



# Investing in Children<sup>®</sup>

*Helping children to learn,  
grow and thrive since 1999*

***Our Mission*** -Investing in Children is committed to working with families and our communities to create and provide nurturing programs to eliminate barriers so that they may learn, grow and thrive.

***Our Vision*** -We envision collaborating with the community and families to provide opportunities for children and youth to thrive physically, emotionally, artistically and academically. By working relentlessly to break all barriers, we encourage all children to reach their full potential and accomplish their goals.

## Family Literacy and Math Events – (Since 2005)

More than 1,500 children and their families participate in Investing in Children's Family Literacy Events, held at various London and area schools throughout the year. Investing in Children's expert Literacy staff plan and provide a variety of engaging activities which nurture young minds, focusing on curriculum literacy skills and math strands, as well as up-to-date strategies as designated by the Ministry of Education. It also provides parents with ideas to extend the learning at home. Investing staff also help additional schools, who wish to host one of these events, apply for a Parent Reaching Out Grant through their schools.

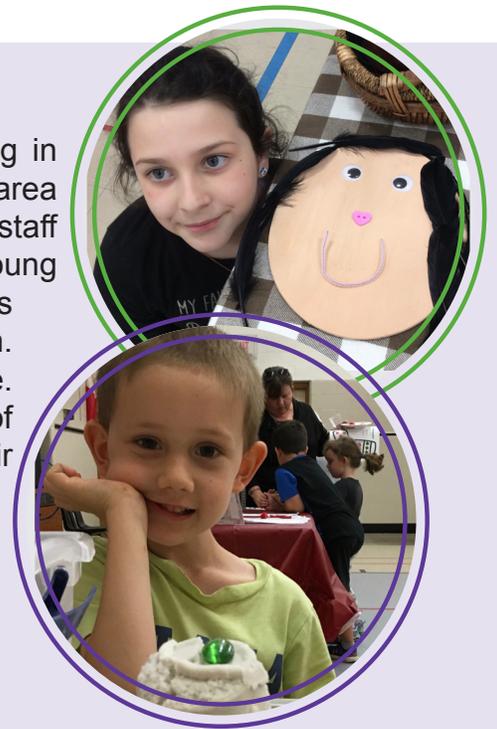
### **What are people saying about our Family Literacy Events?**

*"Awesome connections to the literacy and math curriculum. Very engaging and got the kid's talking about their favorite healthy foods."*

*"It was fantastic! Families came out and participate in the fun and engaging activities. The snacks, stories and centres were relevant and directly supported our school literacy and numeracy goals. We are so glad you came!"*

*"Always great. I come to all of them when I get a chance. My kid's really love it."*

*"Thank you for bringing this lovely program to our school community!"*



## After School Program – (Since 2009)

Investing in Children has had the privilege of leading After School Programs in some of London's most challenged socio-economic areas. These programs have been cherished by many families who appreciate the experiences their children are given, such as attending a local London Knights hockey game, watching a performance at Grand Theatre, or having exciting and famous Londoners visit the program such as London Firefighters, Therapy Dogs, and even NHL star Jason Williams!

### **What do kids say about our After School Program?**

*"I like the food and trying new things!"*

*"I love going on field trips"*

*"My favourite part of the program is being able to see my friends for longer!"*

*"Sports! Soccer, hockey, is fun, fun, fun!"*



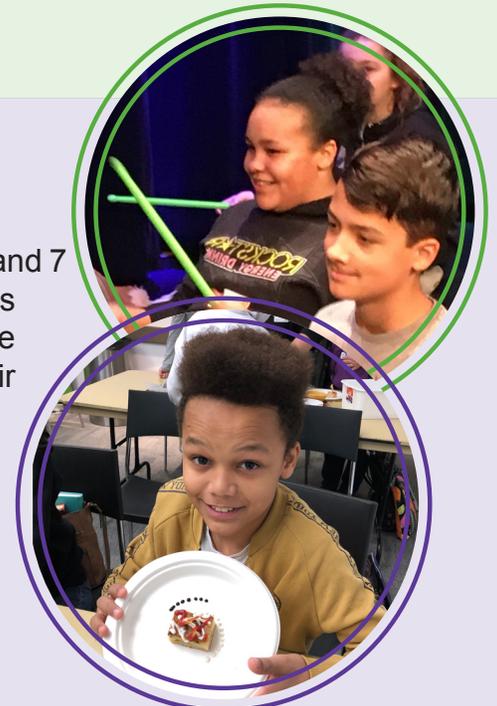
## Kids Power Conference – (Since 2005)

Investing in Children's Kids Power Conference gathers 100 Grade 6 and 7 students from London's schools to participate in a full day of workshops designed to nurture and develop leadership skills and strategies. The conference aims to inspire these students to utilize these skills in their schools and communities!

### **What are kids saying about the Kids Power Conference?**

*"I loved the variety of workshops we did today and what we learned. They all gave me a new perspective on life and what I want to do to help improve things in my community and in the world."*

*"The best thing about the Kids Power Conference was how everyone was really interactive in their presentation and wanted to get the message through but still be entertaining."*



## Kids 1st Day – (Since 2004)

More than 1,500 children and their families participate in Investing in Children's Kids 1st Day. It is scheduled yearly in June on a shared Professional Activity Day with all of London's School Boards. Investing in Children has taken the lead to solicit more than 50 area businesses and organizations who have graciously agreed to invite London's children and their families to join them for free or low-cost activities and places to visit, ranging from arts, culture, history, sports, music and other recreational type activities!

### *What are people saying about our Kids 1st Day?*

*"I have four kids. It is really expensive to take them to different places. This is a great way we can go to new places and try new things!"*

*"Kids 1st Day was a great way to introduce families to our new facility. We planned on maybe 30 kids showing up. We had more than 300!"*

*"Thank you from me and my two boys for the best PA Day ever!"*



## Book Camp London – (Since 2005)

Forty aspiring authors, ages 10-15, register for Investing in Children's annual Book Camp London, in partnership with the London Public Library. The young authors and illustrators are mentored by actual published authors and illustrators as well as other industry professionals! Upon completion of the camp, each participant receives a magazine brimming with stories and drawings created by all the campers!

### *What do kids say about our Book Camp London?*

*"My favorite part of Book Camp was all the friends that I made through our shared love of books and the positivity that came from it."*

*"My favorite part of Book Camp was the authors talking about what they see as the most important concepts in writing. Their different ideas help develop my writing."*

*"My favorite part is that everyone got to experience different ways of expressing themselves through either illustrating or writing."*



## Blue Boxes for Books – (Since 2004)

Blue Boxes for Books features recycling boxes filled with children's books placed in strategic locations throughout the city. Children are encouraged to choose a new or gently used book from the box. They can read it while waiting, take the book home to bring back at their next visit, or keep it! Investing in Children replenishes the boxes regularly at the various locations such as London's Food Bank and the Family Law Info Center at the London Court House so that all children can have access to literature because we all know how important it is to foster early literacy skills!



## Ontario Student Nutrition Partnership – (Since 2007)

For more than a decade, Investing in Children has proudly worked as a community partner to distribute funds to individual schools and work toward mitigating child hunger in 91 of London and Middlesex schools. Did you know that currently, 16,000 students are served each day?

The need continues to be critical; even beyond the funding we receive. Corporate and private donations are always required -and much appreciated - to help us help children!



## Snack Stop – (Since 2018) **NEW**

As the Chair of the Children's Nutrition Network (CNN), Investing in Children has been very active in discovering new and innovative ways to provide nutritional food – especially for the start of a youth's day. We also realize that once the school year passes (and our nutrition program halts), the need for a nutritious start to a child's day is necessary. In short, hunger does not take a vacation. With this in mind, Investing in Children has initiated a program called the Snack Stop, whereby once a week, our staff delivers fresh fruits and vegetables to nine locations throughout the city during the summer and holiday times; including Libraries, Community Centres, Family Centres, and Resource Centres. This has been met with tremendous accolades.

### **What do those managing the sites say about Snack Stop?**

*"Our community is very diverse and the newcomers really enjoyed having fresh fruit. Having the program during the summer is excellent because we do get a lot of children for our Summer Reading Program."* (Beacock Library)

*"We do see many children and families making use of the snacks, but also some of the more vulnerable adult population that we serve at the library".* (East London Library)



## Summer Snack – (Since 2013)

During the months of July and August, Investing in Children has been providing breakfast foods to 7 city camp locations in the east (Argyle) area of London. This program has been highly welcomed, and highly utilized.

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## How can you help?

**Donations** help sustain programs like these! If you wish to donate please visit [investinginchildren.on.ca/donate](http://investinginchildren.on.ca/donate)

**Volunteers** are always needed to help run our family/literacy events, conferences and camp.

**Contact us** at [info@investinginchildren.on.ca](mailto:info@investinginchildren.on.ca) or visit [investinginchildren.on.ca](http://investinginchildren.on.ca) for more information or to volunteer.

**Get Social** follow us on twitter @InvestChildren and facebook @investinginchildren

## Special Olympics – (Since 2003)

Investing in Children has partnered with the Thames Valley District School Board, The GoodLife Foundation, The Harry E. Foster Foundation, TD Bank, and several other corporations and individuals, to provide more than 1,600 student athletes with developmental disabilities and their peer support students, with an opportunity to experience athletic competition and success! Funding is desperately sought here, mostly to cover the cost of providing bus transportation over the three day event.



### What are people saying about Special Olympics?

*“As I watch, my wonderful, beautiful, autistic boy jumps and dances and sings and waves his hat in the air, proudly wearing his school colours and smiling with an openness and joy that brings tears to my eyes and brings this mama’s heart near to bursting with love and gratitude.”*

## Newcomer Parent and Child Literacy Programs **NEW**

Investing in Children was successful in its bid to take the lead in nurturing London’s newcomers with meaningful foundational literacy skills. These skills will be introduced to ESL families in a hands-on, fun and interactive way through various station activities. Each family will also receive a package to foster literacy skills at home. Translators will also be available.



## Gab & Games– (Since 2018) **NEW**

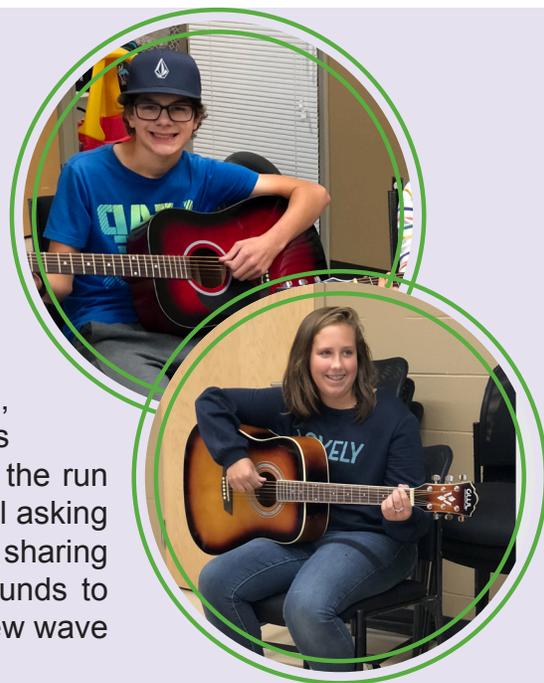
During the summer of 2018, Investing in Children launched a new program at the Family Centre Carling-Thames designed to offer youth aged 10-15 an opportunity to come together, collaborate and play a variety of board games. All with the hope of getting to know each other and nurture stronger community relationships with their peers in a supervised venue.



## Free Youth Guitar Lessons



September 2018 saw the creation of Investing in Children's Free Guitar for Youth program. We piloted this fantastic 12-week program in three different Family Centre areas – Argyle in the east, Foxhollow in the north, and Westminster in the south. The goal of this program is to offer music lessons to all youth interested in learning to play the guitar; with a particular aim of inviting those who might find the lesson and guitar costs to be too limiting. In addition, it is our goal to provide London's youth with a valuable, positive and collaborative learning and growth experience. Students were able to take their instruments home to practice, throughout the run of the course! At the end of this course, parents and youth were all asking "what's next?" As a result of the accolades parents and youth are sharing about this program, Investing in Children is currently soliciting funds to keep it alive! We certainly hope to be the catalyst for nurturing a new wave of musical talent in our great city!



## Song Writing Workshop



Once the foundational guitar program completes, the 2019 new year will bring the start of another great arts program: The Investing in Children Songwriting Program! Given the fact that London will be hosting the Juno's in March of 2019, this program will undoubtedly be met with strong appeal!

Want more information?  
Please contact us

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Watch for our  
20th Anniversary  
Celebrations!

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