

Our Community Speaks to Us

Newest Big Brothers Big Sisters Program

SUMMER DISCOVERY

Providing English As A Second Language Support to Children

This program provides educational and recreational support free of charge to children and youth within their neighbourhoods. **This year we were pleased to add a new location in Cambridge.** Along with the Kitchener location, the program focused on assisting newcomers to Canada with their oral and written English language skills. In order to effectively reach the newcomer community, we created a partnership with Settlement and Education Partnership in Waterloo Region. The SEPWR worker helped identify children who would benefit from the program. She greeted and assisted in the registration of children and parents each morning, helping us connect with each of the families in a more personal way. The program was such a huge success that we had to turn children away. We are committed and determined to support the children in our community who need our help. With additional financial support we will continue to provide and expand this vitally important program.



Comments from the parents



"Camp instructors and staff give him (my son) a very good impression and encourage him to be a more active, more capable, more happy boy who can bring happiness to others. This is a very good camp/program which has many advantages. First the organizer showed great passion to both me and my son, which made us feel very comfortable; second, the instructors are very excellent instructors who can inspire my son's interest and passion in the activities; last but not the least, this program is like a cushion which not only teach children who are newcomers or second language speakers some skills and knowledge but build their confidence to communicate with others, who speak English more smoothly, though their English should be improved continuously. After all, thank you very much! Hope this program be held next year and many more other children who are new comers can take part in it and enjoy it."

"I would like to emphasize that this program is excellent because it let my children improve English language. Furthermore, my kids have learned a lot from other children who come from different culture. Bearing in mind that Canadian people are comprised of people who have different backgrounds."

"This program has been really beneficial for my 6 year old son. He is more social, he is always coming up with new ideas and thoughts, all of which are really encouraging."

"We want this type of program - must be every six month. Its very helpful for our child to know about the different types of games, activities and events. Different type of culture knowledge."

"My kids was happy there and the staff so friendly and help the kids with new skills. I hope we can send my kids again next year."

Comments from parents came to us verbally, in writing and with the help of the SEPWR Worker.



Words from our Staff

There was a great deal of positive feedback received from families involved, who noted that this was a desirable program as there aren't many resources specifically for this demographic. Offering the program free of charge also made it possible to serve those who could truly benefit. The program also provided an opportunity for children to get accustomed to life in Canada and learn about Canadian culture. Through our partnership with Settlement and Education Partnership in Waterloo Region (SEPWR), we were able to build relationships with families in the community that otherwise would not have been able to access summer programming for their children.

Summer Discovery has been a true opportunity for growth for the children involved. It was a joy to see the children full of pride developing their literacy skills and having fun in the process. Summer Discovery also helps children be themselves and have a chance to let their own personality shine through.

The success of the program this year indicates that the need is present in our community and once the word gets out about this opportunity, there will be a waitlist for this program.

Kristen Boyd

BBBSWR Caseworker, Cambridge Summer Discover

Summer Discovery Song

(Chorus)
I'm at Summer Discovery
And it's really fun for me.
Learning English is easy when
I get to learn it with my friends



(Verse 1)
Running, Jumping, Playing Games
And learning everybody's names
Singing, Dancing, Making Crafts
This summer's going to be a lot of laughs

(Verse 2)
A B C D E F G
H I J K L M N O P
Q R S T U V
W X Y and Z



(Bridge)
Let everyone sing with me!



The Provinces and Territories of Canada Song

The Provinces of Canada are fun to remember
Fun to remember, Fun to remember
The Provinces of Canada are fun to remember
So sing them with me

Newfoundland and P.E.I
Nova Scotia and New Brunswick
Quebec, Ontario, from there you'll see
Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, B.C.



The Territories of Canada are fun to remember
Fun to remember, Fun to remember
The Territories of Canada are fun to remember
So sing them with me

Nunavut, N.W.T
That stands for North West Territories
Yukon's the last no more to see
The Provinces are ten and the Territories three



One of the best parts of the Summer Discovery program is that it brings together families who are new to Canada. For the children, it is a place where their experiences as immigrants are normalized. Rather than being the one student in a class who is new to Canada and new to the English language, all the children in the Summer Discovery program are new both to Canada and to the English language. This program provides a place to belong for these kids who may at times feel like outsiders in a culture they do not understand. Parents also have the opportunity to connect with others in similar situations while waiting to pick up their children.

We would often hear parents sharing information with one another about free programs at the library or making plans to take their children to play at the splash park together afterward.

We were thrilled with the amount of interest in the Summer Discovery program this year and look forward to being able to provide this opportunity to even more children next year!

Lindsey Brubacher

BBBSWR Caseworker, Kitchener Summer Discover