

# The Bulletin

## Association Québécoise pour le Multiâge (The Quebec Multiage Association)

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Email : [info@multiage.ca](mailto:info@multiage.ca) Website : *under construction* Volume 1, Number 1, March 2005

### *The president's message*

Hello, it is with enthusiasm that I write the lines of the first Bulletin of the Association Québécoise pour le Multiâge (QMA). For now, I call it « bulletin », but I eagerly hope that your participation in the search for a new title will be abundant and fruitful so that finally as of the next edition it will have its own identity. Introducing you to this new organization is a great joy for me. I must share with you the history of its creation; the idea of an association devoted to multiage grouping was born through experienced people from the childcare field:

*« Once upon a time, the staff of a childcare center, a parent, and a home childcare provider felt strongly about their respective interest of children and their development within an educational context of multiage grouping. Studies, reflections, and facts, as well as a strong desire to be creative convinced them that an association devoted to the multi-age approach would bring something of interest to the world of education. While respecting children in early childhood care, they did not believe that children's development was exclusive to their*



*field. They also hope to emphasize interest in school aged children, in community groups... »*

You have, no doubt, heard about the beginning of a movement which favors multiage grouping within childcare center installations. While multiage grouping has been predominant in home childcare, its educational reality can no longer be ignored.

For all of these reasons we believe that multiage grouping is a project of the future and merits the interests of those hoping to improve the quality of children in childcare services.

In creating this new organization, we have set the following primary objectives :

- to promote the education of multi-age grouping which fosters the development of the child;

- to create links and a network of contacts between those interested in multiage grouping;
- to reflect effective pedagogical interventions;
- to assist in the understanding and implementation of multiage grouping;
- to distribute information to interested persons;
- to publish documents and audio-visual tools;
- to establish all other forms of services pertaining to childhood.

I hope this bulletin piques your interest into the multiage approach enticing you to join our association and work with us in promoting the benefits of multiage education.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Manon Ladouceur,  
President of the QMA and  
Pedagogical assistant in a childcare center

## We are working on it...

### Creation of a Website

We are in the process of creating a website which our association hopes to use as a window of information in order to make multiage education known. This site should be opened to the public within a few weeks and we will inform you when it will be ready.

Firstly available in French the site will then be translated into English and Spanish.



### Publication

There exists little documentation specifically on multi-age grouping in Quebec, and we feel it important to begin publishing information on the topic. We are preparing a summary of the workshop presented in 2004 by Jean-Marc Lopez, doctoral student, at the "Association francophone pour le savoir" (Acfas) 13th conference. The document is called « *Le multiâge dans les services de garde comme contexte éducatif favorable au développement de l'enfant: analyse critique de documentation scientifique* ».

This document will be available free of charge in pdf format on our website

For those who do not have access to the internet and cannot print documents or prefer to simply obtain an edited version can order them for a cost.

### Making the Association Québécoise pour le Multiâge

This process will be spread out over several weeks in order to reach the important number of organizations and time will be required to gather their addresses. We have begun the first phase by distributing our information bulletin and membership form to childcare centers. We will soon proceed to reach all other childcare services as well as different organizations and associations where the members are interested in the education of multiage grouping.

### Conference on Multiage Grouping

Jean-Marc Lopez will present a workshop on April 14, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at Mont-St-Anne, during the conference of the Conseil québécois des centres de la petite enfance.

To keep with the organizers interests, we intend to also participate in other forums, conferences or events of this nature.

### Seeking Support for Multiage Grouping

We have already begun establishing contacts in Quebec as well as in other provinces and abroad in order to obtain the support of reputable authors who have written on the subject of multiage grouping. The support of childcare practitioners like educators and providers is equally as important. Directors and educational consultants of childcare centers can also play a significant role in the sharing of ideas and innovative practices.

In the case of multiage grouping, it has equally been established during its implementation that the viewpoint of parents whose children attend childcare services often makes the difference. We, therefore, have the intention of informing parents and allowing them to express themselves in our Bulletin.

### A Platform for the Practice of Multiage Grouping

In Quebec, in other parts of Canada, and in other countries people are already experiencing successful results with multiage grouping in childcare services.

We have a great deal to learn from the experiences of others, and that is why within our next bulletin, we wish to provide them with a platform to present their projects and discuss their accomplishments. These trials and successes of the multiage grouping practice are fundamental for all those who are interested in this educational format.

## Other information about the Association Québécoise pour le multiâge

### Our Corporation

The Association québécoise pour le multiâge received its letters patent January 7, 2005. The head office is temporarily located in Montreal while awaiting the annual general assembly of its members which will take place in September of 2005.

### The Board of Directors (B.O.D.)

The founding members comprise of a temporary board of directors of the QMA until the next B.O.D. election in September of 2005.

- Manon Ladouceur, president, pedagogical assistant in a childcare center.
- France Bachand, treasurer, home childcare service provider.
- Violaine Gagnon, secretary, childcare parent.



### The members

We have 2 categories of members :

#### 1) Individual Member (includes students) :

- receives 4 electronic information Bulletins per year.
- has the right to attend annual general or emergency meetings of the AQM members.
- has the right to vote and present themselves for election to the Board of Directors.
- has the right to have their name indicated on the AQM website in the individual member section.
- has the right to participate in the committee work of the QMA.

#### 2) Associative Member

An associative member of the Association Québécoise pour le Multiâge is a corporation or an association from Quebec, from another Canadian province or from another country, who shares the interests of those of the QMA; a childcare service, a family resource center, a school, etc. :

- receives 4 electronic information Bulletins per year.
- has the right to attend, as a representative, the annual general or emergency meetings of the AQM members.
- has the right to have its name indicated on the AQM website in the associative members section.
- has the right to participate in AQM committees

#### Bulletin Committee

Geneviève Lemay, Danielle Paradis.

Traduction : Andréa Larivée.



**If you wish to support multiage grouping and our association, please submit an article or share your practical experience of multiage education.**

**Write to us!**

[info@multiage.ca](mailto:info@multiage.ca)

**Would you like to subscribe to the Association Québécoise pour le multiâge or become involved in promoting the ideas and benefits of multiage grouping?**

**Please fill out the membership form below.**

## 2005 membership form to the Association Québécoise pour le Multiâge (QMA)

To be sent with your payment (cheques preferred). A receipt will be issued to members.

Association Québécoise pour le Multiâge, #304, 1030 Cherrier Street, Montréal (Québec) H2L 1H9

Name of person or organization : \_\_\_\_\_

First Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Profession : \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_ City : \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code : \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone : \_\_\_\_\_ Fax : \_\_\_\_\_

Email : \_\_\_\_\_ Web Site : \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the boxes which correspond to your situation or your choice :

- Individual member** : 20 \$
- Individual student member** : 10 \$ (please attach a copy of your student card)
- Associative member** : 40 \$  
(a corporation or an association from Quebec, another province or country, who shares the same common interests as those of the QMA, like a childcare service, a school, etc.)

I prefer to receive the QMA Bulletin :

- In French
- In English
- In paper form rather than by email (add \$5 to your membership)

I accept that my name, or that of my organization, appear :

- In the QMA Bulletin (under heading of *new member*)
- On the QMA website (under heading of *list of members*)

## Involvement in the Association Québécoise pour le Multiâge

If you wish to contribute to the development of the QMA, please check the boxes of your choice

- I am interested in a seat on the QMA Board of Directors (one meeting every 2 months + telephone meetings)
- I am interested in participating in committee activities of the QMA
  - Information bulletin of the QMA (document research and set up of the newsletter, circulation, etc.)
  - Translation of texts (for the Bulletin, internet site, publications, etc.)
    - From French to English       From French to Spanish
    - From English to French       From English to Spanish
  - Text editing and proofreading of the information Bulletin, Internet site, etc. (testimonials, pedagogical or scientific texts, etc.)
  - Event Planning (lectures, forums, conferences, etc.)
  - Support for childcare services or associations (training, development of practical tools, etc.)
  - Other participation : please specify your interests (use an additional sheet if necessary)

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