# ANNUAL REPORT






**Prepared by**
Courtney Kreamer

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# Board & Executive Director Message

As we reflect on 2025, we are proud of what we have accomplished together and grateful to the children, families, educators, staff, volunteers and community partners who make our work possible.

Following significant growth in 2023 and 2024, 2025 has been a time to strengthen our organizational foundation and refine our practices. We continue to build shared approaches across our programs while respecting the unique needs, relationships and community connections that shape each location. Our goal is to work together as a cohesive organization while allowing each program to reflect the community it serves.

Through this work, our responsibility remains to put children first and create environments where they feel a sense of belonging, are supported in their well-being, and have opportunities to explore, learn and grow.

As we share our first Annual Community Report, we invite you to reflect with us on how far we have come and the opportunities ahead. Thank you for being part of our community and helping us shape what comes next.

With sincere thanks,

Courtney Kreamer
Executive Director

Cheryl Robinson
Past Board Chair, on behalf of the Board of Directors

# Who We Are

At Dutton Co-operative Child Care Centre Inc., we believe every child is full of potential, curiosity, and is capable of complex thinking. Our work is deeply connected to the communities we serve, and we are committed to nurturing children through strong relationships and collaboration.

**Rooted in Community**

We partner with families, educators, and local organizations to build programs that support children and strengthen our community. By working together, we create an inclusive environment where every family's culture, needs, and strengths are respected. Child care is community care and when we support families, we invest in the well-being of our entire community and help every child thrive.

**Focused on Children**

Children are at the heart of everything we do. Guided by *How Does Learning Happen?*, we foster belonging, well-being, engagement, and expression through play-based, child led learning and meaningful relationships. Our educators listen and respond to each child's interests, creating spaces that inspire creativity, connection, and wonder. Every child's voice matters, and our classrooms are places where they feel safe, respected, and supported.

**Our Philosophy**

The Dutton Co-Operative Child Care Centre Inc. (DCCCCI) strives to be a place that inspires lifelong learning among children, families, educators, and beyond. Our organization believes that the children come first above all. We strive to provide learning environments that are responsive to the interests and needs of the children we serve through play and inquiry. DCCCCI believes that the children we serve must be provided with a safe space to be their most authentic self. This belief is why we cultivate staff teams that are warm, responsive, and who see the innermost potential of each child that comes through our doors. Our staff understand that they are co-learners within the classrooms and co-construct knowledge with their colleagues, children, families, and the community.

# Who We Are

## Our Mission

Our mission is to provide inclusive, high-quality child care programs, enriching learning experiences and family resources in collaboration with area partners to inspire lifelong learning and to help build a healthy community.



# Meet Our Senior Leadership Team

Behind every thriving program is a team of leaders working behind the scenes to keep everything moving. From finances and administration to HR, compliance, communication, scheduling and the countless details that often go unnoticed, these leaders carry a tremendous amount of responsibility. Their work may not always be visible in the classrooms, but it is what helps create the stability, support and foundation our educators, children and families rely on every day. We are incredibly grateful for the care, dedication and leadership they bring to our organization.



**Mindy Sweeney**
Program Supervisor

*23 years of service!*

Mindy attended Fanshawe College in 2001 for two years, earning her Early Childhood Education (ECE) Diploma and beginning her career with a strong passion for working with young children and supporting their development. Mindy has been a part of the Dutton Cooperative Child Care for 23 years, with 20 of those years spent working directly with children across all age groups, from infants to school age. This experience has provided her with a deep understanding of the unique needs, interests, and developmental stages of children throughout their early years. For the past 3.5 years, Mindy has worked as a Program Supervisor, where she supports and mentor's educators, helps strengthen program quality, and encourages educators to grow in their practice. She is passionate about creating an environment where educators feel supported, valued, and confident in their abilities. Throughout her career, Mindy has also had the opportunity to work alongside many community partners to build strong connections, create meaningful opportunities and support children, families, and educators within the community. Outside of her professional role, Mindy enjoys spending time with her family and watching her children play sports. She also loves gardening, spending time outdoors and enjoying the simple moments with family and friends.

Mindy believes in the importance of lifelong learning and is always looking for opportunities to grow personally and professionally, while celebrating the journey along the way.

# Meet Our Senior Leadership Team

*16 years of service!*

**Jessica Gates**
Program Supervisor



Jessica has been part of Dutton Co-Operative Child Care since 2009 where her journey with us started in our preschool program before stepping into a program supervisor role in 2011. Previous to joining Dutton Child Care, Jessica worked as an Executive Director in Thamesville with a small organization. Jessica has been an Early Childhood Educator since 1998. Jessica is passionate about advocating for human rights and equal opportunities for all children. In the program supervisor position, Jessica enjoys mentoring and supporting children, families and educators; the number one indicator of success is seeing the smiles on children, parents and staff. When not at work she enjoys spending time on her family's sheep farm and playing with her dogs. Jessica and her family show 2 breeds of purebred sheep. If you're at Wallacetown Fair on the Sunday, don't forget to stop by the sheep barn and say hi! Jessica also has a toy poodle named Fozzie who joins the Aldborough program daily; Fozzie is passionate about snuggles and doesn't really know the therapeutic impact he makes each day. Jessica also enjoys making an impact by volunteering on her local fair board and helping out in the community by volunteering for children's sports such as baseball and soccer.



**Lori Rylett**
Program Supervisor

*11 years of service!*

Lori has been a part of the DCCCCI family since February 2015, when she joined our team as the Team Lead of the Before and After School Program at Aldborough Public School. In 2024, she took on the role of Program Supervisor at our new Family Group Centre at St. Mary's School in West Lorne. Lori played a role in bringing both the Family Group Program and Before and After School Program at St. Mary's to life. Lori has been an Early Childhood Educator since 1996 and holds a Bachelor of Psychology from the University of Windsor. Working with children has always been a calling for Lori. Even growing up, she knew she wanted to be an educator and spend her days making a difference in the lives of children. Over her many years in childcare, Lori has had the opportunity to experience many different aspects of the field. From working as a nanny and in nursery schools, to cooking, being an educator in all age groups, leading Before and After School Programs, and being a supervisor, Lori has truly done a little bit of everything! Each of these experiences has helped shape the educator she is today. Lori hopes that, through the care and

# Meet Our Senior Leadership Team

**Lori Rylett**
Program Supervisor

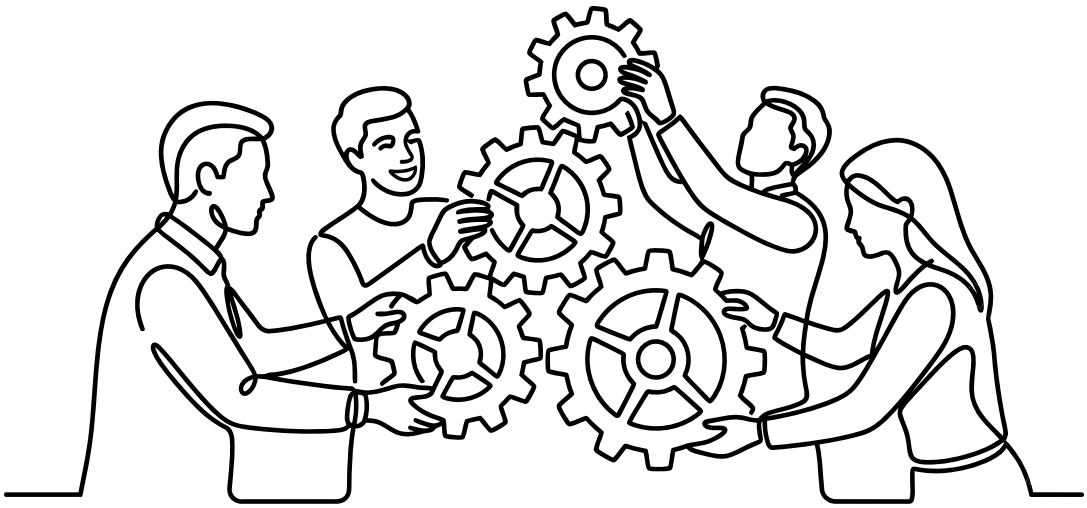
encouragement we provide, children will grow into adults who carry that same kindness, acceptance, and positivity with them wherever they go. When Lori isn't at work, she loves spending time at home with her family and pets. You'll often find her curled up with a good book or movie, enjoying time outside, or getting in a good workout. For Lori, there's nothing better than slowing down, spending time with the people and pets she loves, and enjoying the simple things in life.



**Robin Dodge**
Inclusion Coordinator

*8 years of service!*

Robin is the Inclusion Coordinator for all Dutton Child Care locations. She has been part of the child care field for many years, beginning at the age of 14 as a student helper. Her early experience sparked a passion for working with children, which led her to attend college to become a Social Service Worker. Robin enjoys working with all children and has a special passion for supporting children with diverse needs. Robin has worked with Dutton Child Care since 2018 and has held various roles throughout her time with the organization. She began as an enhancement assistant, later became Team Lead for the school age program, and now serves as the Inclusion Coordinator. Her passion for inclusive care has allowed her to work closely with many families to better understand each child's diverse needs and help create positive, safe environments where children can thrive and feel a true sense of belonging.



# Meet Our Senior Leadership Team



**Courtney Kreamer**
Executive Director

*4 years of service!*

Courtney has been part of Dutton Co-operative Child Care Centre Inc. as Executive Director since 2022. Before stepping into this role, Courtney was a parent in our centre community, where her two children had the opportunity to grow and flourish with the support of incredible educators. This experience deepened her passion for early learning and strengthened her commitment to supporting the important work educators do every day. Courtney's background is in Child and Youth Studies through Brock University. She has experience working in child care centres across the GTA and London, leading before and after school and summer camp programs throughout Southwestern Ontario in roles including Site Supervisor, Director and Regional Manager, as well as supporting community-based youth programs in Niagara for underserved families. She also spent time as a Project Manager creating physical literacy programs between Windsor and Woodstock, where she developed recreational programs and provided training to hundreds of staff. Courtney is passionate about sustainable solutions that support high-quality child care, fair compensation for educators, and the resources programs need to thrive. She believes strong communities are built when partners work together, share resources, and support one another. While each organization brings its own identity, strengths and expertise, we need to look beyond our individual silos and find meaningful ways to work together. By connecting our strengths while honouring what makes each organization unique, we can build a stronger, more responsive and thriving community. Outside of work, Courtney enjoys spending time outdoors with her family through hiking and kayaking, as well as coaching and playing soccer.

*3 years of service!*

**Melissa Judson**
Finance Administrator



Melissa is the Finance Administrator for Dutton Cooperative Child Care Centre; she's the smiling face you see at the desk as you come into the Dutton Centre, and the one happily answering any billing and account related questions you send her way. Melissa started with us in 2023, in the midst of a massive change in how our child care centres operate, and has been a key piece in the successful rollout of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care agreement. She continues to be an incredible support in our growth across all of our programs, while managing the very busy administrative tasks that come with it. In her spare time Melissa shares her home with a very tall hubby, three amazing kiddos, and two cats in one busy, messy, furry, happy and (very)

# Meet Our Senior Leadership Team

**Melissa Judson**
Finance Administrator

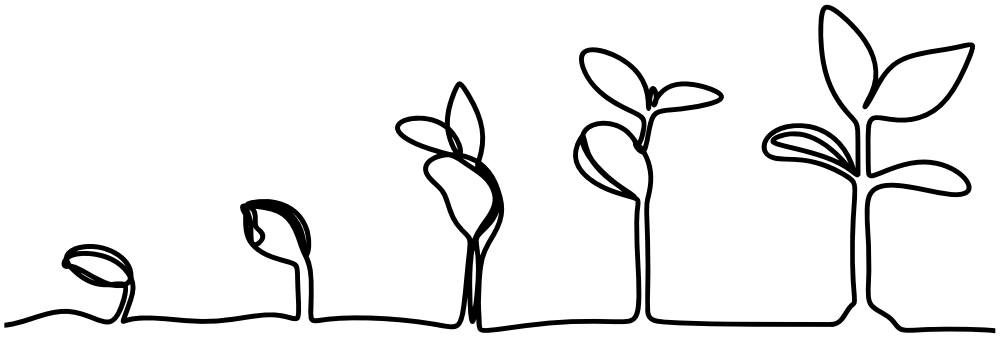
loud household. She enjoys baking brownies and banana bread, watching Gilmore Girls reruns, trying to tame her almost constantly overgrown gardens, and thinking about how great it would be to take up jogging (but not actually going out for jogs). Melissa loves living in Dutton – she moved to Dutton in 2013 and immediately felt that she'd truly found her forever home in this community.



**Lindsay Siple**
Program Supervisor

*1 year of service!*

Lindsay has been part of Dutton Co-operative Child Care Centre Inc. as the School Age Program Supervisor since 2025. Prior to stepping into this role Lindsay lived in Brantford where she was completing her undergraduate at Laurier University while also working for BGC Brantford. At BGC she held a few different positions including before and after school educator, summer camp educator, team lead, and youth mentor. During her education and employment experience, Lindsay developed a strong sense of commitment to the children in her community. This commitment grew into a passion for supporting the ever-growing and changing needs of the childcare field. Lindsay's background is in forensic psychology and child and youth studies. She graduated from her double major program in April 2025 from Laurier University. Following her graduation, she decided to move back closer to her family in St. Thomas and start what she hopes to be a life-long career in leadership in the childcare field. Her passion lies in research and continuously learning about new resources and programs available to children and how to bring those into our programs. She has a drive to mentor her staff and support the development and implementation of the high-quality child-care we strive to provide. When not at work you can find Lindsay doing one of her many hobbies: reading, gaming, puzzling, baking, or finding a new hobby to add to the ever-growing list.



# 2025 Highlights

**Celebrating Our 2025 Community Connections and Highlights**

Throughout 2025 our organization continued to strengthen meaningful relationships within our community, creating opportunities for learning, connection, and joy across all ages.

One of our treasured partnerships has been with the **Dutton, West Lorne, and Rodney Libraries**. Through literacy-based programming, we have enjoyed regular visits back and forth, fostering a love of reading, storytelling, and lifelong learning for the children in our care in both our centre and school age based programs. These experiences have helped nurture curiosity while strengthening connections within our community.











*Literacy is the foundation for lifelong learning.*

# 2025 Highlights

**Celebrating Our 2025 Community Connections and Highlights**

We were also proud to continue our partnership with the West Elgin Community Health Centre through their engaging Zumbini and DancePlay programs. These experiences encouraged movement, music, and healthy development while bringing smiles and energy to our participants.








# 2025 Highlights

**Celebrating Our 2025 Community Connections and Highlights**

Intergenerational connections remained a special focus this year. In partnership with EarlyON, our visits to **Bobier** for Grandfriends provided valuable opportunities for children and seniors to build relationships, share stories, and create lasting memories together. Similarly, we continued our visits with seniors at **The Hub** in West Lorne, where meaningful interactions and shared activities brought joy to participants of all ages.



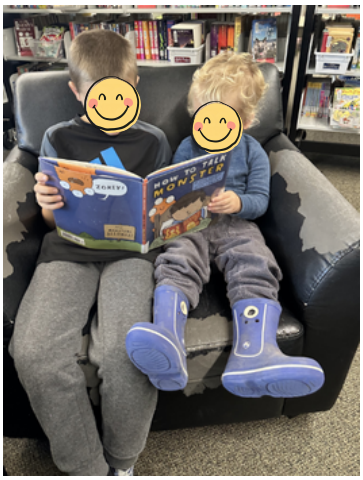



# 2025 Highlights

**Celebrating Our 2025 Community Connections and Highlights**

Our Preschool groups also participated in the Reading Buddies program alongside students from Dunwich-Dutton Public School and Aldborough Public School. These sessions helped build confidence, literacy skills, and friendships while creating positive role-model relationships between younger and older learners. By developing meaningful connections with school staff and students before kindergarten begins, children become more familiar with the school environment, helping to ease the transition to school and fostering a sense of belonging from the very start.











# 2025 Highlights

**Celebrating Our 2025 Community Connections and Highlights**

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our partners at **Tiny Tots/EarlyON** in Rodney at the Aldborough Child and Family Centre for their ongoing support. Their beautifully designed early learning spaces provide a welcoming environment for our children during inclement weather, sensory breaks, and when additional space is needed. We are grateful for their generosity, flexibility, and continued commitment to supporting the children, families, and educators in our community.






# 2025 Highlights

**Celebrating Our 2025 Community Connections and Highlights**

Our children had the opportunity to learn about the important roles community helpers play through special visits from the **Ontario Provincial Police**, as well as the **Dutton and West Elgin Fire Departments**. These engaging experiences allowed children to meet first responders, explore emergency vehicles and equipment, ask questions, and develop a deeper understanding of the people who help keep our communities safe. These visits help foster trust, curiosity, and appreciation for those who serve our community every day.



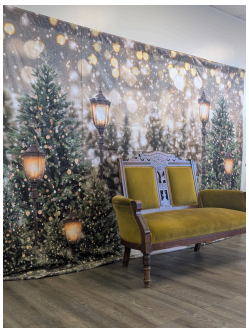




# 2025 Highlights

**Celebrating Our 2025 Community Connections and Highlights**

One of the most anticipated events of the year was our annual **Breakfast with Santa**. This event brought together numerous local organizations, volunteers, and families in a celebration of community spirit. Rooted in giving back, the event brought in $1,000.00 in donations to support our local food banks while creating magical holiday memories for children and families across our region.



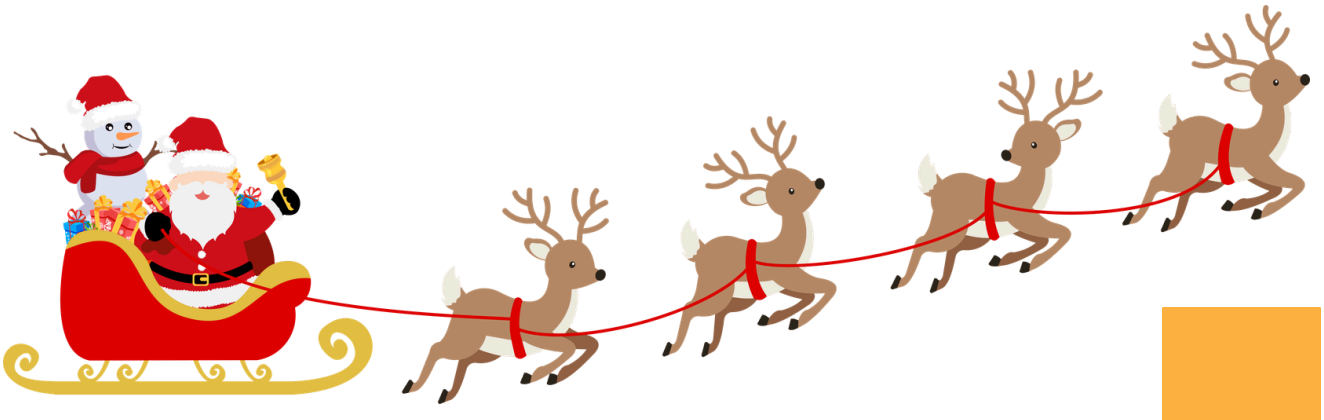










# 2025 Highlights

**Celebrating Our 2025 Community Connections and Highlights**

Our Summer Camp programs were filled with exciting adventures and unforgettable experiences. Campers enjoyed educational and fun-filled trips to the Children's Museum and Rock Glen, and visits from West Elgin Community Health Centre making nutritious snacks. We also celebrated together during Miller Park Days, where camp groups from multiple locations gathered for a day of connection and excitement featuring a foam party, a DJ, and countless moments of fun and laughter. We even had some Preschool visitors at the Rodney Pool during our camp swim days!










MEMORIES

# 2025 Highlights

**Celebrating Our 2025 Community Connections and Highlights**

Throughout the year, our staff continued to invest in their own learning and growth. This included participating in our System Wide Professional Development Day on October 10, 2025, focused on “Growing Together: Nurturing Practice Through Connection, Care and Belonging”, as well as Child Care Worker and ECE Appreciation Day, our annual Organization Wide Meeting, professional development opportunities held after hours, and our annual summer camp training sessions.

We are incredibly proud of the time, energy and care our educators put into growing their practice. Their commitment to learning, reflecting and continuing to develop throughout their careers is something worth celebrating.






As we reflect on 2025, we are grateful for the partnerships, friendships, and shared experiences that enriched our programs and strengthened our connection to the community. Together, we have created a year filled with learning, belonging, and memorable moments that will continue to inspire us moving forward.

# Where Curiosity Leads

Some of the most meaningful learning that happens in our programs does not begin with a calendar, a lesson plan or a special event.

*It begins with a question. A child notices something. An educator pauses. Someone wonders, "What would happen if…?"*



**Sliding into fun**

The snow was perfect for building with this morning. The children have been missing the climber, so we made our own slide. They had so much fun with this. Some friends went on their bellies while others were brave and tried it backwards.

-Cynthia V. Preschool 3 PCC

**And suddenly, a simple moment can become something much bigger.**



Our educators pay close attention to the ideas, questions and experiences children bring with them each day. They create space for children to share what they already know, wonder about what they do not yet understand, and explore their thinking alongside others.

# Where Curiosity Leads

Sometimes, that means a spontaneous discovery in the outdoor environment turns into a conversation that continues for days. A question asked at the beginning of the month can lead to books, experiments, drawings, conversations, new questions and opportunities to revisit ideas again and again.

*This is child-led learning.*




"Today we got to try the lettuce we grew in our garden. The children watched Jessica trim off the lettuce, and then we were served it on our egg salad sandwiches at lunch. The children were excited to try the lettuce, but some of them were not a fan of eating it on their sandwiches, and others said it was "so yummy".

-St. Mary's Family Age Group

It is not about having every answer. It is about being willing to follow children's thinking.

It is about educators noticing the spark and asking, "Where could this take us?"

**The everyday moments matter.**







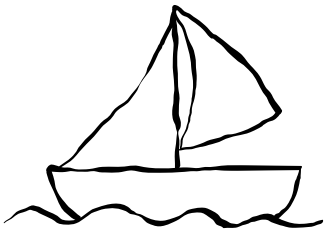
# Where Curiosity Leads

A puddle becomes an investigation into where water goes. A fascination with a tiny insect becomes weeks of observing, researching and wondering. A child brings an idea from home, and suddenly the whole group is building on that knowledge. A question at the snack table becomes a conversation that carries into the classroom, outdoors and beyond.

"The week had started out with a couple of books on ponds and oceans to my preschool group, the conversations very quickly led to vacation times at the beach, lake or in another province. Then we started to create our own fishing poles out of sticks in the yard. Next, I grabbed one of the snow toboggans, placed it in the middle of the sand area around the climber and announced I was going deep sea fishing and this was my boat (this was in August by the way, not a snowflake in sight!) Before I knew it the children were either in the boat with me or pretending to be the "fish that got away". Children were pretending to dive in and out of the boat, they were fishermen, divers, whales, starfish, and we even had a tsunami. There were so many conversations about the difference between ponds and oceans, the marine life and living on an Island. Truth be told some questions I could not answer so when we went back inside, we searched out books for more information. This activity and conversations were revisited many times over several weeks and I have to admit that I definitely learned some new things "right along with the children."

-Lisa V PCC Preschool

These moments may never appear on a calendar as a "special event," but they are some of the ***most important moments in our programs.***





*This is where curiosity leads.*

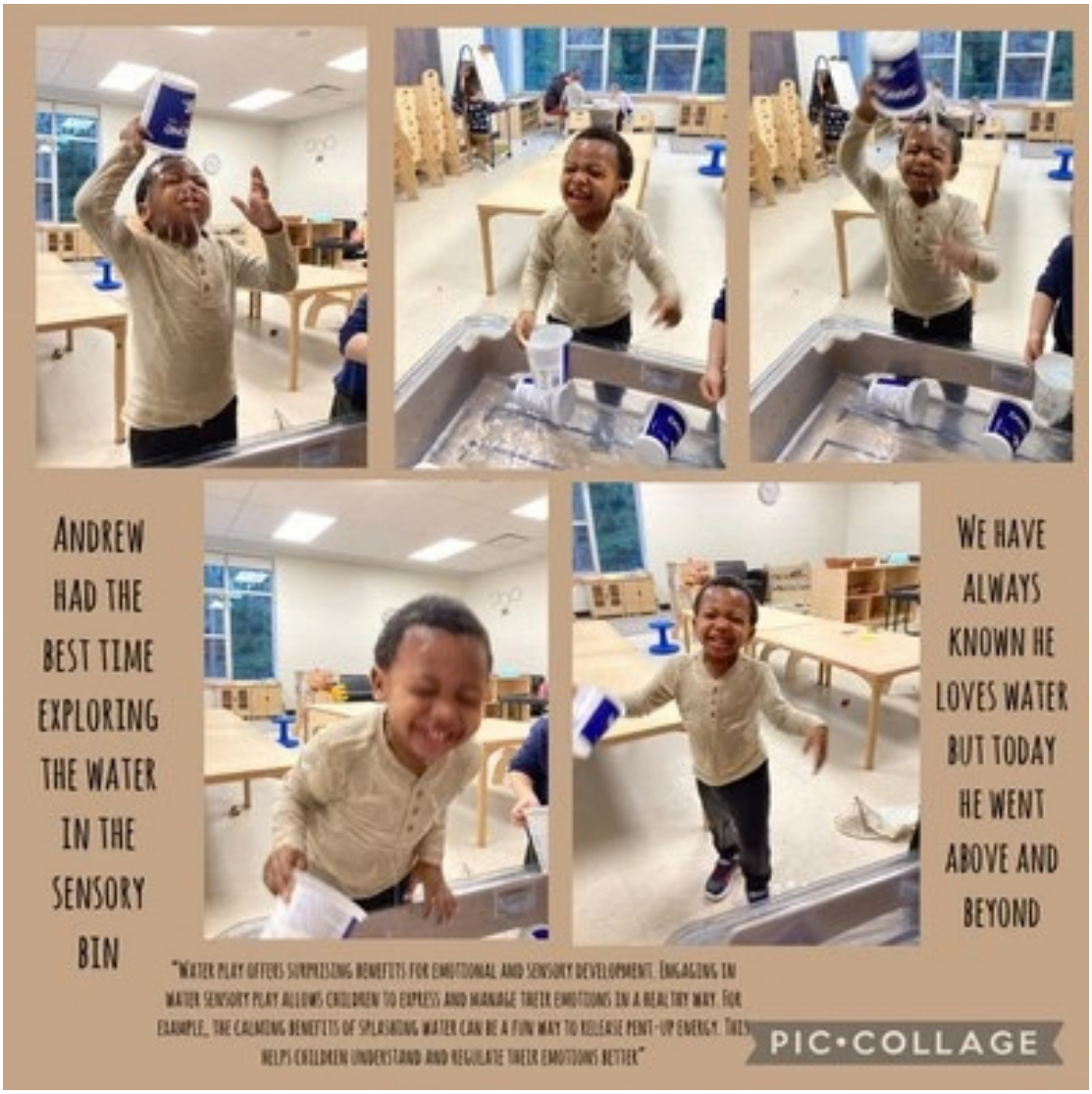
And this is where we see children becoming confident thinkers, capable learners and active participants in their own learning.

# Where Curiosity Leads

We are so grateful for educators who ask “why not?”, who do not mind the mess, take thoughtful risks, and trust children enough to follow where their curiosity leads.

Sometimes that means something as simple and profound as allowing a child to pour water over their own face, exploring their senses with joy, safety and complete trust in the educator beside them.

*These are the moments.*




When we truly honour the child, we create the space for them to explore, discover and **experience the world in ways that are meaningful to them.**

*Haley V Aldborough Preschool*

# 2024 & 2025 Staff Achievements




## Angela Principe

In December 2024, we proudly celebrated Angela Principe's **15th anniversary** with our organization! Angela has been an incredible part of our team, bringing warmth, stability, and a sense of calm to everyone around her. Her dedication to the Infant program has shaped the care we provide, and her growth into the Team Leader role at our Dutton Child Care Centre has been truly inspiring.

Angela supports and uplifts our educators every day, sharing her knowledge and passion for high-quality care. She has invested countless hours into researching, learning, and growing in the early years sector, with a special focus on behaviour guidance. This work continues to benefit children, families, and staff alike.

We are so grateful for Angela's leadership, her commitment, and the heart she brings to our centre. Congratulations, Angela, on this incredible milestone! Our community is better because of you!

## Jennifer Milligan

We are so fortunate to have Jenn as the cook at our Dutton Child Care Centre for **5 years** as of January 2024!

Jenn works closely with families to support dietary needs and ensures every child feels included at the table, regardless of their dietary requirements. Her commitment to creating a sense of belonging shines through in the care she takes with every detail.

Not only does Jenn keep our kitchen running smoothly, but she also jumps right into the classrooms, building relationships with children and educators and becoming an integral part of the daily program.

Thank you, Jenn, for your passion, creativity, and care. You help make our centre a place where children are nourished in every sense of the word.

# 2024 & 2025 Staff Achievements




## Jessica Gates

In March 2025, we proudly celebrated Jessica's **15th anniversary** with our organization! Jessica has been a true foundation of our team, bringing dedication, reliability, and a willingness to take on whatever challenges come her way.

Throughout her time with us, Jessica has been the ultimate "jack of all trades," supporting families, uplifting staff, advocating for children, troubleshooting challenges, and fixing just about anything that becomes broken (both literally and figuratively). Her knowledge, problem-solving, and commitment have played an important role in helping our organization grow and succeed.

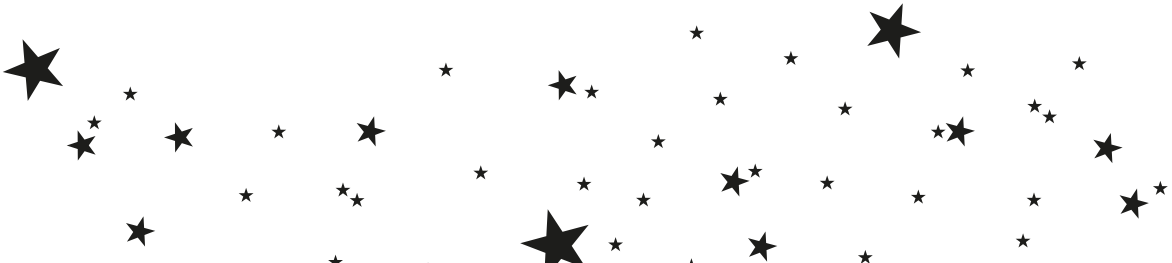
We are incredibly grateful for Jessica's leadership, the countless ways she supports our team, and the lasting impact she continues to make every day. Congratulations, Jessica, on this incredible milestone!

## Lori Ryfett

In February 2025, we proudly celebrated Lori's **10th anniversary** with our organization! Lori has been an incredible leader who has helped shape our programs and culture in so many ways.

She completely transformed our school age program, built our Rodney program from the ground up, and later took on the exciting challenge of opening our first family age grouping centre at St. Mary's. Her vision, dedication, and leadership made these milestones possible.

Lori has cultivated a team culture that is welcoming, supportive, and flourishing because of the relationships she has built and the care she brings to her work. We are incredibly grateful for her 10 years of service, her passion, and the lasting impact she continues to make every day. Congratulations, Lori!



# 2024 & 2025 Staff Achievements




## Krista Szabo

In March 2025, we proudly celebrated Krista's **10th anniversary** with our organization! Krista has been a steady and valued presence on our team, bringing a calm, thoughtful, and consistent approach to everything she does.

While she brings a sense of calm to those around her, Krista is also a passionate advocate for the children in her programs. She consistently shows up for her colleagues, the children, and families, always going above and beyond to support our mission and provide high-quality care.

We are incredibly grateful for Krista's dedication, her commitment to our community, and the example she sets for those around her. Her presence has made a lasting impact on our organization, and we are so fortunate to have staff and families witness her care and leadership every day. Congratulations, Krista, on this incredible milestone!

## Katelyn Doan

In May 2025, we proudly celebrated Kate's **10th anniversary** with our organization! Kate is one of our most dedicated educators, and witnessing her growth in confidence, knowledge, and ability over the years has been truly inspiring.

Kate's commitment to reflective practice and continuous growth in the RECE profession is unmatched. She has dedicated countless hours to professional development, always seeking to learn, grow, and strengthen the care and experiences she provides for children and families.

Her dedication reflects the importance she places on early learning and the impact it has on children's development. We are incredibly grateful for Kate's passion, commitment, and the example she sets for those around her. Congratulations, Kate!

# 2024 & 2025 Staff Achievements




In October 2025, we proudly celebrated Haley's **5th anniversary** with our organization! Haley has been a consistent, supportive, and joyful presence for the children, families, and colleagues she works alongside.

Her bubbly personality, positive attitude, and ability to bring smiles to those around her make her an important part of our team. Haley's enthusiasm is infectious, and she approaches each day with care, kindness, and a genuine commitment to the children in her program.

Throughout her time with us, Haley has continued to learn, grow, and strengthen her practice as an RECE. We are incredibly grateful for her dedication, her positivity, and the impact she makes every day. Congratulations, Haley, on this wonderful milestone!

**As we reflect on these incredible milestones, we are reminded that the strength of our organization comes from the dedication, passion, and commitment of the people who make up our team. Each individual brings unique strengths, experiences, and care to their work, creating a lasting impact on the children, families, and communities we serve. We are incredibly grateful for the years of service and heart that our team members continue to bring to our organization.**

**Thank you for helping us grow, evolve, and continue our mission of inspiring lifelong learning every day.**

# Financial Statements

*How We Invested in Children, our Staff, and Families*

## Where Our Funding Came From

| Revenue Source | 2025 | 2024 | Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Government Funding *(Operating, CWELCC, Wage Enhancement & Other Grants)* | $2,228,330 | $2,059,204 | **+$257,505** |
| Parent Fees *(Child Care Fees & Fee Subsidy)* | $1,191,755 | $1,077,274 | **+$114,481** |
| Fundraising & Donations | $33,834 | $44,656 | **-$10,822** |
| Interest & Other | $4,358 | $4,010 | **+$348** |
| **Total Revenue** | **$3,458,277** | **$3,032,574** | **+$425,703 (14.0%)** |

- **What this means:** Approximately two-thirds of our funding comes from government programs, while one-third comes from parent fees.
- Revenue increased by 14% compared to 2024, primarily due to increased CWELCC funding and higher parent fee revenue as enrolment remained strong.
- Community fundraising and donations helped support additional resources and experiences for children.

# Financial Statements Cont.

## How Funds Were Used

| Expense Category | 2025 | 2024 | Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Staff Wages & Benefits | $2,844,928 | $2,589,052 | **+$255,876** |
| Program Operations *(Food, Supplies & Cleaning)* | $222,870 | $223,909 | **-$1,039** |
| Building & Facility Costs *(Rent, Repairs, Insurance, Utilities, Maintenance & Taxes)* | $293,898 | $140,291 | **+$153,607** |
| Administration & Professional Services | $82,149 | $66,866 | **+$15,283** |
| Staff Development, Travel & Other | $24,590 | $23,111 | **+$1,479** |
| Staff Appreciation & Community Events | $49,980 | $24,124 | **+$25,856** |
| **Total Expenses** | **$3,468,435** | **$3,070,323** | **+$398,112 (13.0%)** |

- **What This Means:** 82% of our expenses were invested directly in our educators and staff, reflecting our continued commitment to providing high-quality care and learning experiences.
- Our spending priorities have remained consistent year over year, with the majority of funding dedicated to the people who make our programs possible.
- We continued to invest in healthy meals, engaging learning materials, safe facilities, and well-maintained environments for children.

# Financial Statements Cont.

## Overall Year in Review

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| Total Revenue | $3,458,277 | $3,032,574 |
| Total Expenses | $3,468,435 | $3,070,323 |
| **Operating Surplus (Deficit)** | **($10,158)** | **($37,749)** |

- **Overall Result:** We remain committed to responsible financial stewardship, ensuring every dollar is used effectively to support children, families, educators, and our community.
- We ended 2025 with a small operating deficit of $10,158, representing less than 0.3% of our annual budget. This demonstrates a strong and stable financial position.
- Despite rising operating costs, we continued to invest in high-quality programs, qualified educators, safe learning environments, and enriching experiences for the children in our care.
- Our financial position improved significantly compared to 2024, reducing our operating deficit by 73% (from $37,749 to $10,158).
- This progress reflects our ongoing commitment to balancing fiscal responsibility with our mission of providing exceptional early learning and child care for the families we serve.

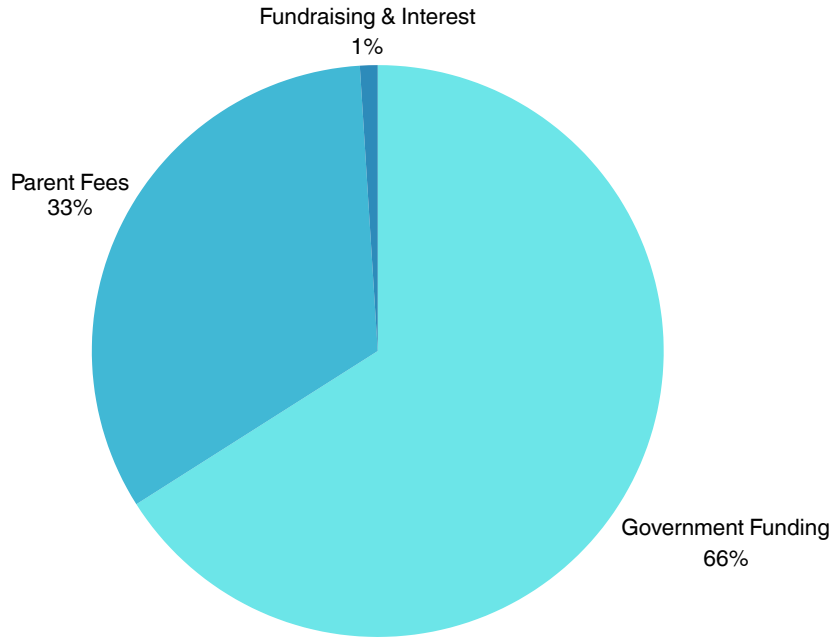
# St. Thomas-Elgin Children's Services

We would like to sincerely thank St. Thomas-Elgin Children's Services for their continued commitment to supporting high-quality child care in our community. As a key funder, their support represents more than two-thirds of our annual revenue and plays an essential role in allowing us to provide quality programs, support our educators, and serve children and families across our community.

We are grateful for their partnership and continued investment in the future of child care in Elgin County.

Thank you

## Revenue Sources




ST. THOMAS
THE RAILWAY CITY

ElginCounty

# Share With Us!

As we look ahead, we are excited about what we can continue to build together.

Our first annual report reflects where we have been, where we are today, and the possibilities ahead. None of this work happens alone. Our children, families, educators, staff, volunteers, board members and community partners all help shape the future of our organization and the communities we serve.

We believe the best ideas come from listening, learning and working together. Whether you have an idea for a new partnership, know of a resource we should connect with, have a fundraising idea, or simply want to share feedback, we would love to hear from you.

This report is more than a look back at what we have accomplished. It is an invitation to keep imagining, learning and building together. We look forward to what comes next.

**We would love to hear from you.**

**Scan the QR Code or click HERE to fill out the survey and share your ideas with us!**

