

### PARTNERS FOR CHILDREN SPRING | 2 0 2 4

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In today's society everyone seems to be very busy, constantly in a rush and/or on their phone! We often wonder how that effects the young children in our lives and our ability to connect with them. Have we somewhat lost the ability to put all things aside and truly be there in the moment with children?

These moments are crucial for attachment, healthy self-esteem, social/emotional development and so much more. Children are born to be social beings so we need to nurture that in them. A strong connection with a child will also make navigating any later challenges a little easier because that strong base is present.

### SO how do we do this:



### **Be Present**

Not just physically but completely present by removing all distractions.

If you aren't present your child notices and determines that they are not as important as your phone, or the TV or....



#### Listen

Listen not only to what they are saying, but also to what their behaviour is saying. Children can say a lot without saying anything.



### Enjoy Yourself and Release the Guilt

Have fun when playing with your child and don't beat yourself up when you can't. Life is busy and this is a case where quantity and quality matter, but making time for true shared engagement when you do connect is key!



#### Play

Engage in play with your child and follow their lead (as long as appropriate).

It doesn't matter if they want to play with a toy in a different way than originally designed, as long as it is safe.

When you follow their lead their self esteem grows because you have acknowledged them and joined in.



## After Listening Acknowledge their Message

Let them know that you have heard them (either what they said or did). If their message is that they want something (they can't have) then you don't have to give it to them but let them know you understand. "I see that you want an ice cream, but it is almost dinner so not today."

If they are upset for example: "I can see that you are upset, can you tell me (or show me) what happened?"

## partners for children contact information

Parenting Groups: 1-867-332-5990

Family Resource Centre: 1-867-332-9458

Email: contactus@partnersforchildren.info Mail: Partners for Children 108C Copper Road Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2Z6



Visit our website at www.partnersforchildren.info And follow us on Facebook and Instagram for all up-to-date information!



The Partners for Children newsletter is edited and produced through the Network for Healthy Early Human Development Yukon (NHEHD).

The views expressed herein are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official policy of Partners for Children, NHEHD Yukon or the Public Health Agency of Canada.

## community websites

Autism Yukon www.autismyukon.org

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Yukon https://yukon.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca

Child, Youth and Family Treatment Services https://yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/ mental-wellness/get-counselling-and-support -families-youth-and-children

Child Development Centre https://cdcyukon.ca/

Department of Education Early Learning and Childcare Programs https://www.yukon.ca/en/early-childhoodlearning-and-program

Early Learning Program, Yukon University https://www.yukonu.ca/programs/earlylearning-and-child-care

Family Law Information Centre https://yukon.ca/en/family-law-informationcentre

Fetal Alcohol Society Yukon www.fassy.org

Hospice Yukon Society www.hospiceyukon.net LDAY Centre for Learning www.ldayukon.com

Network for Healthy Early Human Development www.NHEHDYukon.org



Partners for Children www.partnersforchildren.info

Recreation & Parks Association of the Yukon (RPAY) http://www.rpay.ca

Skookum Jim Friendship Centre https://skookumjim.com /programs/

Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre

http://www.vfwomenscentre.com/

Volunteer Yukon https://www.volunteeryukon.ca/

Inclusion Yukon https://www.inclusionyukon.org/

Yukon Child and Youth Advocate www.ycao.ca

Yukon First Nations Education Directorate (YFNED) Early Years www.yfned.ca/earlyyears

Yukon Literacy Coalition www.yukonliteracy.ca/

Yukon Public Libraries http://yukon.ca/en/libraries

# Mothering Your Baby



## A postpartum group for moms with babies under the age of 1 New offerings in the spring, fall and winter 2024

Mothers and their babies are invited to join us for sharing, connection, information and fun! We'll discuss the ups and downs of new parenthood, our journey into our identity as a mother, our changing bodies, lives and relationships, and all that YOU want to talk about.

Register with Partners for Children - 332.5990

familyprogs@partnersforchildren.info







partners for children



## Romp n Run is back for another season! For children 4 and under and their parents and caregivers!

20-30 minutes of fun, interactive and age appropriate programming for kids and parents. A healthy snack after the programming; coffee/tea for the adults. Open playtime follows with lots of equipment/toys for tumbling, moving and exploring. Parental participation and supervision is required.

> Spring session April 2nd to June 6th Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 to 11:30 am in the Haines Junction Arena Mezzanine

## New Families please contact Laura at laura.gorecki@gmail.com



Romp N Run is provided and funded by Partners for Children with additional support from the Village of Haines Junction and Lotteries Yukon.



## We are beyond excited to welcome Marianne Goebel to our team as our Family Resource Centre Coordinator



#### What attracted you to this position?:

From working in a daycare to support myself through university, to my years spent teaching in a classroom, I've always loved working with children of all ages. What better way to continue in this field than to work in a role that directly supports parents and caregivers in real time? Beyond this, it's incredibly exciting to help build a program from the ground up. I get to utilize my own experience coupled with feedback given by our parents and caregivers who access our resources, the latest research in early childhood development, and the guidance of our amazing Partners for Children Program Coordinators to inform everyday operations and our long-term program goals. It is an incredibly holistic approach to supporting families in the Yukon, and I am very happy to be on the team.

#### What have you enjoyed so far in the position:

Holding babies! Connecting with parents! Working with our partners! Building our Resource Library! The list is endless.

#### What are you looking forward to?

I am looking forward to centre hours growing, both in patronage and programming. You can expect to see extended hours, programming informed by participant feedback, and continued access to our evergrowing resource library. I am looking forward to helping build a space where parents and caregivers can ask questions, feel supported, get help navigating the wide array of community programs and resources offered in the Territory, and have opportunities to connect with other parents/caregivers in a low-stress environment.

## Check out the April Family Resource Centre and Group Delivery schedule on the following page and follow Partners for Children on Facebook and Instagram.

	Saturday	9			20	in for a chat, ask to a themed drop in
APRIL 2024 PARTNERS FOR CHILDREN 108 Copper Road	Friday	5 10:30-12:30 Mothering Your Baby Group**	12 10:30-12:30 Mothering Your Baby Group**	19 10:30-12:30 Mothering Your Baby Group**	26 10:30-12:30 Infant Massage Group**	ge nildren 0 to 6) - stop coffee and/or come t
	Thursday	4 10 am - 1pm FRC Open Sensory Play	II 12 - 3 pm FRC Open 10:30-11:30 Parent Child Mother Goose Group**	18 10:30-11:30 Parent Child Mother Goose Group**	25 1 - 3 pm FRC Open 10:30-11:30 Parent Child Mother Goose Group**	**Registered Program - follow our Facebook page FRC - Family Resource Centre (for parents of children 0 to 6) - stop in for a chat, ask questions, check out our resources and have a coffee and/or come to a themed drop in
	Wednesday	3 10 am - 3 pm FRC Open	10 10 am - 3 pm FRC Open	17 10 am - 2 pm FRC Open	24 10:30-12:30 Mothering Your Baby Group**	**Registered Program FRC - Family Resource questions, check out (
	Tuesday	2 10 am - 2 pm FRC Open	9 10 am - 3 pm FRC Open 10-12 Early Artists Drop-in 10:30-11:30 PCMS Group at CDC**	16 10 am - 3 pm FRC Open 10:30-11:30 PCMG Group at CDC**	23 10 am - 1 pm FRC Open 10-12 Early Artists Drop-in 10:30-11:30 PCMG Group at CDC**	30 9:30 - 11:30 am FRC Open 10:30-11:30 PCM6 Group at CDC**
	Monday	1 Easter Monday	8 10 am - 3 pm FRC Open 10-12 Early Literacy Drop-in	15 10 am - 3 pm FRC Open 12-2 Sensory Play Drop in	22 10 am - 3 pm FRC Open 10-12 Early Literacy Drop-in	29 10 am - 3 pm FRC Open 12-2 Sensory Play Drop in
	Sunday		L 🙋		7	*



## SJFC Prenatal Program

One of the longest running programs in Whitehorse 22+ years

For expectant parents & for those with babies up to 18 months old

Free Diapers & Wipes Cook on site for lunches Monthly Gift card/Food box Monthly educational and cultural programs Rides for parents in need: medical appointments, shopping, and programs

## Skookum Jim Friendship Center



Call Ronda (867) 633–7680 ext 1006 or email prenatal@skookumjim.com

## Parent-Child Mother Goose

Discover the power and pleasure of rhymes, songs, and stories





A FREE group for caregivers and little ones ages 0-5 yrs.

Thursdays, April 11 - May 30 Partners for Children, 108 Copper Rd 10:30 am – 11:30 am

Follow Partners for Children on FB and register on EventBrite









## Parent-Child Mother Goose

Discover the power and pleasure of rhymes, songs, and stories.

A FREE group for caregivers and little ones ages 0-5 yrs.

Tuesdays, April 9 - June 11 At the Child Development Centre 10:30 am – 11:30 am

Follow Partners for Children on FB and register on EventBrite

Families registered with the CDC can register directly with Jennifer Freeman, 456-8182 ext. 190











## TRADITIONAL PARENTING PROGRAM

## **Traditional Knowledge taught to our families**

Learn harvest various animals, plants and landscapes, traditional medicines, homemaking, and on the land survival skills etc. from local Elders and Knowlege keepers, Elders in Training, other families.





### Learn how to sew, bead and make patterns

Join us in our regalia and outdoor wear workshops for parents with kids 0-6 yrs old.

## Come eat with us and learn, talk and laugh.

We offer various Drop-in Programs for parents, caregivers and youth. Bring your babies or young children, we can teach them as well



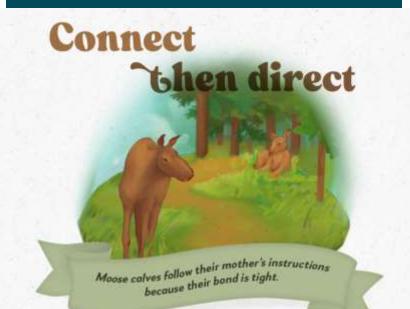


## Plan for other projects that the goup is interested in learning

Personalized and Client-based programs are available

For more info contact our Traditional Parenting Coordinator, Temira Vance at traditional.parenting@skookumjim.com (867) 633-7680 ext 1005

### **COMPASSIONATE PARENTING**



## Children respond positively when they feel you care about them.

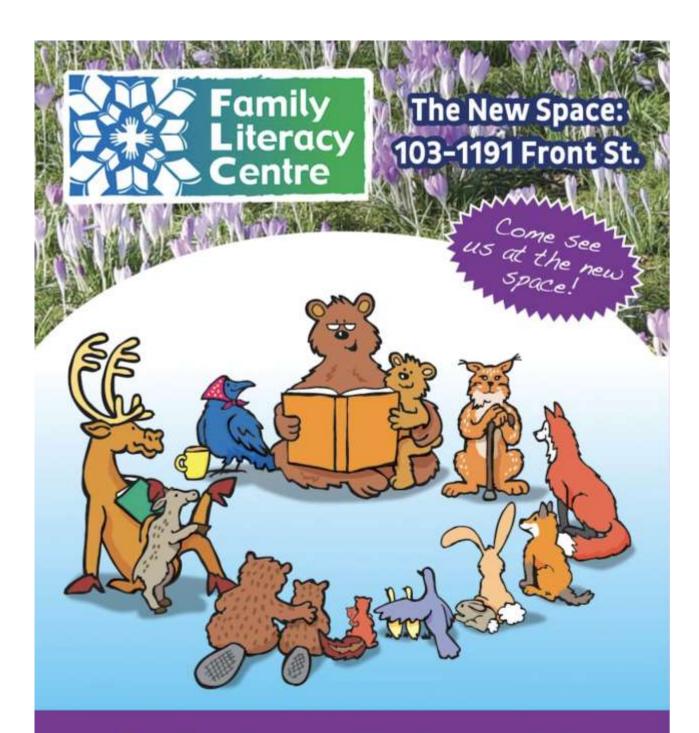
It is important to show your children that you hear them and care deeply about their needs. Children will listen and respond positively when they feel respected.

In times of conflict and before giving direction, start with a compassionate connecting statement like "I love you." Next, reflect back their feelings or mood, for example "I see you are frustrated." Then give them direction, for example "I need you to use words" or "I need you to change what you are doing."

Acknowledge your children's feelings by truly seeing their perspective and your relationship will be strengthened. They will trust you to be fair, and they will be more open to taking direction.

This is the fourth hint in the Compassionate Parenting – Lessons from our Forest Friends Booklet.

Created by Stace Burnard, Heather Dundas and Lara Bode.



Fun, free, drop-in programs for you and your child!

SPRING 2024: March 25 - May 18 Drop-in Play: Mar 25 - 29 Programs begin April 2 Closed: Mar 29-Apr1, April 16 No registration required.

Please stay home if you are sick.

For more information, call 668-8698 / 668-6535 Yukon Family Literacy Centre

O @yukonfamilyliteracycentre



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O @yukonfamilyliteracycentre

NEW LOCATION! 103 - 1191 FLONT ST. \* All programs are drop-in. Everyone is welcome!

Mon/Tues/Weds/ /Fri/Sat 9am-12pm; 12:30-3:30pm Thurs. 12:30-3:30pm

All programs are based on adult-child participation and ALL AGES!"

## MORNING PROGAMS 10:30 -11:30 am

Monday: Little Inventors Let your child's imagination soar with inventive thinking and hands-on learning.

Tuesday: Little Chefs Enjoy a blend of story, food, cooking activities and crafts!

Friday: Mini Mozarts Clang, bang, sing and play. Magical music-making for you and your little ones!

## AFTERNOON PROGRAMS 1:30-2:30 pm

Wednesday: Community Connections Connect with elders in your community! Join us for an intergenerational story time with accompanying crafts and activities.

Thursday: 123, ABC Early literacy begins with play. Join us for number and letter-themed activities.

All other times: Family Free Play Drop-in Enjoy crafts, reading, painting, and more. When children play, they build skills crucial to healthy development. Playing together as a family fosters physical, social, cognitive and emotional growth.

## Five Plump Peas

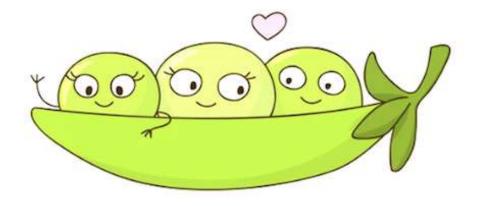
A Mother Goose Rhyme by Jo Lukawitski Family Programs Trainer and Facilitator at Partners for Children



Five plump peas	——> hold hands in a fist			
In a pea pod pressed				
One grew,				
Two grew,	> uncurl fingers as you count			
And so did all the rest				
And they grew, and they grew,				
And they never, ever stopped,	——> raise hands in the air very slowly and to the beat of the rhyme			
Until one day				
That pea pod				
POPPED!!!	——> clap hands together			

#### How and when to use this rhyme:

Use your child's hand to do the actions. Help them create a fist ('in a peapod pressed'). Then as 'one grew, two grew', uncurl their fingers. For babies, help them make the gross motor action of bringing their hands together in a dramatic clap when the pea pod pops! If using with toddlers, you can slow down and build anticipation before you pop. This builds memory, patience and self-regulation. For more tips see the opposite page on how to encourage language development from our friends at the Child Development Centre.





### **General Suggestions to Encourage Language Development**

We hope you have fun attending a Parent-Child Mother Goose group and learn new songs to sing with your child. Here are some strategies you can use while singing to help with language development.

#### Be animated

If you are enthusiastic and entertaining, it makes communication more fun and keeps your child interested. Use facial expressions and vary your intonation. Many Mother Goose songs use different voices, vary the volume and speed up or slow down to keep them interesting!

#### Be face to face

Singing with your child allows you to be close to each other. Try getting down to your child's level – lie on the floor or kneel down. Diaper changes are always a good time to be face to face. This position will encourage your child to listen and watch you.

#### Pause

Pauses during familiar songs are an invitation for your child to take a turn. Try to pause after a line in the song and wait for your child's turn. Waiting is hard but it will give your child time to try and imitate you or take their own turn in the song. Remember, their turn may be a word, a sound or a gesture.

#### See what's of interest

Does your child have a favourite song? Follow your child's lead and sing her favourite songs. This will help her pay attention and encourage her to interact with you.

#### Keep it simple

Mother Goose songs are simple and have lots of repetition. Sing clearly and try to slow your speech down. The repetition in songs is really helpful for language learning.



Compiled by Jennifer Freeman and Rachel Moser

## A Guide Canada to the Benefit

Tooth decay is the most common, but preventable, childhood chronic disease both in Canada and around the world. Oral diseases frequently begin in the preschool years which is why it is so important to establish good oral hygiene behaviours in those early years.

The Government of Canada has implemented the interim **Canada Dental Benefit**, which is designed to provide some financial support to help Canadian families access dental care. With this benefit, families can start addressing some of the basic dental care that their young children need while the Government continues its plans to develop a long-term Canadian dental care program.

## WHAT is the benefit?

The interim Canada Dental Benefit provides payments up to \$650 per eligible child under 12 years of age, per year for two years.

Parents/Guardians who

\$90.000 per year.

Canada.ca/doing-your-taxes.

for each eligible child.

Receive the Canada Child Benefit

 $\checkmark$ 

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if the family's adjusted net income is under \$70,000

\$650

\$390 if the family's adjusted net income is between \$70,000 and

if the family's adjusted net income is between \$80,000

\$**260** 

and \$89,999

The benefit can be used for any dental care provided by any regulated dental professional.



\$79,999

## HOW can you apply?

Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) My Account will be the quickest, easiest and most secure way to apply for the Canada Dental Benefit. If you don't yet have a CRA My Account, you can register at Canada.ca/my-cra-account.

You will need to provide information on the dental care visit, including the name of your child's dental care provider(s) and your employer information.

If you apply online and are signed up for CRA direct deposit, you can receive your payment within five business days!

If you're unable to apply for the Canada Dental Benefit online, call 1-800-715-8836 to get your application started.

Make sure you have your Social Insurance Number, address, date of birth and a copy of your income tax return from last year.

## WHEN can you apply?

WHO can apply?

Have a child under 12 years of age, who does not have

Have filed last year's income tax return-for more information on how to file a return, visit

Have or will have dental care expenses for each eligible

child that have not been fully reimbursed under another federal, provincial or territorial government program.

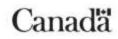
access to private dental care insurance. Have an adjusted family net income under

Parents can apply starting December 1, 2022, for dental care received by their eligible child back to October 1, 2022, so long as their child will still be under 12 on December 1. For the second payment, parents can apply starting July 1, 2023.

Visit Canada.ca/dental for more information, or call 1-800-715-8836

+

Government Gouvernement of Canada du Canada



## Questions about your child's development?

## Contact us. We can help.

The Child Development Centre provides services to support children's develoment from birth to kindergarten. We help answer your questions and provide therapeutic support in areas such as: movement, speech/communication, social-emotional behaviour, sleeping, eating, toileting and sensitivities (to sound or touch).

#### Some reasons to contact us:

If you are curious about your child's development, or if your child:

- Is not making or responding to sounds during the first year
- Has fewer than 20 words at 18 months of age
- Has a hard time playing with other children
- Gets upset with minor changes to their routine
- Has difficulty paying attention or understanding directions
- Is not crawling by 12 months
- Is very sensitive to touch, sounds, movement or smells

If you just aren't sure about something, contact us! Our contact info is below. You can also fill out a form to receive services online at <u>www.cdcyukon.ca/referral</u>.





Free & confidential services A non-governmental organization 867-456-8182 ~ www.cdcyukon.ca



Partners for Children would like to give a big thank you to United Way Yukon for the years of support for our Parent-Child Mother Goose Program<sup>®</sup> and Mothering Your Baby groups.

## WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!

## Infant Massage

A FREE 5-week series for caregivers and their little ones ages 0-6 months.



Connecting with our children through touch.

Spring 2024 Partners for Children, 108 Copper Rd Snacks and massage oil provided

Follow Partners for Children on facebook and EventBrite to be notified of new offerings with registration links.







## **Yukon Family Mediation Service**

This free mediation service helps parents who are separating or divorcing to resolve conflicts and focus on the best interests of the children.

This service is available for all Yukon communities. An impartial, trained mediator can help you make joint decisions about:

- parenting arrangements and responsibilities; and
- financial matters, such as child and spousal support.

LEARN MORE

Yukon Family Mediation Service at **867-667-5753** or email **flic@yukon.ca** 

rukan Family Mediation Service is made possible by Justice Canada



## **Hospice Yukon**

## Splashing through Kids' Grief

The spring slush and mud puddles are good reminders of the way kids can play and get mucky in the messy and important work of expressing their grief.

At Hospice Yukon, free counselling is available for children who experience grief due to death or a life-limiting illness in the family.

Our counsellors use gentle play therapy and ageappropriate questions to help young kids express feelings and learn about death.



#### **Kids Corner**

We have many great books to help children and youth understand death and grief, and anyone can borrow them from our library.



We also have a soft plush therapy dog and other toys to help children feel safe as they learn new emotional skills. You're not alone in trying to support children coping with loss.

> We can help you with books, online videos, resource people, and groups for children and caregivers.

Check <u>www.kidsgrief.ca</u> for many great tips for parents and educators.

We also have lots of helpful resources at www.hospiceyukon.net and our welcoming staff provide ongoing support to professional and family caregivers and teachers.

#### Children "Puddle Jump" through Grief



Twice a year we offer a free webinar, Supporting the Grieving Child, so families and educators can learn more about how kids grieve and how to help them mourn.

It's normal for children to be very sad one minute and then "jump out of the puddle" for a laugh or a playful moment.

These mood changes can be unsettling for adults but are a healthy way that children allow themselves to take breaks from strong (and sometimes confusing) emotions.

Check www.hospiceyukon.net/events for workshops to support children, educators and caregivers Kids Grief Counselling Kids Grief Support Groups Lending Library Professional Support Public Education 409 Jarvis Street Tel. 867-667-7429



## Yukon CPNP and CAPC Programs

#### 8 Canada Prenatal Nutrition Programs (CPNP) and 4 Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) Programs

CPNP Programs help improve the health of pregnant families, new parents and their babies, who face challenges that put their health at risk (poverty, teen pregnancy, social/geographic isolation, substance use and family violence).

CAPC Programs promote the healthy development of young children from birth to age 6, who face challenges that put their health at risk.

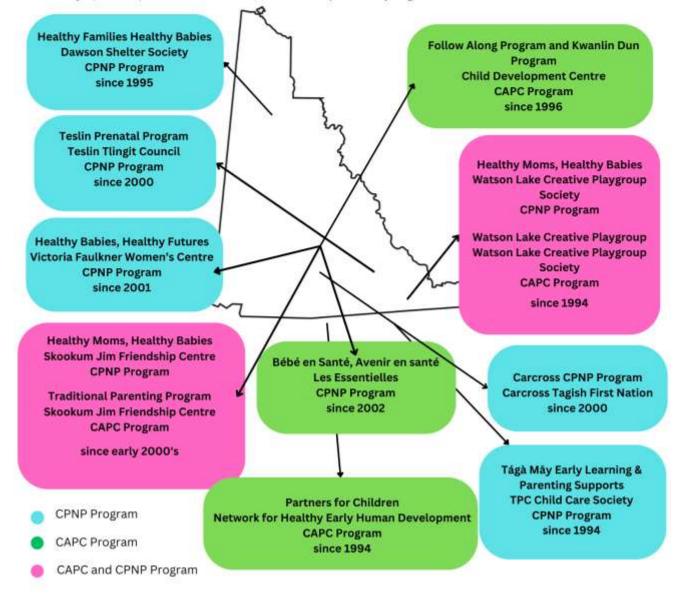
The foundation for CAPC and CPNP activities to support maternal and child health link back to the 1990 Government of Canada commitment made to invest in the well-being of children at the United Nations World Summit for Children and 1991 ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Your current community programs that are funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) will come to an end on March 31st, 2026. These programs are in a period of understanding what is planned by governments beyond this date.

After more than a year of conversation and letter writing, we do know that for certain the programs will be dissolved and redirected into a new funding agreement – CAPC and CPNP programs will be revisioned into a different type of program; the details are still to be determined.

We are also aware that the total funding dollars, that have been unchanged since about 1994, will remain the same. The survival of these programs will continue to depend on investment wherever dollars can be found.

Your Partners for Children Newsletter is one of the projects produced by the PHAC dollars. In the lead up to "renewal" we would like to promote the valuable work these CAPC / CPNP have provided to our children and families for decades. It is important that you, the voter, is aware of this situation, in order to ask questions to your governments.



## SPRING HIGHLIGHT







## Watson Lake Family Centre A CAPC and CPNP Program (currently 27 registered families)

Programming in March and April included:

- Weekly baby and me groups
- Walks and/or yoga
- Dietitian visit, info session dinner, make and take home meals, one on one appointments
- DIY baby tethers
- Easter hunt/egg dying
- Canvas top mitt making workshop
- Community kitchen



## **NHEHD Yukon**

By utilizing endless scientific information that describes healthy early child development, we create small projects to meet our purpose.

By simply spreading the message that babies matter and are most important is our #1 project to date. They are our future and our hope.

Could you make "How are the children?" the first words from you to your neighbours or coworkers? Try it!

