

Our Values

Relationships

We believe that collaborative relationships with children, families, community, and staff are foundational to the work that we do. We invest in relationships that are authentic, trusting, respectful, and reciprocal. We do this by acknowledging a view of others as capable and competent.

Innovate

We value innovation and, therefore, courageously explore ideas with open minds, investigate and engage in a process of continuous study with the disposition to be adaptive, resilient, and creative in our endeavours.

Learning

ASCY values learning as a transformative and dynamic co-construction of knowledge. We believe that continuous, life-long learning is important to individuals and the community as a whole. Learning enhances personal and community awareness and well-being.

Leadership

ASCY believes in fostering leadership capacity within the community through collaboration and awareness of the potential in others by inspiring and engaging in opportunities to become everyday leaders.

Advocacy

ASCY will advocate for the best interests of children and educators for quality early human development. We will do this through increasing awareness and continuous learning through the CECE's Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice, Hamilton's Charter of Rights of Children and Youth, current research, and evidence-based practice.

Responsive

To be adaptive and nimble in our thoughts and actions to respond to and support individuals and the broader system.

Greetings from the ASCY Board of Directors'

We continue to acknowledge that we are in a time of change where the relationships and partnerships we have developed over the years play a critical role in helping us to support those we work alongside as we navigate the changes in the early learning and child care sector. Dialogue, reflection, co-learning, and sharing from our experiences are key elements as we continue on this journey.

We believe in family-centred care and ensuring the needs of the child and family are placed at the forefront through the services we provide in the Early Words Preschool Speech and Language Program, Central South Infant Hearing and Blind-Low Vision Programs.

We are fortunate to have the strong leadership and broad vision of Wanda St. Francois, Executive Director, and her staff that continually strive to provide high-quality programs and services to children and their families and the early years' sector.

A Message from the Executive Director

In 2016, the ASCY staff, in consultation with the Board of Directors', engaged in thoughtful dialogue and developed "Our Values" reflecting the principles that we strive to achieve on a day-to-day basis in our work with our community partners and the children and families we serve.

In partnership, the Region of Waterloo and the City of Hamilton, as Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSM), engaged in a process to investigate early learning and child care quality. We were excited that Lois Saunders of ASCY was invited to join the project team and participated in research on behalf of ASCY and the City of Hamilton. The co-investigation which concluded in July 2016 led to "Co-Constructing Quality in Early Learning and Child Care: A Community Framework". This resource provides a framework of eight quality elements, a vision for the community, and goals for children and families that will be applied through the Hamilton Early Years Quality Program beginning in 2017.

ASCY remains involved and committed to the 4-Ministry, Ontario Special Needs Strategy for Children and Youth Initiative which addresses the needs of children and youth with complex/multiple needs as well as the delivery of specialized services of speech and language, occupational, and physiotherapy for children from birth through to the end of school.

I would like to thank the ASCY staff for their dedication and hard work in providing the highest quality of service delivery to children, families, and educators in the early years' sector.

2016 Board of Directors

Karen Davis, Chair

Glenda McArthur, Board Secretary

Julie Gross

Pat McAdam

Rhonda Scott

Wilma Van Staalduin

Wanda St. Francois,
Executive Director, Ex-officio member

Our Continuing Journey

The ASCY Professional Learning Team continues to reflect and explore the critical documents and emerging trends in Early Learning and Child Care. The Team is enjoying our time co-learning with our many partners and colleagues in the Hamilton community through professional learning sessions, community meetings, and consultations on-site with supervisors and staff.

ASCY continues to provide a variety of Professional Learning opportunities to those working and studying within the City of Hamilton Early Learning and Child Care Community. These may be through structured or informal professional learning events, such as book studies, article investigation, online webinars, conferences such as February Flurry, or side-by-side consultation with an ASCY Professional Learning Consultant. Our professional learning opportunities are selected based on emerging trends in the early learning and child care sector as well as member and community feedback.

In 2016, there were 50 licensed Early Learning and Child Care sites engaged with an ASCY Professional Learning Consultant.

The Professional Learning Team continues to be guided by: The College of Early Childhood Educators (CECE), Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice, CECE Continuous Professional Learning Plan (CPL), Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years—"How Does Learning Happen?", The Child Care and Early Years Act, and the Hamilton Early Years Community Plan. The alignment of this work and our practice is critical to our ongoing shared journey of lifelong learning and ensuring all children and families have the highest quality of care in the City of Hamilton.

The Professional Learning Team have delivered Standard First Aid (SFA) training to 276 Early Childhood Educators, Assistants, and Co-op parents. Our trained consultants continue to offer regular SFA training sessions for those working in licensed child care programs in Hamilton. Currently the staff are upgrading their qualifications and training in the new hybrid model to be introduced to the community in 2017.

February Flurry is our annual collaborative event with the Mohawk College ECE Department. February Flurry 2016 was a huge success with over 300 participants. Our presenters included: Drew Dudley, Marc Battle, Susan Stacey, Michael Lewis, Alan Thomson, Jacki Belisario, Evette Sauriol, and Kim Burns.

Throughout 2016 we have had some very engaged co-learners explore and reflect in communities of practice on: "How Does Learning Happen?", Teaching with Intentionality, Autism series, Book Studies, Reaching In Reaching Out (RIRO) for children and adults, The Virtues Project, Succession Planning for Child Care Administrators, and Outdoor Play in Early Childhood Education.

Bus tours to community Early Learning and Child Care sites were a big hit and sold out with waiting lists.

We had the honour of hosting Lilian Katz, author of “Engaging Children’s Minds - The Project Approach”, for a 2-day Institute on the Project Approach with a fully engaged room full of ECE’s!

The Professional Learning Consultants have provided study groups to explore and work through the College of Early Childhood Educators (CECE) – Continuous Professional Learning (CPL) Plan as well as providing support at their mentor sites. As we anticipate the changes to the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice in July 2017, we are preparing to provide ongoing support to review and explore the changes together.

Read To Your Baby Project

The Read To Your Baby (RTYB) Project, a sub-committee of Early Literacy Hamilton, is a Hamilton-based program that promotes the developmental benefits of literacy starting in infancy. Under the lead of ASCY, and through generous grants from Telling Tales and ArcelorMittal Dofasco Fund at the Hamilton Community Foundation, we were able to continue to provide physicians with children’s books and prescription pads which are given out at the 18-month well-baby visit so they can encourage parents to read to their child daily. Since the project began, approximately, 6,000 books have been distributed by 116 family health clinics and 183 physicians and health practitioners so they, in turn, can deliver the materials to new parents.

Comments from parents ...

“The discussion with the doctor and handout made me more mindful of reading with my son because his language/ speech was somewhat delayed. After the discussion of milestones, I was more aware of where he should be.”

“It was something we really didn’t think about when our son was that young, but the discussion with the doctor about the importance of reading at a young age made us more aware.”

“It made a difference because my son loved that book so much—we spent more time reading it than we might have spent reading in general (even though we read a lot already).”

Early Words Preschool Speech and Language Program

In Hamilton, as of December 31, 2016, there were 5,270 children registered in the Early Words Preschool Speech and Language system. Of these, 1,045 children and their families received an initial assessment and 717 received their first intervention.



For the Central South Region of Hamilton, Niagara, Brant, and Haldimand-Norfolk, 11,736 infants received their Universal Newborn Hearing Screen in 2016, 5,202 in Hamilton. Of those, a total of 30 children were identified with a permanent hearing loss, 15 of whom live in Hamilton.

Central South Blind-Low Vision Program

In 2016, there were 56 children identified with a visual impairment and 20 new families were served.

Our Early Childhood Vision Consultants developed a resource book with information for families and caregivers on using iPads, with children who are blind or have low vision, as an educational tool.

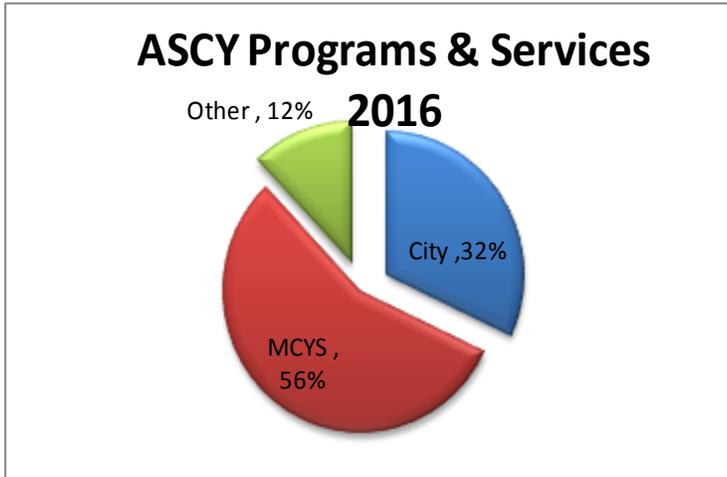
The content of the book includes:

- The iPad and its benefits
- How to use the iPad with your Child *screen time limitation caution
- iPad Accessibility Features
- Apps
- Funding
- Useful Resources
- iPad Goal Planning
- iPad Observation and Assessment



This book has been well received by our families and also has been shared provincially with other lead agencies who operate the Blind-Low Vision Early Intervention Program in other communities and at our communication education presentations. We were also able to receive some additional funding from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services so that we can loan out some iPads to families. The iPads have some of the best vision apps on them.

Financial Information



Total Revenue for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2016

\$4,600,750

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