

For immediate release:

City of Peterborough supports access to reduced child care fees for Apsley families

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Under a new pilot program, the City of Peterborough will provide financial support to reduce the cost of licensed child care fees by fifty percent in 2022 for families registered with Compass ELC in Apsley.

Fees for families in Apsley who are using licensed child care for their young children under the age of 4 will be reduced by fifty percent effective January 1, 2022. The goal of the pilot program is to increase accessibility, affordability and support social inclusion for children, while also creating more opportunities for parents to seek employment. The initiative follows a successful pilot project in 2018 that saw a reduction in fees leading to a boost in access to child care in Buckhorn, particularly for working middle class families for whom child care costs have been a barrier.

Compass ELC-Apsley is the only licensed child care provider in the village, and is a not-for-profit charitable organization that offers part-time and full-time services for infants, toddlers and preschoolers, as well as school-age and before and after-school programs for children up to 12. Registered Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) at Compass ELC-Apsley coordinate programming that is child-centred and promotes the development of the whole child. Staff hold a strong view of children as capable, competent and curious about the world around them, and this belief guides the experiences and interactions between children and educators.

"We are so pleased to be in a position to offer this opportunity to the families in the Apsley community," CEO Sheila Olan-MacLean stated, adding "there are some spaces available immediately."

"The pandemic has shown us what the early years community has always known," says Olan-MacLean, "That child care plays an essential role for families in rural communities. Reducing our fees will mean that more families in the community will be able to access licensed child care in our high-quality, rich and unique learning environments."

More information is available through the City of Peterborough Children's Services, online at <https://www.peterborough.ca/en/city-services/childrens-services.aspx> or by phone at 705-748-8830 x3495. Families who are interested in registering for child care in Apsley are asked to register on the OneHSN child care waiting list portal: <https://onehsn.com/peterborough> or contact: apsley@compasselc.com for more information.

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