



***The Millgrove Children's Centre  
Little Angels' Infant and Toddler Centre &  
The Millgrove Majors Children's Centre***

***A Licensed Child Care Operation, Community Partner of Millgrove School  
and  
Our BEST FUTURE!***



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Respectfully Submitted to:

The West Flamborough Accommodation Review Committee Working Group

Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013

*By: Wendy L. Teed*



- Immense Wood-chipped Domains
- A Hard Surface area for Wheeled, Self-propelled Vehicles (The MCC & The MM)
- A Large Deck Area (LA & The MM)
- Coniferous & Deciduous Trees, Bushes and Garden Areas
- "The Enchanted Forest" (The MM)
- A Huge, Barn-style Shed filled with Age-Appropriate, Outdoor Toys and Equipment.

### **The Programming**

*Guided by its Philosophy, The MCC/LA/MM Programmes focus on the Family Unit and the Preservation of the Environment. Programmes are varied and flexible but founded on routines, fostering a very fundamental sense of safety and security in the Children.*

*A fun-filled day at The MCC/LA/MM includes a wholesome and creative nutritional component, accompanied by a comprehensive programme of indoor/outdoor, structured/unstructured, active/quiet and individual/group activities to nurture the development of each Child.*

*Weekly Programming at The MCC/LA/MM is based on a Theme and consists of a balance between: structured and free-play activities; circle, story and quiet booktimes; creative and sensory experiences (including playdough, sand and water play); dramatic play; age-appropriate puzzles, toys and games; creative movement, dance and other musical activities; and cooking & science experiences.*

*The MCC/LA/MM Programmes are a priority and as such are reviewed on a continual basis to reflect changes in the Child population, as well as applicable Legislation and optimal Early Childhood Education Ideology.*

### **The Programme and The Family**

*A Family-oriented approach is fostered at The MCC/LA/MM. Daily verbal contact between Parents and Staff is executed with Parents of Infants & Toddlers also receiving a Written Report of their Child's day.*

*A "GLOBALNEWSletter" is produced on a regular basis by the Director in consultation with the Team to provide MCC/LA/MM Families with information regarding upcoming events, Day Care issues and other topics of interest with Family suggestions ALWAYS welcomed.*

*Each Site has a "Family Tree Resource Centre" (Parent board), conveniently located near the Day Care Entrance which displays: photographs; flyers regarding upcoming events; the current Menu Plan, Newsletter and Monthly Calendar; as well as other current literature on topics of interest to Families.*

*Parental Feedback is encouraged at all times. "Envision" (a Suggestion Box) is available near each Day Care Centre's entrance. Additionally, MCC/LA/MM Moms & Dads are always aware that they may contact the Director at any time, leaving a detailed voice mail which will be responded to as soon as possible. Moreover, Front-line Staff, the Site Supervisor and the Director are available to meet privately at a scheduled, mutually convenient time for any issues that may arise which necessitate further discussion. When specific strategies are to be implemented for an individual Child, a Team approach is followed with all Members advised of the plan, as well as its rationale. The latter approach is ideal in expediting the optimal resolution in most situations.*

*Excellent Communication between Parents and Staff  
within each Site Team and Globally  
is the KEY to Successful Child Care for all MCC/LA/MM Families.*

## *The Family Tree*

*The Family Tree illustrates the familial and environmental focus of The MCC/LA/MM. Its centrepoint is an immense and flourishing Deciduous tree, surrounded by the Children of The MCC/LA/MM, their Parents, Siblings, Grandparents and other Family Members, their Teachers, Friends and Neighbours... All who play an integral role in the life of a Child. The Family Tree also embraces the Families, Friends and Neighbours of The MCC/LA/MM Staff and those cardinal to their life experience.*

*The MCC/LA/MM Family Tree is the heart of the Centres' vision.*

*Everyone working together toward a common goal...*

*Happy Children, Delighted Parents and Exceedingly Satisfied Families!*





## ***The Days and Hours of Operation***

*The MCC/LA/MM Programmes operate five days per week, Monday through Friday, 52 weeks per year with only Statutory Holidays and the Civic Holiday excepted. When Millgrove School is closed for PA Days, Board Holidays and School Breaks (Holiday Season, March and the Summer months), The MCC/LA/MM offers "seamless" Service to its Families. Children who attend other Programmes from as far as Ancaster and Stoney Creek often return at some point throughout the Calendar Year on such dates to partake in our activities and rejoin their previous MCC/LA/MM Friends and Teachers. Children & Parents alike consider The MCC/LA/MM their "Home away from Home!"*

*Further, all MCC/LA/MM Families are aware that they can call The MM at any time of day or night, including weekends and they will receive a response a.s.a.p. from the Director with respect to their voice mail. This Service is noteworthy in Licensed, Centre-based Child Care and allows all MCC/LA/MM Day Care Families the knowledge and peace of mind that should their circumstances change off-hours, their Child Care is reachable and will do everything within its power to accommodate their atypical, often "last-minute" requests.*

## ***Programme Options***

*The MCC/LA/MM offers both Full and Part-time Care for all age-groups, including Infants. With the Introduction of Full Day Learning at Millgrove School, The MCC/LA/MM has reintroduced its Nursery School Programmes which include "The Petite Preschool" and "The Super Preschool" for 2, 3 or 5 days per week. These Special Programmes help to prepare Children who otherwise would not necessarily be accessing a Day Care Environment for their upcoming, Full-Time JK year. Hence, "setting the stage" for their success, as they enter the present School System.*

*JK/SK and School-age Options complement each and every Academic Day with Before and After-School Programmes and provide further alternatives throughout the entire School Year, as indicated above.*

## ***The Team of The MCC/LA/MM***

*The Staffing Complement at The MCC/LA/MM is exemplary. The Team includes those with University and/or College Training, Apprentices and those with no formal Academic Training, having been fully trained by the Director and Registered Early Childhood Educators. The KEY to an Exceptional Child Caregiver is a LOVE of CHILDREN first and foremost, accompanied by an "open mind," good judgement, resourcefulness, perception, insight, flexibility and a willingness to be an excellent Team-player at all times "in the best interest" of each and every Child and Family that one is privileged to serve.*

*Enhancing our Staffing Complement, The MCC/LA/MM has the additional privilege of assisting in the Practical Training of upcoming Professional Early Childhood Educators and others who have an innate affinity for Children. The MCC/LA/MM provides Placement Experiences for High School Co-op Students, ECE Apprentices and Full Time Students engaging in the study of Early Childhood Education at the College level. Although our usual "Placement" Students attend Mohawk College, The MCC/LA/MM also affords this option to Sheridan and Conestoga College E.C.E. Students.*

*Moreover, for many years, The MCC/LA/MM has received Federal Funding through the appropriate "Canada Summer Jobs" Application process to further complement its Staffing and provide added, varied experiences for the Day Care Children under our Care throughout the Summer months.*

*As our present Licensed Child Care System allows for Commercial Operators with no Academic Training in the Day Care Field, it is important to highlight the Background, both Academic and Experiential of the Owner/Operator and Director of The MCC/LA/MM who is the Author of the present Submission.*

*My name is Wendy Teed. I graduated in 1981 from the University of Guelph with a Bachelor of Applied Science, majoring in Child Studies and minoring in Psychology. A few years later, I completed a Post-Diploma Certificate at George Brown College of Applied Arts and Technology in "Human Services Management." I continue to keep myself current by regularly attending Workshops and Conferences, in addition to taking an active role in Meetings with respect to the Field of Early Childhood Education and the plans for its future, especially within the Hamilton-Wentworth Region.*

*Throughout my extensive Career working with Children and their Families, I have experienced a variety of Day Care Centres (Commercial, Municipally-operated and those deemed "Non-profit") with Children of all ages and have supervised Providers in the Private Home Day Care Branch of a Licensed Day Care Agency. Employed by a Regional Health Unit, I have functioned in the capacity of Infant Development Consultant, solely operating an Infant Stimulation Programme in two Counties and have also worked with young Mothers in an Infant Centre. I have been employed by both the Provincial and Municipal levels of Government and at the latter, assessed Client Eligibility for Day Care Subsidy.*

*Prior to moving to Flamborough in 1995, I taught Parent & Tot Classes for the Parks and Recreation Departments of two cities in Metropolitan Toronto. In March of 1996, I opened an Unlicensed, Private Home Day Care in our Home in Millgrove and with the support of many Families (including my own!), Bank loans, "blood, sweat and tears," the former has flourished, blossoming into 3, Licensed Child Care Centres now fondly referred to by many as The MCC/LA/MM.*

*My Husband, "Lionel" & I both Volunteer extensively not only for our local and surrounding Communities (for examples, Millgrove School Council & The Millgrove Parks and Recreation Committee) but also have been very active in Regional Organisations such as The World Renowned "Hamilton Children's Choir."*

*With my loving Family by my side, I look forward to continuing to serve the Children, Families and Staff of The MCC/LA/MM and together this Exceptional, Unique, Licensed, Centre-based Child Care Operation and Community Partner of Millgrove School will forever evolve, reflecting the ever-changing needs and desires of this Wonderful, Intimate, Rural Community.*

***Why is The MCC/LA/MM Licensed, Centre-Based Child Care Operation Unique and a Tremendous Community Partner of Millgrove School? Why can no other Day Care Operation "directly replace" the Services that The MCC/LA/mm has to offer its Children and their Families?***

*The MCC/LA/MM is a Commercial, Day Care Operation Owned/Operated and under the Directorship of Wendy Teed who has extensive Academic Training and Experience in the Child Care Field, accompanied by a Love and Passion for Children and their Families that is unparalleled.*

*The MCC/LA/MM Director has daily ties to Millgrove School via Walking Escorts both to and from School each and every day, Monday through Friday but also by functioning in the Role of Community Representative on the Millgrove School Council, as well as being a Member of The Millgrove Community Cares Committee.*

*The MCC/LA/MM offers Part-time and Full-time Licensed, Centre-based Day Care Services to Children and their Families from 0 - 12 years of age, Monday through Friday from 7:00 am - 6:00 pm, 52 weeks per year with only Statutory Holidays and the Civic Holiday excepted.*

*The MCC/LA/MM provides Parents with "Peace of mind" in ever-changing circumstances by making itself available to access by Telephone 24 hours, 7 days per week.*

*The MCC/LA/MM boasts a Team of Staff who possesses varying levels of Academic Training in this and other Fields but who all share the common bond of unconditional love for Children and wanting to contribute to the future of this world by "touching" the lives of many Children within Millgrove and its surrounding Communities, feeling privileged for being given the opportunity to do so.*

*The MCC/LA/MM adopts and fully implements a Family-oriented Philosophy, providing not only Superior, Licensed, Centre-based Child Care but additionally and very importantly, Individual Family Care. Each and every Child & Family is served on a distinctive basis. Particular Familial requests made directly or indirectly are fulfilled on a daily basis and cover an unlimited range of specific, identified needs.*

*With respect to Millgrove School, some examples as per above are:*

*When an MCC/LA/MM Child finds him/herself in need of a change of clothing while at School, the latter is often provided immediately.*

*A left-behind backpack, snowpants and/or mittens are only a minute's walk away and readily transported by Day Care Staff to the School when required.*

*"Pizza money" unexpectedly forgotten by a Parent is provided to the Child, in order to meet the School deadline.*

*Regarding Distinctive and Exemplary, Licensed Centre-based Child Care, some examples are:*

*Piano Lessons and Tutoring are at times, On-site options for Parents who wish to access these Services for their Children.*

*Tours of our Beautiful Facilities are provided "off-hours" to meet the needs of each and every Family.*

*Loved "Stuffies" that are discovered at Home to have been left at Day Care are returned to their rightful Owners during Evening Hours in order to ensure a peaceful night's sleep for the appropriate Child and his/her Parent!*

*Immediate revisions to Day Care Schedules are implemented to individual Families in unexpected circumstances, outside of set Policies and Procedures.*

*Special Fee Payment Plans are provided to certain Families who find themselves in need of such accommodations.*

*The MCC/LA/MM has been described by one Day Care Mom as "a little piece of Utopia for Children and their Families." The latter is something that is not easily and quite possibly not able to be duplicated by any other Licensed Child Care Operation.*

***What has been taking place in the Millgrove Community  
with respect to the Partnership of its School and Licensed, Centre-based Child Care  
for the past 13 years is nothing short of Beautiful  
for the Children, Families and Staff  
that are an integral part of this Outstanding Day Care Family.***



As another MCC/LA/MM Day Care Parent so aptly puts it:

**"This kind of integrated approach to Childcare, School and Community is a model that any town or school board should hold up as a beacon of light." Further, "Millgrove is an example to the entire board as to how things could be better for families if partnerships were made and communities came together to raise children."**

Attached are many Correspondence written in the days following the last Public Meeting which took place at Dr. J. Seaton Elementary School last Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013, and at the busiest time of year, especially for Working Families to emphasize the Exemplary, Licensed, Centre-based Child Care that exists within Millgrove and importantly, as a Community Partner of Millgrove School.

I would like to take this opportunity to request that you please take into serious consideration all of the above and attached when making your Recommendations from The West Flamborough ARC Working Group to The Trustees of The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board and allow Millgrove School and the "Seamless" Day Care Service that has encircled it for a multitude of Children and their Families to continue to do so and flourish for many years to come.

The Millgrove Children's Centre, Little Angels' Infant and Toddler Centre & The Millgrove Majors Children's Centre as a Licensed Child Care Operation and Community Partner of Millgrove School IS Our Best Future.

With deep respect to all of you for the time that you have given to and effort that you have shown so unselfishly for the West Flamborough Community,

Most sincerely,

  
Wendy L. Teed

December 8, 2013

To the ARC Working Group – West Flamborough Review Area

As a resident of East Flamborough, with a Millgrove mailing address, I had considered myself more a member of the Waterdown community from 2006 when my husband and I moved here until 2010 when we began our search for Daycare for our first child. Then something very unexpected happened, we typed in our postal code to search out all possible daycares in the area and thus began our love affair with Millgrove.

The minute we stepped through the doors of the Little Angels at Millgrove Children's Centre we knew something was very different. The amazing people, amazing program and amazing community in Millgrove have been the equivalent of finding the Holy Grail of work-life balance and the Ultimate childcare solution.

Millgrove Children's Centre has taken our family from Infant to Toddler to Preschool to School Age all in one place, with the same staff, same facilities, with unwavering love, support and consistency for our now two children. This kind of integrated approach to Childcare, School and Community is a model that any town or school board should hold up as a beacon of light.

The Globe and Mail this fall did a series on Childcare in Canada, exploring where the system fails working families and children and what lessons we should learn from other Countries around the world. I read this series daily, all the while knowing with a warm heart that Millgrove could teach the country a thing or two about how to do it right.

Any step in a direction to close Millgrove School, or uncouple the relationship Millgrove School has with the Millgrove Children's Centre, would be a crying shame. Millgrove is an example to the entire board as to how things could be better for families if partnerships were made and communities came together to raise children.

Any belief that another daycare provider could come to Millgrove and offer an equal Childcare solution to families would be seriously false. Any belief that the children of Millgrove could be better or equally served at a distant school would also be false.

Take a moment to notice and respect what a Community has built in this little town, and learn from it, don't tear it apart.

Kate Puri  
Millgrove, Ontario  
(905)689-7670

December 9 2013

To whom it may concern,

We have been going to Millgrove Children Centre for over 10 years. Our oldest son is 13 and attends Spencer Valley our youngest is 8 and attends Millgrove public school

The first time we called the Centre to find out if it would be a good fit for our family, as our eldest son has special needs, the owner Wendy Teed, went above and beyond any other child care centre. When we went to the centre for the first time Wendy had printed out information for us on different resources in the Hamilton area that would be helpful to us. She told us we could keep the information even if we decided that another day care centre would be a better fit.

Millgrove Children Centre has always been a great help to us. Wendy has always made the centre available to us and has arranged her and the staff's schedule around our eldest son so that they can get him on the bus in the mornings. When he was younger she took the time very morning when walking him to Millgrove school to make sure that a teacher was aware that he was now on the playground and the responsibility of the school.

Wendy has worked with our family to have her vacation when we have our vacation so that she can be there to deal with our eldest son (as he can be quite the handful at times).

When we were having difficulty securing a spot on the bus for our son to go to Middle school Wendy helped to make it a reality for us .

Our family is from Waterdown and we are out of Catchment for both Millgrove School and Spencer Valley. We choose to send our kids to these schools because of how great the schools are and how fantastic the day care is.

We could not be more pleased with all the support and help we have received over the years from Millgrove Children Centre. The Millgrove Children Centre fills a need in the community for before and after school care that can not be replicated.

Sincerely,

The Ponsford Family

December 5 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

The decision to put your children in the care of someone else is a difficult one. As a parent no one else is as qualified to look after your children as you. Thankfully for working Moms and Dads, Wendy and Lionel and their amazing staff are the absolute next best thing!

My children have been a part of all age groups at Millgrove Children's Centre. My son initially started at Little Angels and my daughter at Millgrove Children's Centre. The care that the children receive in all areas at MCC is exemplarily. The teachers are amazing, the dedication and time and energy put in to plan the daily activities is phenomenal and the most incredible part is the passion and love the teachers show for all of the kids. They treat them all as individuals and encourage them to grow and be the best they can be. The staff continuously go above and beyond the daily requirements planning walks to library, Christmas concerts, movie and pajama days, the list is endless.

I have been continuously impressed with the warmth and thoughtfulness of the teachers - from seeing all of the photos of the kids around the room to receiving the wonderful, handmade gifts on mother's day and Christmas. It still amazes me to see all of the kids sitting, listening so intently at circle time or lined up eating their snacks. The teachers have a wonderful and somewhat magical way to provide structure with love and affection.

My children love Wendy and Lionel, and the entire staff at MCC, every morning when I drop them off I leave with a sense of peace, knowing that I don't have to worry, because honestly Millgrove Children's Centre isn't your average daycare, its not even a day care in my eyes anymore... it truly is a second home.

There is absolutely no way Umbrella Family or any other childcare provider could come close to providing the services MCC families currently receive. Wendy



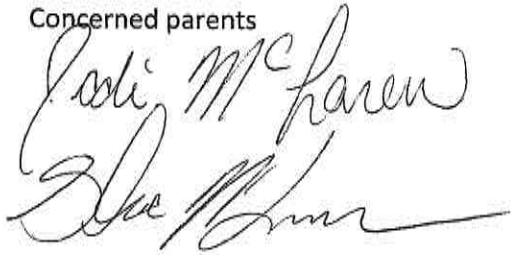
December 8, 2013

To whom it may concern:

We would like to write a few words on behalf of Wendy and Lionel Teed and the staff at Millgrove Children's Centre Daycare. I attended the ARC meeting on Wednesday December 4, 2013. I left feeling very disappointed in the views regarding after school child care. Our two(2) children have attended the Millgrove Children's Centre for the past eight(8) years. In that time we decided to switch daycare centres due to cost. It only took us a short time to realize that all daycare centres are NOT the same. We called Wendy and asked her if we could come back, to which she greeted us with open arms and with no resentment of us leaving. We realized that the level of care and commitment that Wendy and her staff provide goes above and beyond anyone's expectations. They make us and our children feel as though we are part of the family and not just another "number".

We just feel very strongly about our daycare and would like everyone to realize that all daycares are NOT the same. The thought that our children can just be uprooted and placed somewhere else is not acceptable. Thank you for taking the time to read our letter.

Concerned parents

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature is 'Jodi McLaren' and the bottom signature is 'Shane McLaren'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shane and Jodi McLaren

December 10, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

What can be said about Millgrove Children's Center? So many wonderful things can be said; too many to fit in this short letter.

During my pregnancy, my husband and I did extension research into local day care providers to find the best one to care for our first bundle of joy. It's a big decision; to entrust strangers to love and care for your child when the fearful end of maternity leave arrives. When we first met Wendy and her amazing staff, we knew immediately that she and her center were the best fit for our family. We wanted so much to find a licensed care provider that had a home/family atmosphere. So many care providers have a some-what corporate/business feel. At Little Angels (the infant/toddler home), it feels welcoming, cozy, friendly and caring. The staff clearly enjoys what they do and they genuinely care for the children. As new parents, we felt confident and sure to trust them with our most precious daughter.

One of the best things about this center is the management, most notably Wendy. As the owner of the Center, it is clear her passion is the children and their families, aside from the business. She is very actively involved in the daily activities and she takes the time to know each of the children and to spend the time to instill confidence in the parents that she really does care for the children. That is a huge relief for parents. Wendy is a remarkable person and her staff is wonderful. They make the daycare a truly amazing place for children to spend their days. Unlike an institutional daycare setting, Wendy approaches families as individuals. Certainly, she has policies and procedures to ensure the safety of the children and to manage her business, but she understands that each family has unique situations. She is flexible, understanding and empathetic. Our family has directly benefited from her flexibility and we are so grateful to her.

Our daughter is just about to graduate from the baby room into the toddler room. She loves going to daycare and she is happy and thriving there. My husband and I are thrilled to be part of a center that grows with our child. Once she moves from toddlerhood to preschool, Wendy and her amazing team will be there to offer child care services. And when our daughter takes that big step to kindergarten at Millgrove Public School, she will feel extra security having Wendy and her incredible team to care for her before and after school. The relationship between the center and the school adds extra comfort to families. We feel incredibly lucky to be a part of the Millgrove Children's Center family. It is really a unique environment for children and it offers amazing programming and services to children from infancy and throughout their childhood years.

We hope that community members will cherish and fight for a child care provider that really does care.

Peter and Teri Lantagne

Sarah Riddell  
824 Mohawk Rd West  
Hamilton Ontario L9C 1X9  
(905) 320-2600

December 9 2013

Dear Sir and Madam

I would like to introduce myself, my name is Sarah Riddell. I have a 5 year old son named Camren Simon. Currently he is enrolled in SK out-of-catchment with Millgrove Elementary School within the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board. Camren Simon has been attending the daycare "Millgrove Children Center" for the past 4 years of his life. Camren's father (Collin Simon) and I have been separated since Camren was 1.5 years old. We have joint custody; Camren spends half the week with both Collin and half the week with myself. We reside on the Hamilton Mountain, and Collin Simon resides in Waterdown Ontario.

We were introduced to the Millgrove Children Center when I was returning to work after maternity leave. Once I meet with the staff of Millgrove Children Center, I fell in love. It's hard for a parent to give their one year old child over full time days to any day care. We knew once Camren was of school-age Millgrove School would be a perfect fit for him. Wendy walks him over to school in the morning, and picks him up afterschool. Camren has made many friends within Millgrove School and the Daycare. It has been a seamless transition for Camren. Which having parents separated, means the world to us.

Regarding the future Collin and I were planning on keeping Camren attending Millgrove School and the Millgrove Children Center until the end of grade 5. Yes; both our current living arrangements are not permanent, but it has been a verbal agreement that it was in the best interest for Camren to keep in the same school, also; less arguing within the family.

I have heard of some recent talks that the board is thinking of closing Millgrove Elementary School. I do not know the ins and outs of the recent talks but this does upset our family deeply. When you walk through the front doors of Millgrove Elementary School you instantly feel welcomed. Mr Cameron, the new principle, he met me once and from then, he knew who I was, knows who my child is, and makes sure to say hi every time. All the staff at Millgrove School know all the children by name, it's a small community school where the children are cared for and known; they are not just known as a number like in a larger school. Mr Popek and Mrs Davis are Camren's current teachers. They are aware of the separation of Camren's parents and the recent new changes within Camren's home life and they let me know if any new changes arise with Camren. Along with the high thoughts of Millgrove School the Millgrove Children Center is just an added bonus. Like I said earlier, Millgrove Children Center is how our family was introduced into the Millgrove Community. Four years ago, when I was on my hunt for daycares, I interviewed many daycares, in home and centers, none of them came close to comparing to Millgrove Children Center. Wendy Teed, the owner of the center works hand and hand with all the staff to make Millgrove Children Center the best Center around. She looks and treats all the children just like her own. I feel content and I know my child is safe when he is with any staff at Millgrove Children

December 9, 2013.

To whom it may concern:

Our children have attended Little Angels and Millgrove Children's Centre for the past 4 ½ years. My son is currently attending Senior Kindergarten at Millgrove School. Our decision to attend Millgrove School was based solely on the continued care that he would be receiving from the wonderful staff at Millgrove Children's Centre.

Our children have both attended Little Angels/Millgrove Children's Centre since I returned to work after my maternity leaves. As parents, it was our utmost priority to have our children cared for in a warm, nurturing, supportive and friendly environment. Little Angel's and Millgrove Children's Centre provided this calibre of childcare.

It is essential that we have optimal care for our children when they cannot be with us, a place where we, as parents, feel safe and confident leaving the most special people in our lives. Having this high standard of care available for both my children in Millgrove has made us decide as a family, not to attend the school in our catchment area, but rather, continue having them cared and nurtured by the staff at Little Angels and Millgrove Children's Centre and attend Millgrove School.



Sarah and Michael DeLong



Tuesday December 10, 2013

I am writing to inform you about my experiences with the Millgrove Children's Centre. My children (age 5 and 7) have been attending the MCC either full time or before school for the past 5 years. The MCC is not "just a daycare" but a family.

I was always worried about putting them into a daycare centre instead of a home daycare but I soon found out that the MCC is the best of both worlds. My children get exceptional programming, fantastic ECE teaching staff, a large peer group in which to interact daily and the convenience of a 7am – 6pm operating time. On top of that, they get the small family feel of teachers that genuinely care for their growth and well-being, a place that they feel safe and accepted and the Teed family that treat all children as if they were their own. Whether it is in Walmart or in the parking lot, Wendy and Lionel know each child by name and speak to them. It is obvious the passion that both Wendy and Lionel and all of their staff bring to this operation. I have never been worried that my children were not being well taken care of and if anything my children are upset if I pick them up too early because they may miss an important activity or craft.

As a teacher, educational programming is very important, as I am well aware of the benefits of early learning in children. Both of my children were taught many skills prior to attending JK. Whether it was Jolly Phonics, writing their name or the routine of sitting in circle, my children experienced more success in school because of the preparation they received through the MCC. From my experiences, Wendy and the staff foster a true love of learning within each child and go the extra mile to teach them valuable life skills.

The Teed family and the staff create a sense of community by holding a Christmas concert every year. This gives the children a chance to perform with their daycare friends and they always put on quite a show. I also am the recipient of many creative crafts that allow my children to express their thoughts and feelings. These are always well thought out by staff and follow a central theme. There is excitement in their voice as my children tell me "Hey Mom, look in my folder to see what I did!" Each year at Christmas, Wendy and the staff run a dollar store where the children get to purchase a gift for each parent. This gift is then wrapped by the child and sent home for opening on Christmas morning. It is such a small gesture that they take time to do this every year but it means so much to my children and many others. The chance to give a parent a gift that "they bought" and that is a surprise is priceless.

Lastly, I feel that the Millgrove Children's Centre is truly a family where the Teed family, the staff and parents work together in the best interest of all the children. My children are happy and healthy because they have significant adults in their life through the daycare that speak words of encouragement and show genuine care in their lives. I will always be truly grateful for the work of Wendy, Lionel and all the staff at the Millgrove Children's Centre.

Sincerely,  
Amy Eterno

December 2013

Making the difference.

We have expectations of care when it comes to our children, we want those we love to be happy, safe, and be in an environment that allows the cultivation of good values and development. There is a massive difference between those who are obligated to perform a service and those who are passionate and sincere in giving care. Millgrove Childrens Centre makes our daughter smile every day, she actually wants to go to daycare after school to see Wendy, Amanda, and have fun with her friends there. It was surprising at first when she would say new things or display new skills that when I asked "did you learn that at school?" she often responds with "no, at daycare". Now that we are familiar the centre it's no surprise at all. They truly care about our daughter and that allows us to comfortably work and go about our lives knowing our daughter is not only safe but happy. As a parent that's a critical difference.

We have experienced other daycares before being at Millgrove Children's Centre, the care, communication, and generosity was simply not the same. We as parents sincerely hope that the Millgrove School and daycare remain open. It would be a huge loss to the community and its next generation of contributors if we were denied that local benefit. It was a contributing factor to choosing our location to live. We don't want our daughter crossing highway 6 on a school bus and value her engagement in a small community atmosphere. There is a difference.

Thank-you,

Please feel free to contact me anytime,

Derek Moorse  
32 Weneil Dr. Freelton  
519-502-9669



VP – Cambridge Elevating  
[dmoorse@cambridgeelevating.com](mailto:dmoorse@cambridgeelevating.com)  
1-800-265-3579 x 23



## Emma Breitner

9 December, 2013

Dear Wendy & Lionel,

As you know our story is unique but not uncommon. My husband Steve and I are main caregivers for our grand daughter Emma. Parental grand parents, for the Mom and Dad in this little girls life are too young and unfocussed to look after her properly.

Every time we pull up to Little Angels to go to "school" Emma says she is at her other home. We have found the stability, routine, fun, and learning all a great asset to Emma. At 28 months old, she knows how to count to twenty, recites her alphabet, sings cute songs and is overall very confident in her abilities.

We have gone to other daycares and have not been happy with the overall feel, business rather than family. Meals that I would not want to eat, and staff that was not happy to be there.

We choose Millgrove children's centre for we knew Emma could grow with them, all the way to school age. No matter what direction she is pulled in with her young parents. It saddens me that Millgrove School is on the chopping block.

Sincerely yours,

Karen Breitner

Wendy and Lionel

Millgrove Children's Center is more than a "DAYCARE" to me and my family. They are my extended family and I love each and every one of the staff. They have brought stability to me and my kids (Rebecca and Jayden) there are nights my children don't even want to come home because they feel so at home and loved.

The kids actually love getting out of bed every morning to attend school. Because every day is a new adventure with magic shows, mad science and so many fun learning tools. What "Daycare" helps your child get ready for JK? Because of their exceptional work my son he was able to move into JK without any issues.

Jayden is now in grade 1 and is having some trouble keeping up with the reading level. Wendy has stepped in to help me with setting up a tutor and the use of the daycare to make it more comfortable on myself and Jayden. And by doing this Jayden feels at home and is learning so much more with the tools the daycare has provided my family. This truly warms my heart knowing that they want to help me it actually brings tears to my eyes to feel so much compassion.

July 2013 I lost my brother suddenly which tore my heart apart. Wendy and her exceptional staff stepped in to help me with any additional care for my children while I went through this horrible experience. They even attended my brother's funeral again what "DAYCARE" does this??? None only Millgrove because they are more than just staff making a pay chq they are my FAMILY and I would truly be lost without them in my life.

In closing Millgrove Children Center is my FAMILY not my DAYCARE



To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Michelle Raue and I am the mother of a 3 year old boy who has been attending Millgrove Children's Centre for just over a year. As a single parent the choice of where my son attended day care was a very important decision for me. I initially did not want my son to attend day care and tried to have him stay with family members when I went to work, which was not only a huge commitment to ask of my family, after a short time, I learned that this would not work.

The first day care I put my son in was a private home day care, he attended there for about 4 months and he never settled in, he cried every morning that I dropped him off and I didn't feel he was getting a lot of quality care while he attended there. I then put him in Little Angels toddler program, while he was apprehensive at first and did cry the first few times he was dropped off there, he quickly settled in. He, very quickly, began to be excited about day care and he began to grow socially. I have watched my son's development, both socially and verbally, and he is learning so much. His vocabulary has grown immensely, he knows all his colours, he can count and he is developing wonderful manners. Almost daily he brings home work that he has done at day care and he tells me about his day and his friends and teachers, and he loves his day care.

As a working parent, the most important thing to me is that my son is well cared for during the day, and I have never had any doubts or concerns about the care that he receives at Millgrove Children's Centre, the staff has always been open in telling me about any challenges or struggles my son may have faced that day and they have always remained open to anything I have asked be done to help my son. Wendy is a wonderful person, who has always told me that anytime and anything I need to speak with her about, she will make the time. And any time I have come to her about anything, she has. I watch the teachers and Wendy with the children and with my son and I can see that they truly care for the children that they spend every day with.

My son and I currently live in Dundas, and do hope to move to Flamborough in the future, I do hope that my son will be able to attend Millgrove Public School out of catchment, not only do I like the idea of him attending a smaller school, but I do want him to remain at Millgrove Children's Centre. Most of the children he attends day care with on a daily basis are the same children he has known for over a year now and these are his friends, I would hate to have to see my son be separated from the friends and teachers that he loves and is comfortable with.

I hope I have been able to clearly express and explain the concerns that I, as a parent, have for my son.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Raue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Michelle Raue

## Wendy Teed

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**From:** Jessica Morris [jessmorris76@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** December-08-13 9:28 PM  
**To:** Wendy Teed  
**Subject:**

*"As a single parent of two boys, one attending Millgrove Public School, and both involved at the Millgrove Childrens Centre, I wanted to show support for our "extended family". Millgrove is a unique community of structured learning at the school, and stimulating activities at the centre, which have surpassed any of my preconceived expectations of child care and learning.*

*Working full-time and being a parent can get quite stressful at times, but knowing that I have the support of the Millgrove Childrens Centre, allows me to focus when away from my children. Wendy Teed is an exceptional caregiver and business owner, and the work that she and her staff do for the children on a daily basis cannot be measured. I really hope the Millgrove experience will live on for many little ones to come"..... Jessica Morris*

Quality Day Care in the Millgrove/Waterdown Area

Dec, 9/2013

To Whom it May Concern,

I'd like to highlight the quality care and support our family receives from Millgrove Children's Centre on a daily basis. As a parent you should make an informed and well researched decision on where you want to place your child for daycare. As a working parent, this is a decision you have to make. You are essentially giving your child to someone for day, with the hopes that the values you keep at home are continued in their place of care.

Millgrove Children's Centre is and has been the best place we could have for child's care. My son thrives in the supportive, caring and educational environment provided by Wendy Teed and her team. Each teacher knows my child and respects my child. I know he feels loved and cared for.

It's also important for a parent to be listened to, with concerns and questions. Wendy and her team take time to provide advice and support to parents. As a mother, I truly appreciate this.

A testament to the quality of care, at least for our family, is would you recommend Millgrove Children's Centre to other's? The answer is yes.

Thank you for your time,

Alison Puri, Waterdown Ontario

*A. Puri, Thank you.*

Millgrove Children's Center  
Little Angels Infant and Toddler Center  
374 Concession 5 West  
Millgrove, Ontario  
L0R 1V0

Kyla Bonham & Brian Fulton  
c/o Alexander Fulton  
28 Fifth Avenue  
Cambridge, Ontario  
N1S 2G2

Attn: ARC Working Group

My family began attending Millgrove Children's Center (MCC) in September 2013. Although we have only shared a few months with Wendy, Lionel and the MCC staff; I can say with complete assurance that this not your ordinary day care center. This is where families are shaped and where a community comes together. MCC and Millgrove School are geographically the hub of the Millgrove & Flamborough Community. Closure or interruption to this school or day care center would devastate the area. As Waterdown transitions to a City of Hamilton suburb, Millgrove remains quaint. This small community, minutes away from development, is special and unique in the sense that it reminds me of a time when life was slower and less hectic.

I grew up in rural Hamilton, Mountsberg, where private day care was unheard of. My mother remained at home to raise my sister and I while my father worked as the Staff Sergeant for Halton Region Police Department. During my pregnancy with my son Alexander, my partner and I began exploring the world of day care centers. I was extremely worried and felt the decision to place our son in a center was monumental. I knew that whichever center we choose would impact his development socially, emotionally, and physically. I knew that finding a day care center that shared the same philosophies and family values as we did was a priority. We visited many private and government centers and in-home centers. The moment I walked into Little Angels (LA) I knew I had found exactly what I was looking for. I was certain that this was where I wanted my son to spend his time while I transitioned back to work.

In this economy it has become a necessity for both Mum and Dad to return to work. It is because of the Little Angels center and staff that I was able to return seamlessly. We cannot express how grateful and appreciative we are for the wonderful care our son has received while in the center. Alexander has made noticeable developmental strides while at Little Angels and he truly does love coming to the center. We are very thankful for the safe and happy environment provided by this center and we have every confidence in leaving our son there. The Little Angel's staff is second to none and we have come to feel like these teachers are part of our family.

Please know that this center holds our highest regards and we will always provide positive feedback to our family and friends who live in Flamborough. The reality of this situation is that Millgrove is a unique and very special rural community; our children are its' future. Closing the school and altering the child care service would impede the fundamentals that I want to see in this future generation. My roots are country, my family is country and I want my son to experience the same country living I was raised in.

Sincerely,

~Kyla, Brian & Alexander



To whom it may concern

Millgrove Children Centre – A great place for our kids.

Millgrove Children Centre is a wonderful place for kids who live in and go to school in this small close nit community – I have a 3 and 6 year old who have been going here for a while and they love it. Wendy (the owner) and her staff are simply amazing; they are flexible and sensitive to the needs of the kids and parents. Millgrove Children Centre has been a crucial and well valued part of the community. It integrates seamlessly with the much loved Millgrove School and there is a clear bond not just with the kids but also with the parents and community as a whole. Those of us who live here feel very lucky to have this set up that works well for us.

This isn't just another day care – Millgrove Children Centre has that warm integrated family feel which I believe will be difficult to replicate in another Day Care facility. I know given the choice, I will be staying with Wendy and I am sure most parents in the area will say the same. It is important to us that our opinions and values are counted; we have made a choice to come to Millgrove Children Centre and would truly appreciate it if you kept this a viable option for us Millgrove parents.

Many Thanks

Clare Smith

(Mum to Tristan and Kayleigh Rose)

Dec 9/2013

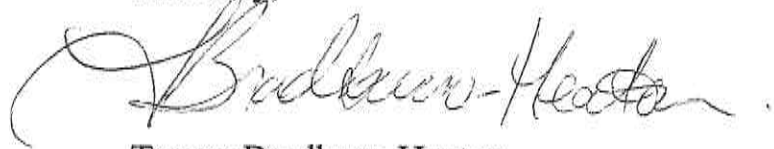
Millgrove children's center is an exceptional daycare/pre-school facility. Our son has been enrolled in MCC since he was 12 months...he is currently 3. We have had experience with other day care and before and after programs with our other children and the quality of care does not compare. Walking into any of the three centers you can see the difference. There is a feeling of "home" through out with pictures of the children, all of the teachers are engaged and affectionate.

Wendy does an excellent job of selecting and retaining staff that want to make a difference in our little ones day. They offer weekly "themes" that engage the children in a fun but learning environment. The children are always stimulated through music, reading, structured creative and play time.

Most importantly, our son always feels safe and comfortable at MCC. He is always happy to go and always has stories to tell us about his "big school" and his "friends". When we ask our son who his friends at school our the first people he mentions are Gina, Ariel and Amanda...who are actually teachers.

We would never consider any other daycare/pre-school. MCC stands out above the rest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracey Bradburn-Heaton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Tracey Bradburn-Heaton