
Ontario's Renewed Early Years and Child Care Policy Framework 2017

June 6, 2017 1:00 P.M.

Ontario has been working together with partners in child care and related sectors to build a high quality, seamless, and more accessible early years and child care system.

This renewed framework will help the province transform its early years and child care system to make high-quality early years experiences possible for more children and families.

The framework has seven action items:

1) **Increasing Access:** Families will find it easier to access high-quality early years programs and licensed child care spaces in communities, homes and schools.

To achieve this, Ontario is:

- Helping 100,000 more children aged 0-4 access licensed child care through significant operating, subsidy and capital investments.
- Prioritizing the growth of not-for-profit child care. Launching an Innovation Fund to support unique solutions to increase access to licensed child care.
- Providing base-funding for the licensed home child care sector to give families more options for high-quality care.
- Increasing access to culturally relevant child and family programs and licensed child care in Indigenous communities, building on Ontario's commitments in [The Journey Together](#).
- Integrating Ontario's existing child and family programs into a single suite of services.

2) **Increased Affordability:** Child care will be more affordable for families.

To achieve this, Ontario is:

- Investing immediately so that more children can have more affordable access to high-quality licensed child care.
- Increasing funding for fee subsidies to help families who need them.
- Launching an expert-led Affordability Strategy that will look at ways to transform the child care system to make it more affordable for Ontario families.

3) **Early Years Workforce Strategy:** Families will continue to benefit from high-quality child care and early years programming delivered by engaged and knowledgeable educators.

To achieve this, Ontario is:

- Developing a workforce strategy, including a study to identify how the province can better support ECEs and other child care staff in areas that include: compensation, hiring, retention, education, training and governance.
- Confirming ongoing funding for wage enhancement while exploring other ways to improve the program.
- Providing ongoing support for professional development, including two provincially-funded professional learning days per year.

4) **Defining Quality in the Early Years:** Children and families will continue to benefit from a shared view of the role of the child, family and educator across early years settings.

To achieve this, Ontario is:

- Engaging with early years partners to co-develop a definition of program quality by 2019.
- Embedding quality into all aspects of Ontario's early years and child care system to create meaningful environments for children, families and early childhood professionals.
- Researching and developing a mechanism for measuring program quality.

5) **Promoting Inclusion in the Early Years:** Families will find it easier and receive support for children with special needs.

To achieve this, Ontario is:

- Reviewing current approaches to supporting all children in early years and child care settings.
- Engaging with stakeholders to develop a renewed approach for children with special needs in the early years.

6) **Outcomes and Measurement Strategy:** Families will have increased confidence in how Ontario's early years and child care system is working.

To achieve this, Ontario is:

- Developing and releasing an annual report beginning in September 2017.
- Developing a five-year outcomes and measurement strategy to track progress, measure quality and identify and respond to trends in Ontario's child care system.

7) **Increasing Public Awareness:** Families will be able to easily access information about programs and services, including licensed child care and child and family programs.

To achieve this, Ontario is:

- Creating a one-stop online hub to make it easier to understand and participate in Ontario's early years and child care programs and services.
- Providing a new visual identity for Ontario's child and family programs.

Heather Irwin Communications Branch
heather.irwin@ontario.ca
416-325-2454

[Disponible en Français](#)