

Reconsider daycare closure^[1]

Letter to the Editor

Author: Martel, Jennifer

Source: Timmins Daily Press

Format: Article

Publication Date: 16 Mar 2010

AVAILABILITY

See text below

EXCERPTS

I write this letter with deep regret upon hearing the news of Caboose Daycare's closure.

I believe this is a huge mistake, one that Northern College should seriously reconsider. This daycare has been open for far too long for it to be discarded so quickly.

Maybe those in charge need to be reminded of the immense value that the on-site daycare brings to the Early Childhood Education program, or the extreme convenience its proximity has for ECE students, especially when trying to gather placement hours.

It's also an extremely valuable resource to parents -- both staff and students.

Those in charge may need to be reminded that Caboose Daycare also makes a huge contribution to our community. By being the first of only two daycare centers in Timmins that accepts infants, Caboose Daycare offers an invaluable service to parents of newborns needing to return to work or wanting to continue their education.

In addition, the access to young babies increases the learning opportunities available for ECE students, opportunities they will not have access to elsewhere in the Timmins area. This specialized experience is something that would no doubt be an asset on a resume. Not to mention being exposed to the expertise of a staff that have been loving our children for as long as the college has been open.

My overall experience with Caboose Daycare has been a special one. I started at Northern College when my son was only six weeks old.

Scared to leave him, the staff at Caboose Daycare made me feel so comfortable that I spent all of the free time I had between classes with him, which sometimes amounted to an hour or two -- I'm sure there were days when it amounted to almost three.

They showed me where they kept the diapers, the food, and the bibs; so that I could feel as comfortable there as I did at home, which allowed me to spend all the precious minutes I could with my new baby.

To be honest, over the last few months, they have become such a huge part of my son's life. As he grows, so does his love for them, and as a result, my love for them grows too.

I can't tell you countless times where I have been touched by the things that I witness them doing for our kids. Like the time I came in to hear my son laughing his little heart out because the two daycare staff had him surrounded with socks.

Or the time that I decided to leave school early and walked in to see the daycare manager rocking him because didn't want to sleep and he had a little chest infection.

She rocked him, and rocked him; and he let her, the way he had already stopped letting me rock him. I couldn't bear to interrupt because it was so sweet.

Moments like that, I will never forget, and when my son gets older I will tell him the stories and show him the pictures of his time at Caboose and of all the lovely women that work there now, and should be allowed to continue to work at this daycare.

The Caboose Daycare has a pretty special staff, they are all different and unique but added together they are exceptional. To say that they are invaluable but ultimately expendable due to cost constraints seems a huge contradiction.

The closing of this daycare should not even be an option.

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By closing this daycare without exhausting all options is a huge injustice. It seems crazy to me that the college is going to shut down a program that has been in place for 25 years, especially considering its newest slogan -- "Building Our Future."

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I urge you to reconsider. What a lesson we could all learn! What an inspiration we could be!

-reprinted from the Timmins Daily Press

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