



# NEW EARLY LEARNING CENTRE AT 2826 SPRINGLAND DRIVE!

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- The RPNS New Building Project will create approximately **88 full-time child care spaces** in a new, 5 classroom facility that backs onto green space.
- Offer high-quality, inclusive, accessible and affordable programs for infants and children **3-months to 5-years old**.
- We will offer an **Intergenerational** and **Forest & Nature School Program** where young children and mature adults share their days in a mutually respectful environment.

## OUR BUILDING

- Our **purpose-built two-story facility** will feature on-site parking, access to local parks and a new welcoming path to facilitate access.
- The yard would back onto a City of Ottawa park, which is being developed as part of the Canoe Bay Community. This unique location would allow the new childcare centre to easily access green space and to enhance programming focused on outdoor play. It is also easily accessible by all forms of transportation.

## WHAT DOES AN INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAM DO FOR THE COMMUNITY?

- brings young people and 'young at heart' adults together in various settings to interact, engage, educate, support, and provide care for one another
- focuses on society's two most vulnerable sectors – children and seniors
- provides opportunities for children and seniors to enjoy activities together in various spaces (child care centre, senior centre, parks) developing a sense of community

## BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN:

- ✓ volunteer seniors will enhance the emotional and cognitive opportunities for the children
- ✓ opportunity for children to view seniors as valuable members of society
- ✓ opportunity for children to receive more one-on-one attention with volunteer seniors

## BENEFITS FOR SENIORS:

- ✓ by sharing their time and experiences with children, seniors feel valued and appreciated with a sense of purpose and added dignity to their lives
- ✓ physicality of working with young children keeps seniors active; enhanced socialization opportunities and a greater sense of engagement in their communities
- ✓ volunteer and employment opportunities



## WHAT WOULD AN INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAM 'LOOK' LIKE?

In this intergenerational program we see:

- seniors visiting the early learning centre for special events like “Tea Party Time”, concerts, birthday parties, ‘Art in the Park’; cultural and traditional celebrations
- seniors volunteering in the early learning centre to participate in specific duties: Reading Buddy, lunch time helper; sleep room helper; gardening buddy
- seniors joining the children on outings: visits to Mooney’s Bay; walks in the neighbourhood and field trips
- children visiting the senior village and joining them in activities: sing-a-longs; special lunch/picnics; birthday parties; exercise classes
- children creating artwork, well wishes cards for the seniors
- potential that seniors residing at village would be employees at the early learning centre (housekeeper, cook, handyman, maintenance worker etc.)
- parents, staff, administration of early learning centre participating on committees at the senior village
- both parties joining forces for fundraisers (for our respective programs and for the community events)

## FOREST AND NATURE SCHOOL

Riverside Park Nursery School introduced a *Forest & Nature School* curriculum two years ago and will continue to provide this wonderful program in its new location along with volunteers of our intergenerational program!

Forest School is different from other outdoor learning experiences in two ways:

1. Forest School takes place in the same setting on a regular basis over an extended period of time. This gives children the opportunity to learn a great deal about the area and enables them to develop a lasting connection with nature. The Riverside Park forested areas and Mooney’s Bay river bank offer a multitude of ways for children to connect with nature.
2. Forest School curriculum is largely emergent, child-directed, and play-based. This allows little learners the time and space to develop their interests, skills, and understanding through practical, hands-on experiences. At Forest School, children have the freedom to explore, play, build, create, imagine, and use their senses to experience the outdoor environment and engage with our community’s elders.

To learn more about the principles of Forest and Nature school, please visit our website.

## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

To contact us regarding the new build, or to be put on our mailing list, please email [rpsnewbuildquestions@gmail.com](mailto:rpsnewbuildquestions@gmail.com).

To learn more about RPNS and the new build, visit us at  
[www.rpnsottawa.com](http://www.rpnsottawa.com)