



PUMPKIN SPICE & EVERYTHING NICE: FAMILY FUN THIS OCTOBER

We're excited to celebrate the season with **Pumpkin Palooza** at our **Magical Nook** and **Larchwood sites** on **October 22!** Families are invited to join us for a morning of pumpkin fun, including:

- Pumpkin decorating
- Pumpkin sensory bins
- A pumpkin treats table with delicious fall themed breakfast
- A cozy mini-photo booth with a fall backdrop
- Our new Pumpkin Recipe Share – families can submit their favourite pumpkin recipe and photo to help us create a bilingual Family Pumpkin Recipe Book that will be shared agency-wide.

Agency-Wide Pumpkin Decorating Contest – October 20-31

Families across all sites are encouraged to participate by decorating or carving a pumpkin at home and sending us a photo. There will be one winner chosen from each site! Submit photos to leads or on our Facebook Page to be entered.

This is a fun, seasonal way to bring families together and celebrate the creativity of our community.

EXCITING NEWS

We are pleased to announce that our organization has been selected to receive funding from PAFO.

This grant will support our ongoing efforts to provide high-quality, inclusive programs for children and families in our community.

Ontario



IMPORTANT DATES

Thanksgiving

October 13

All centres are closed for the holiday



ECE Appreciation Day

October 14

Educators make magic happen



PD Day

October 20

No school! Advise if you will not require services



Halloween

October 31

Trick-or-treat with joy



TESTIMONIAL

Bittersweet to watch my baby get onto a bus and start a new journey in kindergarten. It's so surreal.

Lucas is so amazing and his autism journey has opened up a whole new world for us. He's come along so well and worked very hard over the last few years, and so much of what he's accomplished is thanks to the wonderful support from the Magical Nook staff and the consistency they bring to his life.

I watched an amazing video the other day that sat heavy with me. A man said that a child's best support is not academic, but emotional. IEPs, math goals, reading levels are always a priority, while in reality our kids are carrying an invisible emotional backpack full of anxiety, sensory overload and just plain burnout.

If our children are not feeling safe, learning isn't going to sit. No speech, occupational, or any kind of therapy will really work. What will work is a teacher or educator who will pause, listen and create space for our kids to breathe.

When you prioritize emotional safety over academic achievements, it supports the whole child, and that's when real learning begins.

When I heard this man say these words, I realized that my boy, who we were told may never talk or socialize or play with other kids, can now do all of these things: he can count, he can sing, he knows his letters, and he has friends — all because the people in his world made him feel safe and loved.

I can't thank the staff enough, especially his best friend Nicole who has been working with him so hard and consistently. I'm excited for everyone to watch him move mountains.

Thank you Magical Nook site for being all these things for Luc. xoxoxox

Special shout out to his best buddy Brayden for encouraging him to get onto the bus this morning. You're his role model. xoxox

Nicole Steinman

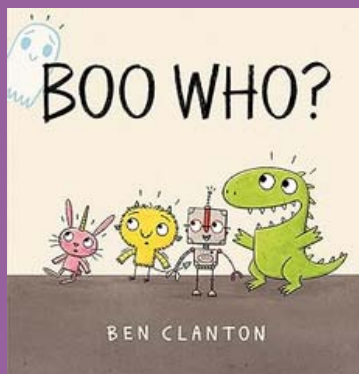
Thank you to Nicole for sharing this inspiring story. It reminds us all of the power of emotional safety in children's learning journeys.



STORY TIME

This month, we're featuring *Boo Hoo?* by beloved author Ben Clanton, known for his playful and heartfelt stories.

In this delightful book, children meet a little ghost who's feeling blue. Through silly surprises, giggles, and a few "boo-hoo's," the story gently explores big feelings like sadness, empathy, and joy. With Ben Clanton's signature humor and simple illustrations, *Boo Hoo?* gives families a fun way to talk about emotions together.



Why I love it:

This book helps kids name feelings, adds playful "boo" moments, and sparks conversations about comfort. Perfect for a cozy fall read-aloud!

Book suggestion by: Renée Richer RECE

OCTOBER IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

Autism is a lifelong neurodevelopmental difference that shapes how people experience and interact with the world. Every child with autism has unique strengths, interests, and ways of learning.

Autism Awareness Month is a reminder to celebrate these differences, build understanding, and promote acceptance. By creating safe, supportive, and inclusive spaces, we help children thrive — not only in their learning, but in their sense of belonging.

Together, we can move from awareness to true acceptance.

This month, we encourage families to wear blue on **October 22** to show support for Autism Awareness.