



New Centennial Playgroup in Scarborough



This spring, three of Centennial’s Early Intervention staff created a new playgroup for children (12 to 36 months of age) with special needs, and their caregivers. Families receiving services from our team were encouraged to participate in this program. It offers wonderful opportunities for socialization and skill building for the children. The caregivers have an opportunity to participate in discussions on various topics related to their child’s health and development and also meet and socialize with other families.

Thanks to the collaboration with the Trudelle Family Resource Centre, the program was offered at minimal cost to families in the Scarborough region.

We would also like to thank Jessie Kimmel, Mandeep Grewal-Barton and Sue Reimer, our staff members who have made this possible for families who are often struggling to find programs suitable for their children in their community.



SENSE5 for CICC

Centennial Volunteers *Astrid Gutierrez & Diana McLachlan* joined forces earlier this year and established *SENSE5 for CICC*.

SENSE5 for CICC is composed of a group of young professionals who have come together to raise awareness and funds to benefit Centennial Infant and Child Centre. Through a series of dynamic initiatives focused on the five senses, they hope to raise funds in support of CICC, encourage awareness about children with special needs, and strengthen relationships between parents, staff, and volunteers.

SENSE5 for CICC has hosted two successful events: *Pints & Paint* at Pappa’s Grill and the *Summer Social* at the El Mocambo! Please check our website (www.cicc.ca) for upcoming event announcements.



Maggie (Centennial Graduate) and Astrid Gutierrez (Volunteer)



Pictured left to right: Matthew Gibson, Kyle Golding, Scott Watson, and Matt Lee at *Pints & Paint*

Justin Brown...from Newborn to Kindergarten with Centennial



Justin Brown will proudly start kindergarten in September at his local school, integrated into a typical classroom with his neighbourhood friends.

Justin was diagnosed with Down Syndrome shortly after birth. His family praises Centennial's In-Home Early Intervention program, calling it a "true blessing". The support they received from Frances, the early interventionist, taught them how to relate to Justin, how to create successes and to understand his different learning style.

Justin began attending Centennial's preschool program at 21 months of age. His parents started to notice significant advances in his development within a few short weeks! His progress over the next 3 years was exciting to witness. The Browns feel incredibly fortunate to have had the community of Centennial, its volunteers, teachers and consultants, supporting Justin and their family as well.

This support helped prepare the family for the "inevitably scary entry into the school system", as described by Jen Brown! Justin's teacher, Sue Thatcher, provided expert advice and attended meetings with the new school and asked the questions that the family were too anxious or overwhelmed to ask. This fall Justin will enter his new kindergarten with a warm welcome.

"We felt like we were part of a community at Centennial. The connections, the support and services Justin received, will all provide a lifetime of benefits for him and for us." *Jen and Bob Brown*

2014 Nine & Dine Golf Event...best ever!

Marsha Kennedy and her 'team extraordinaire' planned and executed a great afternoon and evening of golf, socializing and fundraising for Centennial recently, at the private Thornhill Golf and Country Club.

Thanks to all the sponsors, donors and participants, over \$44,000 was raised for Centennial's programs!



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