The N.O.E.L. Project began under the name of “Building Blocks” in September, 2002. Provincial government funds had been secured by the Okanagan Boys and Girls Club to start Parent-Child Mother Goose programs in three small communities (Armstrong, Enderby and Falkland). A Coordinator was hired for two days a week to:

- Develop community partnerships
- Locate and train local Parent-Child Mother Goose facilitators
- Help recruit families for programs to start in January, 2003.

Building Community Partnerships

Community Partnerships were developed to provide:

- Free program space (Community Resource Centres or Health Units)
- Help with recruiting families (Public Health Nurses, local papers, schools and pre-schools)
- Funding support for training (Credit Unions)
- Funding for some facilitation, (other service providers with trained P-CMGP leaders who were unable to host a program, but would lend out a staff member to co-facilitate)

Building a Plan

During this time, in the larger community of Vernon, an “Early Childhood Development” group began the task of developing an ECD Strategic Plan. It soon became apparent that the Vernon area was sadly lacking in Parent-Child Mother Goose and other ECD programs. The Building Blocks Coordinator participated in ECD meetings and the strategic plan process. Opportunities for partnerships soon appeared.



Photograph by Anna Peters Wehking

1. The Vernon Family Resource Centre applied for \$10,000 that was available only to FRCs for Parent-Child Mother Goose-type programs. The funds were passed on to the Boys and Girls Club to coordinate 4 new Parent-Child Mother Goose programs in Vernon. This funding had been available, but ignored the previous year because the FRC had no one to coordinate or facilitate.
2. One of the new Vernon programs was hosted by an elementary school with a high “ESL” population. Other school principals had space for Parent-Child Mother Goose programs and saw the potential to invite young families into their school and to improve children’s school readiness. They requested that the School District release funds allocated for “parent support pro-

grams” to be directed at new Parent-Child Mother Goose and “Parents as Literacy Supporters” (PALS) programs. Having no one to coordinate such a request, the School District looked to the Boys and Girls Club to administer the funds and coordinate the programs. This large infusion of funding from the School District and the FRC led to the creation of the N.O.E.L. Project.

3. In September, 2004 P-CMG programs were flourishing in the three smaller communities, and had expanded to 7 programs in Vernon (4 mixed group programs in elementary schools and 3 infant programs for mostly first time mothers at the public library). Community partnerships continued to be developed and by January 2005, the NOEL Project was administering 17- Parent-Child Mother Goose and 10 – PALS programs plus yearly “Ready, Set, Learn Open Houses” at 22 elementary schools in the region.

Full-time Coordination – the Key to Success

Full time coordination has been key to the expansion of programs and delivery of service. The NOEL Project now provides a P-CMG program in every neighbourhood in the region. More funding has come from *Make Children First* and *Success by 6*. Contributions from community groups, businesses and foundations have filled in the funding gaps.

Early literacy and early childhood development have caught the attention of both federal and provincial governments. Funds are available to communities that are willing to let go of old boundaries and collaborate in partnerships that will provide the best programs and services to all families.

For more information, contact Debbie Schiller at:
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North Okanagan Early Literacy Project
A Project of Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs

Building on Your Experience is Building Connections Too

We all know that P-CMG is about building connections: connections between parent and child, between parents and other parents, and between parents and their community. But – did you know that P-CMG Program *Training* is also about building connections?

This past April, Glenna flew out west to Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, where she delivered two incredibly worthwhile level two workshops: Building on Your Experience and Storytelling in the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program.

Over the two days, connections to the “heart” of P-CMG that had begun to feel a little fuzzy because it had been years since many of us received our initial training, and because of our distance from Toronto, were made clear. We were reminded of why the principles of the P-CMG Program need to be kept intact, and what sets P-CMG apart from other parenting or family literacy programs. There were also aspects of the P-CMG Program that were new to us, because when we were last trained, these were not areas of focus; things like the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information, and how that impacts anecdotal note taking, and copyright, and how that impacts selection of songs and rhymes.

Connections were made this weekend to our inner storyteller! Confidence soared, and participants left excited about storytelling after the Storytelling Workshop. This day helped us to refocus on simplicity. If we took something more from the stories being told, great, but we were encouraged to listen and relax as well. Glenna reinforced the fact that storytelling helps teach people to stop and listen. The session showed us that we need to connect with a story to tell it. It is so hard to put into words the gift Glenna left behind by helping so many realise they can tell.

This weekend of training also allowed connections to be made between the office in Toronto and people from

across Alberta. Only 2 of us, out of 17, had ever met Glenna before, and it was wonderful for people to be able to finally put her face to her name... somehow Toronto doesn't seem quite as far away as it used to.

The level 2 training was also a very effective way of connecting program facilitators with other program facilitators. Both workshops were hands-on experiences. Lots of work in groups and with a partner meant we felt very comfortable with each other quickly. Many discussions were had, from program planning, to program funding, to what exactly each person's program looks like. The sharing of ideas and information that took place this weekend, and that will take place in the future because we are now connected with each other, was a huge benefit of the Building on Your Experience and Storytelling Workshops.

We would like to give our sincere thanks to our sponsors for this training session, the Fort Saskatchewan United Way Advisory Committee (United Way Capital Region), and the Parent-Child Literacy Strategy of Alberta Learning.

If anyone has questions about how the level two training in Fort Saskatchewan was coordinated or funded, I welcome your calls at 780-998-3225, or you can email me at dhboonstra@shaw.ca.

Have a wonderful summer!

Heather Boonstra,
Coordinator
Ft. Saskatchewan
Rhymes and
Storytimes Parent-Child
Mother Goose Program

SONG
from Joan Quagliana from
her toddler program in
Melbourne, Australia

Take a little rain
Add a little sunshine
What do you get?
Flowers to grow

Our Warmest Thanks go out to Generous Donors who have dedicated funds and time to make P-CMGP possible:

The Milton and Ethel Harris Family Foundation
Mennonite Foundation Canada
Joanne Good and Guaranteed Good Corp.
Elementary Teacher's Federation of Ontario



Ken Taylor of Taylor Systems
Lynda Howes
Megan Williams
Celia Lottridge
Alice Davidson
Jody James

Parent-Child Mother Goose Program Practicum Training

Over the last few months, we have received a number of questions on the Practicum Training component of Parent-Child Mother Goose Program Teacher Certification. This newsletter article responds to these questions. Information will be posted on the web site, as well, for quick referencing.

What is Practicum Training?

Practicum Training in the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program® is practical experience co-teaching a program for a minimum of thirty sessions. Thirty sessions of Practicum Training corresponds to the requirement of a minimum of thirty sessions of Apprenticeship Training. In Practicum Training, both teachers may be new to the P-CMGP, and participate in Practicum Training simultaneously, or one teacher may have some experience, but not yet be eligible to be an Apprenticeship Training Teacher. (For more information on Apprenticeship, call or e-mail the office.)

Why Have Practicum Training?

We know from our experience with Apprenticeship Training that hands-on experience *in* the program is important, as it can take time to become comfortable with the many levels of the program. We know, too, that Apprenticeship Training isn't available in all regions. Practicum Training will provide a "virtual apprenticeship", and Practicum teachers will stay in touch with the office regularly to discuss their programs and to reflect on their experiences.

The Practicum experience of working with parents and their babies and young children over the thirty sessions of the program (often three terms of ten sessions each), will help teachers gain skills and knowledge in all the program areas: outreach, observation, responding to parents and their needs, program planning, record-keeping, learning and teaching techniques for rhymes, songs, and stories, routine tasks and the structure and flow of the program, and what to expect from the babies and children in the program.

We are convinced that experience in the program and the connection with the staff at the office through staying in touch and reflecting on the Practicum learnings with us will nurture excellent teachers and programs for families in the variety of communities served by the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program.

If you have recently taken the Teacher Training Workshop and are eligible for Practicum Training, please call us at 416-588-5234, or e-mail us at mgoose@web.net. We will be delighted to talk to you about your experiences and to send you the Practicum Training Evaluation form. The form is also available on the web site.

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NEW! NEW! NEW!

Cook, Read, Laugh, Smile, Remember ... and Help the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program®

Hand-me-down Delicious: A legacy of most loved recipes

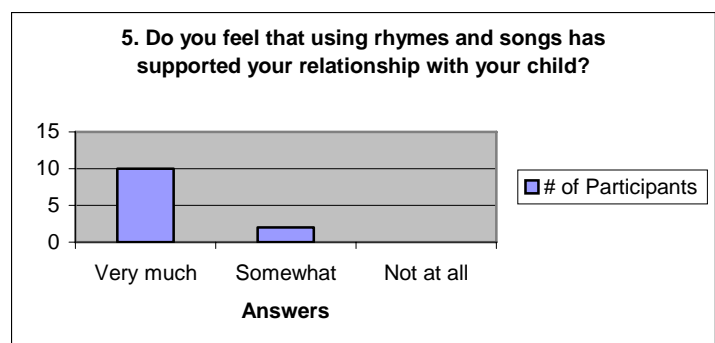
by Joanne Good

Joanne Good has collected recipes from family and friends and the stories that go with them and compiled them into a wonderful cookbook.

Our sales of Joanne's cookbook will benefit the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program®.

Copies will be available soon. To order your copy now, call or e-mail the office.

We are planning a fall launch of *Hand-me-down Delicious* that includes storytelling and food, as well as an opportunity to have Joanne sign copies – more information will be available in the next newsletter and on the web site.



Question 5 from P-CMGP participant response form. Responses by participants of the Winter term at Davenport/Perth Neighbourhood Centre and Central Neighbourhood House.