

MOSAIC

NEWCOMER FAMILY
RESOURCE NETWORK

FAST FACTS

Mosaic offers parenting programs for newcomer parents all year long.

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Contributors:

- Alana Garcia
- Maisa'a Haj Ahmad
- Val Cavers
- Barbara Coombs-
- Elsie Epp
- Tammy Andromidas
- Melinda Pascual
- Manjit S. Partola
- LINC teachers

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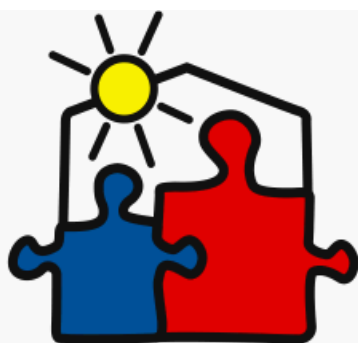
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HIPPY Program

"Home Instruction for Parents of Pre-school Youngsters"



HIPPY CANADA
Home Instruction for Parents
of Preschool Youngsters

Mosaic is welcoming a new program to the family! Home Instruction for Parents of Pre-school Youngsters, or HIPPY for short, began in Israel in the 1960's to address the educational and social needs of lower-income families with pre-school children. There are now sites in 13 different countries around the world, including Canada. Mosaic will host the first multicultural HIPPY site in Manitoba.

HIPPY is based on peer to peer mentorship. Home visitors, who are themselves parents and may be newcomers and live in the same community, visit parents weekly in their homes to support them in their role as their child's first and best teacher. Home visitors bring books, activities and games and, through role-play, show the parents how to play and learn together with their children. The children benefit greatly from the program through their exposure to new books, games and activities, and most importantly, through the increased time they spend having fun with their parent. Parents benefit from the program through their increased confidence and skills in interacting with their children. Parents also participate in large group meetings with other HIPPY parents. These meetings help parents to meet others in their community, learn some new skills, and learn about other resources they can access. The home visitors also benefit from HIPPY. The program is set up as a work-learn environment, where home visitors are supported in their role and receive many hours of training throughout the year. The hope is that after working and learning for two to three years, home visitors will go on to full time employment or education and mothers who have been part of the HIPPY program will step in and become home visitors.

HIPPY will be coordinated by Alana Garcia and will have an office at Knox church. The program will begin receiving referrals for families who have a three or four year old child this summer and the program will begin in September and run throughout the school year.

- Alana Garcia, HIPPY Program Coordinator



Syrian refugee resettlement programs

Mosaic has been in the forefront to provide interactive beneficial programs to Syrian families since day one, when both Federal and Provincial governments announced the first arrival of newcomers.

Our support to Syrian families is through programs designed to take different venues and methods to meet their needs and make the best use of it.

Our staff have been active in many areas including but not limited to:

- Family Active Learning sessions; families had the chance to meet one another, make new friends and to collectively engage in play, and spend time with their families as well as other families members. I'd like to take this chance to thank Healthy Kids Fit Kids for joining us and providing some of their excellent resources as well as setting up stations.
- Educational Workshops; to ensure that Syrian families fully benefit from these workshops, our Arabic speaking staff run the workshops in the Syrian native language on topics such as Parenting in a New Country, Various Safety and Protection Measures, and School systems in Manitoba.

These Workshops take place in two different locations, in and close to their temporary residents; one at Hugh John McDonald School, which is five minutes walking from Welcome place, and the second at 356 Assiniboine building.



The parents enjoyed the programs while their children had fun through the child care we provided and both parties enjoyed the snack.

One of the participants said: "I have witnessed at the Montreal airport a lady hit her daughter and one of the officers seen her so he came and talked to her explaining that is not allowed here, this is just a warning since you just arrived and everything is new for you so I thought the officer has nothing to do with this.. ..This Program helped me understand where the security officer came from".

- Maisa'a Haj Ahmad, Lead Mentor



CanadaHelps is a charitable organization dedicated to help other charities in Canada. Their website has a database of organizations that people can give donations to. You can now give to Mosaic through CanadaHelps.

For more information, visit their website and search for Mosaic. www.canadahelps.org



Mosaic at "Welcome to Winnipeg"

On Monday, January 25, Mosaic participated in a special "Welcome to Winnipeg" event for newly arrived refugees from Syria at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. The event was organized by the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce and the Canadian Islamic Chamber of



Commerce, and sponsored by the Winnipeg Foundation. Speakers included recently arrived Syrian refugees, members of the Syrian community in Winnipeg, and Premier Greg Selinger. Mosaic was one of several organizations providing information on services available to newcomers in Winnipeg to Chamber members and guests. It was a great chance to showcase our services, enjoy a nice lunch in an amazing building, and to hear from people who have endured terrible hardship and are now being welcomed into our community.

- Val Cavers, Executive Director

LINC Teachers' introduction

Patricia MacRae — Bethel CLB Level 6-8 ESL Teacher

Pat likes learning things so much that she hung out at University for many years, and ended up with degrees in Canadian History and English Literature, Visual Arts and finally, Education...because what else do you do with a love of learning, except share it? Pat was an Art teacher in Winnipeg School Division for many years, until her third daughter was born. She decided to stay home with her children, but soon began to volunteer in schools. She particularly enjoyed volunteering in a children's ESL classroom, but wanted to know more about it. So...back to school! In her final year of study for her TESL certificate, she did practice teaching at Mosaic and loved it so much she came back to volunteer in Remy's class last year. She loved that so much that now she's got her own class, and thinks it's wonderful!

Bethany Stephens — Immanuel CLB Level 2-4 ESL Teacher

Bethany, who is originally from the United States, has called Winnipeg her home for more than 15 years. She is married and has two young children. Before teaching English, Bethany was a Vocal Instructor and Musical Theatre teacher for

young students. She completed the ESLTCP at the University of Winnipeg in 2013. In recent years, Bethany has taught a foundations class for Living English and has been a regular volunteer and substitute teacher at IRCOM. She is now thrilled to be a part of the Mosaic team and a teacher for the CLB 4-6 class at Bethel.

Carolyn Braun — Carlton Foundation ESL Teacher

Hi! My name is Carolyn Braun, and I'm excited to be teaching one of Mosaic's new Foundations level classes at Knox Church! My home country is Australia, but I've spent almost as many years living in Canada now! Prior to working with Mosaic, I was a Kindergarten teacher for ten years (eight here in Winnipeg), and completed my ESL Teacher Certification from the University of Winnipeg last fall. My husband and I had the opportunity to live in South Asia for several years, including a year with our four children in 2005. I really enjoy working with new immigrants here in Canada. Thank you so much for the warm welcome and support so many of you have given me already! I love being part of the Mosaic family!

"Language Companions"Coming to a Class Near You!

Starting this spring, each ESL student in Manitoba will receive a shiny, white, 3-ring binder called a "Language Companion". These binders, which are published by IRCC, will be helpful resources for newcomers. Students can use them in their classrooms, and they use them at home.

"Language Companions" come in three styles: Literacy, Stage I, and Stage II. These binders include the "Can Do Statements" for the benchmarks at each respective stage and tips for learning English. They have settlement information about Canada and our community. And, finally, "Language Companions" contain section dividers to help students organize their classroom materials.

Mosaic is looking forward to rolling them out in our classes. It will be an exciting new journey for teachers and students.

- Barbara Coombs, PBLA Lead Instructor



The 3 kinds of "Language Companions"



Aashiyana, Hinal, Youngmi, Amy, Ana Maria, Svetland and Rose
from Barbara's Fort Garry class with their LCs.

My Volunteer Experience



Life seems to have a way of continually weaving together its various strands. Three particular strands came together for me when I began looking for an opportunity to volunteer. One was my interest in other cultures which began when I was able to do some world travelling to places such as Zimbabwe, Kenya, Ukraine and Israel/Palestine. A second strand was the experience gained through three careers – as a nurse, pastor and then bereavement chaplain in a hospital. The third was simply a matter of availability following the birth of twin grandchildren.

In early 2012, I began by speaking to Pastor Reynold who directed me to consider volunteer options with Mosaic and the rest is history!

One reason I chose Mosaic is because it offers me the opportunity to extend hospitality to newcomers. That is a joy in itself but it also touches me at a deeply personal level. My own parents were once newcomers to Canada and so I grew up hearing stories about strangers who welcomed them. And now I can do the same for others coming from so many countries to also make this their homeland.

I find it challenging but also very rewarding to try to facilitate communication in an unfamiliar language. I offer my teaching gifts but what I am able to give in no way compares to what I receive in the process. Each week I am so inspired by the courage, determination and appreciation of the students and by the dedication of their teacher.

For me, volunteering with Mosaic for the past four years has become a delightful privilege!

- Elsie Epp

Newcomers Make Time for a Skating Adventure at The Forks



On a beautiful, sunny, spring like afternoon in February, we met at The Forks and skated all the way to the Queen Elizabeth Way Bridge. We were led by the enthusiastic Kerry Leblanc with the help of our two terrific city workers, Naomi and Nicole and superb police officer Tracy.

Our delightful newcomers were: Sandra (Mexico), Svitlana (Ukraine), Musa(Syria), Ivy(Philippines), Mabobah (Afghanistan), Mikha(Philippines) and John(Tanzania).

We began our adventure under the stage in Festival Park, in the Green Room Kerry LeBlanc, our host from the Forks, thought it would be the perfect warm, place to put on our equipment.

Once we had our skates tightly laced, helmets on and did one final check, we were on our way.

Kerry led us down the east Arctic Glacier Winter Park Skating Trail, past the Children's Museum and Oodena Celebration Circle and when we reached the White Granite Monument for missing and murdered aboriginal women, The Healing Rock and The Historic Rail Bridge we carefully walked on the black skate mats down to the Assiniboine River. The ice was sticky from the warmth of the sunshine but still skatable. We were not the only ones making our way to the Red River Mutual Trail. Quite a few people had the same fantastic idea.

The brilliant idea of The Forks to have wooden red chairs with skis on them was a great asset to our group on this very long journey. Some newcomers only started skating 2 or 3 weeks earlier. The ski chairs worked out wonderfully. What a great team we have. John, Musa, Ivy along with Nicole, and Naomi took turns pushing Mikha

and Mabobah or whoever needed a well-deserved break for embarking on this mighty skate. Tracy, powerfully and quickly skated, with her years of Canadian skating experience, to find us another chair. For a moment, with our



fantastic team spirit, we thought about skating all the way to the Canada/US border.

Our group made it to Queen Elizabeth Way Bridge. We shared a few laughs, took some pictures and decided it was time to make our way back.

By the time the stage was in sight, the ice felt more like a Slurpee, making it almost dangerous and very difficult to even attempt skating. We found a way to carefully help each other walk/skate back down the last stretch of the trail. Inside the Green Room, we enjoyed the sweetest, gooiest and incredibly mouth-watering cinnamon buns, compliments of Kerry and the Human Bean. He also poured warm, delicious creamy and very chocolatey hot chocolate for each of us. Not too hot, not too cold, it was just right. There was an amazing sense of peace and accomplishment.

Thank you to all who could make it out and all of our sponsors this winter: The Forks North Portage Partnership, the City of Winnipeg, Knox United Church and Sport Manitoba.

- Tammy Andromidas

Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting (PDEP) in Tagalog

After a long wait, finally PDEP in Tagalog was made possible through the partnership between Mosaic-Newcomer Family Resource Network and The Filipino Women's Initiative. This was the first time that a Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting Program was done in Tagalog. The program started on February 13 at Cindy Klassen Library with 11 people in the first session. It was a good start because despite the very cold weather, a lot of "kababayans" came. This group consisted of two couples, a mother-son tandem with her daughter-in-law, and four other moms.

A lot of good conversation happened in the first session, a lot of friendship began to blossom, and a lot of learning took place. In fact, a chat group in Facebook was created and we called it "PDEP in Tagalog Family".

Facebook is a very popular way that Filipinos connect with each other through social media. This is what Filipinos called living the "Bayanihan spirit" amongst us.

As with regards to the program, it was quite a big surprise to learn that The Convention on the Rights of the Child (which was ratified in the Philippines way back in 1990) was something new to all of our participants. Nobody from the group had an idea of what this was. Coming from a culture where physical punishment is acceptable and where discipline is almost synonymous with punishment, I thought running this program with a Filipino group will pose a challenge to me. With the group that I have now, it proved me wrong. They liked the program very much and were very enthusiastic to learn more about it.



We heard a lot of positive feedback from them. They say that this form of parenting is something new for most of them and worth trying. We are very fortunate to have this awesome group of participants who are really very eager to gain more skills and information about positive parenting. Kudos to all these wonderful parents who really want only the best for their children and their family! Kudos to Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting!

- Melinda Pascual, Family Programs Coordinator

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Community Connections



*Manjit S. Partola,
Accounting & Building Administrator
at Knox United Church*

I came to Canada as an immigrant in December 2008. I struggled a lot to get a job in my area of expertise, but could not find one, in spite of having 23 years of experience in accounting along with a degree in Bachelors of Commerce. Since I had to support my family, I started off with a survival job as an assembler in a furniture

factory, just to provide my family with the basic psychological and safety needs as per the Maslow Hierarchy needs theory. After working as an assembler for few months, I got laid off from there and then I decided to join University again in order to update my studies up to a Canadian standard. This led me to complete the Bridge to Professional Accounting Program at University of Manitoba.

After my graduation from the program in 2011, I started with a volunteer position at Knox United Church as a bookkeeper in July 2011. Due to my dedication and commitment towards the position, the Knox United Board decided to hire me as a part-time bookkeeper. In November 2012, I was offered a full-time position as an accounting and building administrator.

I have been working together with Mosaic, since I joined Knox. Mosaic offers different programs at different times for

the newcomers and their families in the building of Knox United Church. I feel proud to be a part of the Central Park Community at Knox United Church that helps new immigrants as well as refugees to settle in the new diversified and multicultural environment in order to adjust to the cultural shock. Since, I came as an immigrant myself; I can personally relate to what they are going through in a totally new environment. In reality, Mosaic is providing help to the individuals regardless of their age, gender, ethnicity and cultural background.

Knox provided building space to Mosaic for their ESL classes during the time of the renovation at their premises. During this period, I got the opportunity to work with the staff members closely. My experience with Mosaic has been very pleasant, because both of the organisations have identical Motto's which is all about helping the community in different ways without discriminating.

In my opinion, everyone should try to help newcomers in one way or another. This help can be done financially or by providing personal help in making them feel more comfortable and confident in the new environment. Management team in organisations like, Mosaic or Knox can organize activities and programs in order to make them self-dependent, so that they can fit in a new environment and find themselves jobs in the career they want in order to meet their basic needs.

I feel that Government should encourage and provide more funding to programs for the newcomers and refugees.

Scenes in Winter Family Programs



*Workshop by Joan Durrant Ph.D,
the author of "POSITIVE DISCIPLINE IN EVERYDAY PARENTING".*



Positive discipline in Everyday Parenting in Punjabi group

Mosaic Winter Highlights

