



**National
Multiple Births
Awareness Day!
May 28th**



www.multiplebirthscanada.org

Multiple Births Canada /

Naissance multiples Canada

PO Box 432

Wasaga Beach, ON

Canada L9Z 1A4

Tel. / Tél. : 1-705-429-0901

Fax / Téléc. : 1-705-429-9809

Toll Free / No. sans frais :

1-866-228-8824

office@multiplebirthscanada.org

www.multiplebirthscanada.org

Supporting

Multiple Births

Together

CLASSROOM PLACEMENT OF MULTIPLES – TOGETHER OR NOT?

***HOLD FOR RELEASE ON
OR AFTER MAY 28, 2009***

WASAGA BEACH, ONTARIO -- Multiple Births Canada (MBC), the only national organization supporting Canada's multiple-birth community, announced its 2009 theme today for National Multiple Births Awareness Day - "*Classroom Placement of Multiples - together or not?*"

One of the challenges faced by parents of twins, triplets and more is to foster the unique development of each child at the same time encouraging the unique bond between their children. This challenge also applies to teachers with multiples in their classrooms; however the challenge within the school may be complicated by preconceived opinions of educators, the number of students in the school, and the number of twins, triplets or more involved. "Unfortunately, some multiple-birth parents have experienced situations where a principal or teacher did not welcome or ignored the input of parents of multiples on the classroom placement of their children. For this reason, we are creating awareness of this important issue while asking School Boards and the Ministries of Education to develop a mandated policy encouraging a consultative process for all schools," commented Gail Moore, MBC Chair and Director of Communications.

MBC strongly believes decisions about classroom placement of multiples should be made annually, on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with the parents of the children concerned. Just as each child is unique, each set of multiples is unique. Some multiples thrive in separate classes; others in the same class. Similarly, what works for a given set of multiples one year might not work the next year. Therefore, MBC believes that blanket policies on this issue – either for separate or same-class placement – are inappropriate.

MBC has supported multiple-birth families in Canada for over 30 years. It is the only national, non-profit, non-governmental organization solely committed to improving the quality of life for multiple-birth individuals and their families in Canada. MBC's mandate includes improving access to support, resources and informed care for multiples and their families; building stronger member chapters across Canada; and encouraging government and service providers to recognize the unique needs of multiples and their families and to provide appropriate services to them. For more information about MBC, call 1-866-228-8824, or visit the website at www.multiplebirthscanada.org.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gail Moore, Chair & Director of Communications

Toll Free: 1-866-228-8824

communications@multiplebirthscanada.org