

The Ontario Early Years Centres in Simcoe County are working to assist grandparents parenting again with support groups. The focus of the groups is to provide support, share and develop resources. It is very useful to make connections confidentially, with others who understand and have experience in similar situations.

Barrie: Thursdays

Leanne Ross 705 792-7878 ext 233

Bradford: Mondays

Leanne Ross 705 7753039 ext 229

Orillia: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays

1:30-3:30pm

Jackie Vandenberg 705 325-1299

Midland: 1st Tuesday 1:30-3:30pm

Jackie Vandenberg 705 526-2456

*childcare for preschoolers and transportation assistance may be available.



Grandparents Parenting in Simcoe County



According to Statistics Canada 2011, 75 185 children were being raised by their grandparents. Social, legal and financial systems have just begun creating specific policies to recognize and address the needs of “skip generation” or kinship care families. Grandparents parenting again share many emotions. Feelings of love and hope can be mixed with worry, loss, disappointment and resentment. Grandparents must readjust their life plans and styles to accommodate raising children. Personal health and the demands of raising children, many with special needs, can be challenging. Dealing with legal issues, parental involvement, balancing other family relationships and responsibilities may contribute to daily stresses.

The role of grandparents as primary providers for their grandchildren is growing.

Grandparents taking on the responsibility to raise their grandchildren may face emotional, financial and /or legal challenges.



Ontario Works

Temporary care assistance refers to assistance available to adults temporarily caring for a child for whom they are not the natural or adoptive parents and they do not receive compensation under the Child and Family Services Act. Temporary care assistance and benefits can be paid to the adults providing the care for the child and may be provided as long as they are eligible. The application is based on the child's financial situation and not the care providers'. Whenever feasible, it is expected that the child's parents contribute towards the child's support. OW has a requirement that the temporary care provider pursue support from the child's parents. There is a Family Support Unit within the Ontario Works division that can assist with this process. Assistance with day care subsidy may also be available. For more information or to apply please contact the **County of Simcoe Ontario Works at 705 722-3132**. Any person or agency can request a case conference to find solutions for situations where a number of agencies are working together to ensure collaborative service.

The Children's Aid Society

Some families have problems and turn to relatives, friends or members of their community for support, which might include taking the children into their home. These people are called kin. This is done without CAS involvement and has been happening for generations. CAS has no role in these situations. The Children's Aid Society (CAS), is only involved with families when CAS finds children are "in need of protection", as defined by the Child and Family Services Act i.e. a child or children are experiencing harm or are at risk of harm in their family. Many families work voluntarily with CAS to improve their situation. However if children can't stay at home, CAS is mandated to find them a safe place to stay. CAS must look first at a member of the child's family or community. Some supports are available for kin providers CAS has approved. For more information about what supports might be available through CAS contact the **Kinship team at 705 726-6587**.



The Family Law Information Centre

The FLIC provides 3 services to the public:

The **Court Staff** can provide court forms and help to explain the court process.

The **Information and Referral Coordinator** can provide assistance with community referrals and information about alternatives to court (i.e. mediation). Video and written resources are available.

The Advice Lawyer (provided by Legal Aid) can provide legal advice on child protection issues and family law matters. They can review court forms, individually. When qualifying financially, specific advice may be given in matters related to the Family Court.

Barrie: 705 739-6446, Orillia: 705 326-2671

Family Mediation

This process has helped hundreds of people work out settlements without having to go to court. We can help you even if a family court action has been started. Child protection mediation for CAS cases is also available.

Call the FLIC office or The Mediation Centre at 705 725-7020. Fees are subsidized by the Ministry of The Attorney General.

FACE for Families

FACE for Families offers families a chance to sit together in a safe and neutral setting created by trained facilitators.

Family circles are based on the restorative principles of truth telling, acceptance and respect. Through the circle process the family members begin to understand and appreciate each other by discovering the family's own unified strength. Each family member contributes to creating a plan for next steps. Family circles are useful to plan transitions to grandparents, to negotiate parental involvement and to meet challenges presented by the grandchildren themselves.

Midland (willing to travel to a community close to you) **705 528- 1444**

