

## How to Manage and Raise Funds for Childcare in Community Kitchens

- Our immediate and cost effective suggestion is to have someone from the CK group watch over the kids while others cook in the kitchen. The person watching over the kids gets the same amount of food to take home and also gets to eat when everyone else eats. This position rotates at each cooking session so that everyone in the kitchen has a turn at childminding. (*Diane Collis, Fresh Choice Kitchens*)
- Childcare is essential for community kitchens that involve families. Few moms/dads/grandparents want to look after children when they arrive in our kitchen. We continue to run our groups during school hours to help decrease the number of children who need childcare. I view our childcare staff and volunteers as essential to our community kitchens as pots and sharp knives! We're fortunate to have ~~g~~ambling dollars+to pay our staff. We're also been fortunate to have volunteers to support our childcare staff when there are many children who need to come with their families. These volunteers are often interested in education and are looking for some hands-on experience while they're going to school/applying to get into a program....As well, past participants have offered to ~~g~~iveback+ by volunteering. I wonder if there are seniors in our communities who'd like to look after children who come to CK's. (Lynn Leong, *South Burnaby Neighbourhood House*). Note: Visit the [BC Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch](#) for information on gaming grants.
- When we occasionally have children in community kitchens, they get assigned to work with an adult who is doing a job that suits their skill level. Even the youngest kids can count out cups of flour, or cut off lengths of parchment paper. When they get bored they can play in the hall attached to the kitchen. Older kids look after younger, and they are close enough to hear what's happening. (*Alison Colwell, Galiano Island Community Kitchen Volunteer*)
- Parents could organize into groups that represent general ages of kids (18 months to 3 yrs) (3 yrs to early 5), etc. The parents could then put in a set amount to pay for an onsite childminder. For example, a child minder might be paid \$8 per hour. If there are 4 children that need childminding, the parents pay \$2.00 per hour for EACH of their children. If a parent has one child . that parent pays \$2.00. If another parent has two kids . that parent pays \$4.00. Albeit . this can make the kitchen more expensive for participants . but it is inexpensive child minding in comparison to regular babysitting fees (which can be up to \$12.00 per hour for ONE CHILD!!). The reason a childminder might be found for \$8.00 per hour is that parents would still be on-site for emergencies and toileting help/diapering. (*Community Kitchen Participant and Mother of two*)

- In our community, partnering with other organizations has made the difference in having childcare for the CKs. For the Building Better babies program in Nanaimo, we have funding in the CPNP program ([Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program](#)) for childcare. We have partnered with the local Nanaimo Community Kitchens organization, so that participants have the chance to participate in a community kitchen and have childminding. <We also did a partnership> for Nanaimo CK and the local public health unit. The health unit has funding for childcare and the CK has partnered with them to provide a kitchen program. Participants benefit from the childminding. Also in the community we have an ECE (early childhood education) degree program at the university. There could be opportunities to partner there too. (*Jen Cody, Building Better Babies*) Note: Find your local public health unit by contacting HealthLink at 8-1-1 or search their [online database of resources](#)