

The Changing Landscapes of Early Childhood Education

Opportunities and Challenges of Integrating
~~Early Learning and Child Care with Education~~
Early Childhood Education and the School System

A national conversation continued...

Welcome

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Mother to 5 year old Ewan

and

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“Full day learning” ...

- What are the impacts on children?
- What difference does it make for families of young children?
- How does it change the face of Early Childhood Education?

The Good, the Bad and the Messy....

Background

The Good...

- A renewed focus on early childhood education
- Recognition of the importance of child centred, play-based learning
- Opportunities for children to have less transitions in their day – the “seamless day”
- Less stress for parents = less stressed children

Background

- **The Bad (The Uncertain)...**
- Is this “good” (developmentally appropriate) for children?
- Does the curriculum focus of the school system integrate with child centred, play based learning approach?
- What does the future career path of an Early Childhood Educator look like?
- What does the move to full day kindergarten mean for the early learning and child care sector?

Background

The Messy...

“Implementation of something as important but also as complex as this will feel, at some times, as messy as a child’s first attempt at finger painting.” (Charles Pascal)



A Tale of Two Provinces





On the ground in BC...

- Starting in 2010, the Ministry of Education began phasing in universal access over 2 years.
- Full day kindergarten is now available for all five-year-olds in the province.
- A longer instructional day has enabled kindergarten teachers to provide more opportunities for learning and success.
- The expanded kindergarten program is play-based and designed to address all areas of child development: physical, social, emotional, language and cognitive.



Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning

Highlights of the plan

- New legislation
- New home for child care in Ministry of Education
- A new role for Boards of Education
- The development of Early Years Centre Networks
- Enhancing Kindergarten and Grade One
- Strengthening School Age Care and Family Child Care
- Developing the Early Childhood Educators' workforce



Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning

Key statements:

- *Full day learning demands change from us all*
- *Requires cultural shift that may take a generation to fully achieve*
- *It will take an openness to learn, a willingness to trust, and a generosity of spirit: all values at the core of quality early care programs*

ECEBC and Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC



On the ground in Ontario...

- In September 2010, 600 elementary schools in Ontario began offering the province's new full day learning program for 4 and 5 year olds, and
- by September 2012 it will be available in almost 1,700 schools.
- Goal is to provide four- and five-year-olds with a seamless and integrated day
- Full Day Learning, the biggest change in early childhood education in a generation, is now a reality in Ontario.
- The introduction of full-day has had a monumental impact on the existing child care system and community.
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With Our Best Future in Mind

- Provided the Ontario government with a comprehensive plan of action for the implementation of full day learning
- Early learning delivery in the public education system is being transformed by the entry of thousands of young children.
- The teaching model is changing radically with RECE-teacher partner teams and new curriculums being implemented.
- Core to the program's success is a common shared vision and effective team approach where the combined expertise of early childhood educators and teachers provides an optimal learning environment.



A national conversation begins....



- A pre-conference workshop in St. John, New Brunswick this past May
- 11 Panelists from across Canada
- Moderator Kathleen Flanagan introduced panelists and led discussions

A conversation of hope and possibilities

Core Values

How can we, in the early years sector, embrace and utilize the positive values of education (e.g. universal entitlement, public funding, well-qualified workforce, school as a strong societal institution) while resisting the negative possibilities (e.g. schoolification, deficit approach to testing, 4 year olds in the school system) , to establish the need for strong and equal partnership?

A conversation of hope and possibilities

Building Reciprocal Relationships

- How can/how has the creation of a new relationship between ELCC and education brought new shared understandings? (e.g. image of the child; reciprocal relationships with families, meaning of education, image of educators/teachers, potential meeting places that offer opportunities for dialogue and reflection, etc.)?

A conversation of hope and possibilities

Structure/system of Education

- How can/how has your respective jurisdiction use this change (“joining up” of ECD and Education) to contribute to rethinking and restructuring the entire education system? (e.g. what would an education system with common values, goals, and pedagogies look like for individuals from birth to 18 years old- *a continuum of care and education*)?

A conversation of hope and possibilities

Evaluation & Sustainability

- How do we measure and evaluate the evolving changes and document the processes, experiences, and outcomes in order that strengths can be sustained in a new education system?

Let's continue the conversation....

Visit

www.qualitychildcarecanada.ca

to read what others are saying and to post your own comments.

Click on

<http://www.cccf-fcsge.ca/forum/1>

to get to the discussion board.

Full Day Learning Resource Kit for ECEs transitioning to School Board Full Day Learning Programs

With the introduction of full day learning programs in schools, many of you will find yourselves working in new environments alongside elementary school teachers.

The Canadian Child Care Federation has put together a selection of our top resources to help inform, build relationships and empower you in your new role.

The Full Day Learning Resource Kit contains:

- * Foundations for Numeracy resources for both early learning environments and the school years
- * From Birth to Life Language and Literacy resources
- * 2 Moving and Growing volumes that cover from 2-6 years
- * 10 of our top Resource Sheets
- * Meeting the Challenge
- * Physical Activity CD and
- * Partners in Quality- Relationships resource

Becoming a member of CCCF

There are two ways to join...

1. Join one of our provincial/territorial affiliate organizations and automatically become a member of CCCF
2. Join the CCCF as a national member:
 - Individual \$65
 - Organization \$90
 - Student \$35

www.qualitychildcarecanada.ca

*When you are looking for ways to enhance
program quality, enrich curriculum,
expand understanding of child development
and broaden your networks, trust CCCF.*

Thank you

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