



complete the puzzle



the
**creative
preschool**
of east toronto

You are the missing piece to the future of the Creative Preschool. Help us — Complete the puzzle with your gift.

Since 1979, the Creative Preschool of East Toronto, a not-for-profit cooperative, has helped hundreds of families like yours. We work to improve children's lives and enhance parenting skills with an uncommon mix of educational programming, parental collaboration, community outreach, and early childhood expertise.

What makes the Creative Preschool different?

· *Parents in the classroom.*

Parents and caregivers regularly volunteer in our classroom, fostering a pervasive spirit of open interaction and family-teacher cooperation.

· *Strong behavioral approach.*

Beyond basic language and math skills, we focus on teaching respectful, engaged interaction with the world.

· *Intergenerational outreach.*

Since 1998, we've been a leader in bringing young children together with adults who have complex healthcare needs. While children grow in awareness and sensitivity, patients see real therapeutic benefits.

· *Expertise for different needs.*

We have worked extensively with children who have various physical and developmental challenges. We offer a uniquely positive and inclusive preschool experience to children with special needs — one that benefits everyone in the classroom.

· *Parenting education.*

Recognizing the critical role that parents play, we open our doors to the entire community with in-depth seminars and workshops on raising children from toddlers to teens constructively and with confidence.



Community Impact

- 100 children currently enrolled
- 1200 families served since 1979
- 450 community members supported through parenting workshops
- 780 seniors and disabled patients touched by outreach



Why we need your help

As a not-for-profit organization, the Creative Preschool is focused on providing for families, not on turning a profit. Every year, 100 per cent of tuition fees cover our operating costs.

This year, however, we face an immediate financial need. Due to the planned redevelopment of Bridgepoint Health we're moving to Eastern Commerce Collegiate Institute near Donlands Avenue and the Danforth.

Our relocation costs include:

- Capital costs, such as design and engineering, flooring, plumbing, commercial equipment, doors, walls, painting and an accessible entrance.
- Moving costs, such as hiring movers, trucks and bins.
- Transition costs to re-launch our community, parenting and intergenerational outreach programs from our new site.





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The community behind the Creative Preschool

Georgia Bowen and Wendy Hardy founded the Creative Preschool of East Toronto in 1979. Today, they continue to teach alongside Alison Heppner, Zainobia Gajiyani and a highly skilled team of early childhood educators.

Practicing the behavioral philosophy of Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish's *How to Talk So Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk*, we offer a unified approach to interacting with and nurturing children. Our teachers' strong background in child development includes Hanen Certification in identifying and working with language delays, and developing social language skills in all children.

Outside the classroom, the Creative Preschool is overseen by a board of directors composed solely of parent volunteers with children enrolled at the school. Whether it's through board membership, committee involvement, or ongoing classroom participation, parents and caregivers are integrated into the Creative Preschool experience at every level.

"The teachers are caring, educated, knowledgeable people who truly like to be around kids. The staff's extensive knowledge of early childhood development put our minds at ease and helped get our child headed in the right direction. And parent-volunteer days allowed us to see our son in "action".

Liz Derrick and Walter Jova, Creative Preschool parents

"Creative Preschool offers more than just childcare: it provides the kind of emotional, social and academic development that can only come from forward-thinking and skilled educators. The school's progressive philosophy nurtures creative, thoughtful, and socially capable children, and it also provides the kind of encouragement that makes parenting more joyful."

Liza Finlay, mother of two "Creative" kids

"CPS was not billed as a special-needs school, but it was clear they were committed to integrating children with varying abilities. This meant my child could be part of a normal preschool environment while still benefiting from the expertise of teachers who were able to meet my child's developmental needs."

Name withheld to protect the child's privacy



Intergenerational Outreach

The Creative Preschool runs one of Ontario's most well-respected outreach programs. Through daily activities at Bridgepoint Health, children have learned to embrace differences in age and ability and give the patients a positive experience that transcends health concerns.

"Our patients had positive interactions with children from the community, and shared their life experiences. It gave them a sense of purpose. And the children gained empathy and acceptance of people with disabilities and the elderly that they will use throughout their lifetimes."

Laurie Laxer, Professional Practice Leader, Recreation Therapy, Bridgepoint Health



You are the missing piece:
help us raise \$150,000 by January, 2008.

