

**9th Annual Child Care Worker
& Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day
October 21, 2009**

What Your Community Can Do

The **Week of the Child** will be celebrated in communities across Canada from October 19 - 23, 2009. As a complement to this exciting week of events, we will be setting aside October 21, 2009 to celebrate **Child Care Worker & Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day**.

Trained and knowledgeable child care staff is the most important element in quality child care. Studies show that child care providers play a key role in shaping children's social, physical, emotional and cognitive development.

This is a great opportunity for local Governments to recognize and show their appreciation by taking the lead in organizing Child Care Worker & Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day.

To help you make the Day visible in your community here are some ways you can participate and examples from local Government sponsored events in previous years:

- ★ Support the resolution declaring October 21 Child Care Worker & Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day.
- ★ Visit a child care centre and meet all the important people working hard to provide quality child care and early learning environments, and let them know how important they are in making child care work!
- ★ Distribute buttons and posters – call or e-mail us for your **FREE** materials or fax using the enclosed order form.

Examples of past local government celebrations:

- ★ Bought carnations for staff working in child care centres.
- ★ Hosted an appreciation dinner including a motivational guest speaker and also sponsored a full day workshop – all at no cost to front line staff.
- ★ Distributed buttons and posters to all child care centres and treated Child Care Workers and ECE staff to a healthy breakfast. Also displayed posters and promoted Child Care Worker and ECE Appreciation Day at centres during the Week of the Child.
- ★ Had each centre nominate one educator/child care worker to be added to a list of names that were read by the Mayor, along with the resolution.
- ★ Recognized each early childhood educator and child care worker with a long stemmed rose and a chocolate thank you bar. CMSM donated some funding and each individual program chipped in as well.

This is just a short list of activities - there are many things you can do to recognize and celebrate the valuable role child care workers play in the lives of children, families and communities. Please contact the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care (416-538-0628 x2/toll-free 1-800-594-7514 x2, or email at andrea@childcareontario.org) for further information, posters, buttons and certificates of appreciation.