Child Care and Learning Centre (CCLC) Outdoor Learning Environment

The University of Guelph’s CCLC needs to transform its outdoor learning spaces to develop an optimal facility for our children, undergraduate students, and researchers. While the overall cost of the project is $1M, we are only looking to raise $350,000 from our donors as the remaining funds are being supported by the University and the CCLC.

**Impact Statement:**

Research has shown the positive impact that outdoor learning has on children and its essential role in children’s holistic development. There is an urgent need for the CCLC to re-develop our playground to more effectively support the development of the children in our programs, ensure a safer environment, and remain leaders in the early learning and care sector.

The CCLC serves approximately 150 children each year, providing accessible child care to our campus community and beyond. It also supports approximately 90 experiential learning placements for students through Co-operative Education placements, Practicum courses, and volunteer programs. The Centre also serves as a research space for University of Guelph faculty, as well as faculty from other institutions.

Our collective fundraising efforts will benefit current and future children of the CCLC and will have a lasting impact through their enhanced early connections with nature that are shown to foster stewardship of our planet.

**Goals:**

The playground transformation will create a stimulating, diverse, and engaging environment that affords opportunities for cognitive and dramatic play, experimentation and learning, social interaction, physical activity, and access to nature.

Support raised will:

- Transform our playgrounds to a naturalized outdoor learning environment to better support children’s learning, development, and safety
- Significantly expand the green space, including accessible seating and covered areas
- Provide the inclusion of many interesting new features to expand exploration and learning, such as a dry riverbed and sand area with a water feature, native trees, and tall grasses
- Fund the addition of a sports field to provide authentic experiences in sports and to connect with the important Gryphon culture on-campus
- Fund the addition of a park-like space that will be publicly accessible to both our local and on-campus communities

Learn more at alumni.uoguelph.ca/givingpriorities or contact alumni@uoguelph.ca