



Early Learning & Child Care ~Highlights~

Children's Services Program, Peterborough Social Services

Summer

2012



Awesome Resources...

Parent Central
www.parentcentral.ca

Child Care Exchange - Great Resources
www.childcareexchange.com

Canadian Child Care Federation
www.qualitychildcarecanada.ca

Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care
www.childcareontario.org

Centre of Excellence for EC Development
www.excellence-earlychildhood.ca

Ministry of Education
www.edu.gov.on.ca

Important Dates to Remember...

- August 31st. - Health and Safety Funding Requests due to Children's Services.
- September 13 - Modernizing Child Care Forum: 10 am @ Northview DaySchool
- September 19 - Business Partner's Meeting: 12:00 @ Northview DaySchool
- October 17 - Supervisor's Network Meeting: 12:30 @ Northview DaySchool
- October 12 - Raising the Bar Submission Deadline
- November 21 - Business Partner's Meeting: 12:00 @ Northview DaySchool
- November 14 - ECE Appreciation and RTB Recognition Event
- December 12 - Supervisor's Network Meeting: 12:30 @ Northview DaySchool

Modernizing Child Care in Ontario

In June the Ontario government released a discussion paper called "Modernizing Child Care in Ontario". The intention of the document is to begin conversations that will help move Ontario towards a high quality, accessible and coordinated early learning and care system for all children. The paper outlines the government's long-term vision for child care and invites feedback through a series of questions from stakeholders to help inform the modernization of child care over the next three years.

Highlights

Five Guiding Principles for the vision were identified as follows:

- Support and choice for children and families
- Commitment to quality programs for all children
- Efficient funding formula
- Supportive legislation and regulations
- Evidence-based decision-making and reporting

A proposed action plan focuses on specific areas where the government can take action in the next three years. The questions posed directly link to the following key areas:

- * Operating funding formula
- * Capital funding priorities
- * Quality programs
- * Modernized Legislative and Regulatory Frameworks
- * Support for Accountability and Capacity Building

Responses to the discussion paper is highly encouraged and are due September 24, 2012. For the full discussion paper go to: http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/Modernizing_Child_Care.pdf

Feedback is Important...

- ⇒ Visit the Regulatory Registry to read the discussion paper and provide your feedback.
- ⇒ Attend the Modernizing Child Care Forum to participate in a community feedback session.
- ⇒ Encourage your families and staff to complete the Modernizing Child Care survey at: <http://fluidsurveys.com/s/peterborough>
- ⇒ Keep informed, get involved and stay connected!!



Fee Subsidy Waitlist Update

Over the last several months we have continued to monitor our fee subsidy expenditures in hopes of releasing names from our waitlist. While many children left the system in May and June, many others transitioned from before and after school care to full-time summer care which is more expensive. This coupled with the rising costs of child care and insufficient funds to meet the demand, our waiting list continues to grow and unfortunately we are still not able to release any names. As of July 31 we had 356 children on our waiting list—279 in the City and 77 in the County. With twelve additional schools offering the Early Learning program this September we anticipate that approximately 150 children currently in receipt of fee subsidy will leave the system. This transition will free up a small amount of fee subsidy funding and in turn should allow us the ability to release some children from the wait list early in the fall. I recognize that this creates a very difficult situation for families needing a fee subsidy and adds financial pressure for agencies. I would urge you to continue to keep our local and provincial politicians informed of the issues and pressures that parents and child care operators in our community are experiencing.



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Coming in January, 2012—refreshed
and updated Children's Services Web



Schools- First Child Care Capital Retrofit Policy

As part of the government's commitment to modernizing child care in Ontario, in July MEDU announced that one of their medium-term objectives is the implementation of the Schools-First Child Care Capital Retrofit Policy. This new initiative will be financed by the \$242 million investment announced in April. The government has committed \$113 million over three years to school boards to convert current school-based licensed child care spaces to serve children 0—3.8 years of age. The policy is intended to help guide the planning and implementation process. Schools boards will be responsible for managing the capital investment however, plans will be developed and approved jointly by school boards and the Municipal Service Managers. The planning will take into account space availability, community needs and the broader child care system planning and transition issues. This capital funding will enable repurposing of space that is currently used to serve 4 and 5 year olds in licensed child care, and/or space not required for instructional purposes in schools, to serve children aged 0—3.8 years. The repurposed space may be used by an existing on-site child care operator or a non-profit community child care operator that wishes to relocate into a school setting. The policy is intended to stabilize the current system and does not allow for expansion of the child care system. Capital funding will not be provided for FDK or school-age child care spaces as the Ministry will not fund exclusive space for before and after school child care programs.

Next Steps...The Ministry is to provide additional details regarding municipal funding allocations and implementation strategies at a later date. We will continue to share information with the community as we receive it. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions related to this information.

Transition Funding

In the spring of this year we surveyed the child care community to determine the scope of impacts to operators as a result of the implementation of FDK. The data identified a projected loss of 353 four & five year olds from the child care system and the respective parent fees associated with these children. This year 28 operators were directly impacted and therefore eligible for Transition Funding in 2012. Transition funding is made available to impacted child care operators to assist them with the conversion of spaces to serve younger children. We received 10 funding applications and provided funding for 9 of the 10 requests.

Child Care Worker & ECE Appreciation Day: October 24
This Year's Theme: Passionate Leaders



New Child Care Funding for 2012

Further to the governments announcement in April of a \$242 million investment in child care over the next three years, the Ministry of Education confirmed in July how much money each municipality will receive in 2012 and how the funding is to be used to stabilize and transform the existing child care system. The City of Peterborough received \$182,267 in additional funding. This funding is in addition to current investments that support the child care sector and the implementation of FDK which includes \$12 million in transition capital over five years and stabilization funding that will grow to \$51 million annually by 2015.

This announcement is the next step in the government's commitment to support child care and to create a more integrated and seamless early learning and child care system.

This new funding can be used to:

- Help stabilize child care fees for parents;
- Mitigate child care centre closures and support existing subsidized spaces so that parents have child care they can count on;
- Increase quality and accountability in licensed child care settings; and
- Support retrofits to community-based child care to serve younger children.

This money is being provided as one-time assistance until a new funding formula for child care is implemented in coming years. The government has also provided flexibility for Municipal Service Manager's to use this funding to best address local and urgent pressures/needs in 2012.

Funding can be used in the following ways:

- **Transition Capital & Operating** to help support non-profit child care centres make retrofits and renovations to serve younger children;
- **Health & Safety Minor Capital** to support licensed child care programs that are not in compliance with licensing requirements (or may be at risk of not being in compliance with licensing requirements) under the DNA.
- **Capacity Funding to Support Transformation** is intended to assist non-profit licensed child care programs address costs related to legal fees and advice to support operators' transformation, mergers and consolidations, relocation costs to schools, and costs for information technology used for administrative and business purposes.

Over the next month, we will be reviewing our current pressures and needs as well as seeking operator feedback to assist us in determining how this new funding will be used to best support the families and operators in our community.