



We Jacks and Jill's cooperative preschool cordially ask for your consideration with maintaining our current rental rate of \$62.33 including tax per day for the room above the Lions outdoor pool in Ancaster for the remainder of the school year January to June, 2013.

Established in 1969, Jacks' and Jill's' Co-operative Preschool is a non profit family-orientated, community based preschool for children aged 27 months through to 5 years of age. The school is operated and administered by the parents of children attending the school. We are a registered charity and receive several subsidies from the city of Hamilton. The school provides a rich, child centred program focusing on: imaginative play, creativity, and hands-on activities. Through both class-room based activities and regular class trips children are given a rich and varied experience.

We are actively involved within the community, we hold two mom to mom sales on an annual basis, we participate in the Ancaster heritage day parade and we hold a range of other community events. This year we are participating in a fundraiser with the Hamilton Bulldogs and we are also exploring the possibility of a joint fundraiser to assist with the development of the splash pad behind Ancaster Library. Additionally we offer field trips to local businesses, which in turn allows them to generate new customers.

We have been operating the preschool at Ryerson Church in Ancaster since the early 1970s. In recent months we were asked by Ryerson Church to vacate our preschool room within the church and move to smaller accommodations as the Ancaster Montessori School were taking over our preschool room. We explored many possible options in the community and with the assistance of Councillor Lloyd Ferguson we were able to secure our current location.

We have been working closely with Jill Laskey, Manager, District Operations, District 2. Jill, on behalf of the city of Hamilton, has agreed to a rental rate reduction for the months September to December 2012. This reduction has allowed us to continue operating the preschool to the community of Ancaster. If the rental rate is increased to the full amount then the preschool will face financial challenges that could potentially result in closure and the unemployment of the teacher and assistant teacher.

Before opening we renovated the existing room to create an inviting atmosphere for the preschool. We did not ask for assistance from the City of Hamilton nor do we require assistance for anything on a day to day basis other than garbage disposal. Many city of Hamilton employees who have visited the preschool have also provided encouraging comments on the space we have created.

The room itself from what we understand was previously unused and had been set aside for emergency or occasional rental. The preschool are providing the city of Hamilton with rent they would not currently have received, we do not occupy the room throughout the full day only the morning hours. This still allows the city of Hamilton the flexibility to rent the space out should they wish to do so.

We hope the above information will assist you when considering your decision to allow us a rate reduction for the months of January to June so we are able to continue to offer this great preschool to the community of Ancaster. Our rolling registration exhibits the community need for our program.

We truly are thrilled with the space; it offers a perfect setting for the preschool. Should you have any questions or need any further detail to make an informed decision please do not hesitate to contact me. It is our hope to work together with the city of Hamilton in the future.

Should you need to contact us for further information, please contact the President, Jennifer Hewson (dhewson@cogeco.ca 905-304-5349) or the Treasurer, Claire Fletcher (clairekevandjack@gmail.com 289-239-9314).

Yours truly,

Jennifer Hewson & Claire Fletcher
President and Treasurer
Jacks' and Jill's' Co-Operative Preschool of Ancaster