



Report To: Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB Board  
From: Suzanne Malette, Children's Program Supervisor  
Date: June 17th, 2010  
Re: New Infant Program at One Tot Stop - A.B. Ellis School

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB assist the One Tot Stop daycare – A. B. Ellis site with the financial support to expand their daycare to include infant care as part of their strategic plan to stay viable in adjusting to the changes brought about by the Early Learning Program.
2. THAT the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB advocate for a child care base funding model. This model would cover basic operating costs to ensure the viability and the sustainability of all of the Child Care programs without having to rely on numbers of children attending the child care centre

## **REPORT**

### **Purpose**

A memo from Assistant Deputy Minister Jim Grieve was distributed on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 describing how the Early Learning Program – Extended Day Component will be implemented as of September 2010. The memo provided us with further information about what the extended day component of the Early Learning Program (ELP) would look like.

Two schools have been selected to implement the ELP in the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB jurisdiction, A.B. Ellis and École St-Joseph both located in Espanola. This will have some impact on the Child Care Centres located in those schools. One centre has reported that they could possibly have a 20% loss in revenue when losing the 4 & 5 year olds to the full day Program. As an option to recovering some of this cost they have sent out a survey in the community to determine if there is a need for an Infant program. Twelve (12) surveys were returned indicating an interest in utilizing an infant program. A business plan has been put together by the Executive Director of A.B. Ellis and now they are seeking startup funding to renovate their existing space and purchase the

equipment needed to begin an infant program in a community where there is currently no infant programming. The good news is that the A.B. Ellis school is on board with this idea and they have given them space to expand their current facilities to include the infant programming. The other daycares in the area have already indicated that they have no interest in expanding their services to include infant spacing.

The purpose of this report is to:

- Ensure that the expansion of an infant programming in the largest community of the Manitoulin-Sudbury District be seriously considered in order to support the viability of the A.B. Ellis daycare in moving forward the transition of the Early Learning Programming.
- Ensure that the daycare and the school work collaboratively together in order to provide infant care.
- Financially support the need of an infant program to help stabilize the existing programs at A.B. Ellis daycare.

## **BACKGROUND**

In January 2010, two schools were selected in the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB's jurisdiction to implement The Early Learning Program. One of the two schools selected is the One Tot Stop - A.B. Ellis site. After serious consideration as to what type of impact the introduction of ELP would have on the current daycare on site, the Executive Director determined that it was time to think about focusing on the 0 to 3.8 years of age category of children. Seeing as though there is no infant daycare currently available within the Lacloche area, surveys were sent out to determine whether or not there was a need for such services in the area. Once the surveys were returned, it was in fact determined that a need for infant care was required in the community at large.

Furthermore, the child care providers are meeting next week to review their existing infant rates and will be discussing the option of increasing these rates to ensure that we are in line with our neighbouring CMSMs and DSSABs and their child care providers. The City of Greater Sudbury's current infant rate is \$46 per day and they are currently looking at increasing it to over \$50 per day. In Algoma their current infant rate is \$57 per day and they are also undergoing a review of their rate structure. The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB's current infant rate of \$37.00 and we foresee increasing this rate to \$50 which will support this decision to open up an infant section to the A.B. Ellis daycare site. This decision will of course be dependant upon the board's review of our current infant rates and this will be presented to the Board in September 2010.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The Objective of this report is to help support A.B. Ellis in their plan to move forward with an infant program in the school that was chosen for Phase 1 of the Early Learning

Program. It seems as though this is the natural progression to move into the Early Learning Program for this daycare. The Executive Director has done her research for the need and with those conclusions; the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB would like to financially support this daycare in order to stay viable in the Lacloche community.

## **CONCLUSION**

Although the infant program may not provide extra revenue to help stabilize the existing programs at A.B. Ellis, it will act as a feeder to their toddler program. The toddler program will in turn feed into their preschool program. With the addition of the infant program, it is hoped that they will eventually fill the full day preschool spaces that have been vacated by the Junior Kindergarten students.

The current programming at A.B. Ellis will continue to be viable with some time to adjust to the changes brought about by the Early Learning Program. The addition of the infant program will ensure that they have a continuous flow of children into their centre.