

December 21 2018

Re: Merrymount Children's Centre

I have had the privilege of working for Merrymount Children's Centre since 2016. During that time, I have seen the impact of Merrymount's services on families in need. Merrymount fills an important role in supporting families in crisis or transition.

Our Crisis Residential/Respite and Family Child Support programs offer unique and highly flexible supports to families and children. Merrymount care is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Families access the amount of care that is right for them. For some families, this means they get a much-needed break that enables them to be ready to parent again. For others, it means that they can leave their child in our care while they attend medical, therapy or legal appointments, or look for new housing. For other families, Merrymount's services are utilized in a time of crisis (e.g. domestic violence, hospitalization, etc.) when no other service is available to keep their family together. Our Family Support Program offers innovative and evidence-based programs that help to build family capacity.

Merrymount works in partnership with other organizations in London to ensure that families receive all of the services they need, and to ensure that we do not duplicate services. I am most proud of Merrymount's creativity and welcoming approach, and I believe that our unique services and programs fill many gaps in our system. We meet families where they are, respect and celebrate their diversity. We provide services that help them to grow now, and to be ready to benefit from different or more intensive treatment or services from other organizations.

By providing both practical and therapeutic supports, we enable families to stay together, to avoid further disruption, and to have a brighter future with less dependence on services. I encourage you to support us in continuing to provide these services.

Sincerely,



Lee-Anne Cross
718 Victoria Street
London, Ontario

