
It’s all part of the end-of-October traditions for those who work with young children as Halloween approaches. The festivities are tailor-made for children.

But there’s another late October tradition that we’re excited to celebrate. It doesn’t give us cavities. There are no creepy costumes to wear. We don’t have to tromp around the neighbourhood after dark.

This tradition is the annual Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day. This year, we are teaming up in praise of these fearsome professionals.

Without so much as a magic wand or superhero cape, you perform daily feats of courage and caring on behalf of children and families. You’re right there for the seemingly simple acts of play which are such big learning discoveries every single day for each child in your care. You understand that when children are playing and exploring, they are learning—their brains are growing and developing.

When it looks like children are “just playing,” they’re really doing something profound—they’re developing a deep and insightful understanding of the world around them.

And they consolidate their learning when you talk to them, interact with them, and help them make sense of it all.
And the trick is, most of the time, you make it look so effortless and natural that casual observers really don’t understand how complex and multi-dimensional your profession is. It’s a treat to see you in action!

So, in the spirit of an upcoming festivity that trades in both tricks and treats, we want to tell you what a treat it is to have an occasion once a year to honour everything you do for children, for families, for communities and for Ontario. It would be a great trick if we could proclaim every day Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Appreciation Day. We certainly do appreciate you every day of the year—as do the families and children with whom you work. But since it’s an annual—not daily—event, we take the opportunity today to offer our most sincere and heartfelt thanks for everything you do!

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