

It's time to go back ... to school

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PREPARING STUDENTS FOR A LIFETIME OF SUCCESS

The Richmond Hill Adult Community Learning Centre



Is Now Accepting Student Applications For September 1997

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Get kids involved in back-to-school budgeting

Preparing the students in your household to hit the books when classes resume in September can play hard ball with the family finances if you haven't planned for the expenses, said smart shopping experts at Ontario's Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

"Families pushed beyond their ability to pay at back-to-school time may strike out financially by the time Christmas rolls around," said Marilyn Gurevsky, a manager at the ministry's Business Division.

Gurevsky said three simple strategies can help keep spending in line - budgeting, bargain-hunting and compromise.

"The first step is to figure out how much money you can spend and determine not to go over your limit," Gurevsky said.

Next, you should get the kids involved. They should sit down with you and work together to do a rough breakdown of the back-to-school budget, including ball-park figures for clothes, books, supplies, sporting equipment and any fees required.

Once you've determined the amounts, let the children look through sales catalogues, newspaper inserts and fliers.

"Make it fun, just like picking toys at Christmas," said Gurevsky. "But remind them to stay within the budget."

"Getting your children involved in the process can help you enlist their support to take advantage of the best bargains available for back-to-school."

■ Please see page 13 ■

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