TRENDS IN ECE ACROSS CANADA

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Best Start Resource Centre Conference 2015

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OISE, University of Toronto
The scientific, social and economic rationale for ECE
Experienced-based brain development

- genes
- epigenetics
- experience
- physical environment
- nurturing
- nutrition
- learning
- health
- behaviour

NEURAL PATHWAYS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- Birth
- Prenatal
- Early childhood
- Middle childhood
- Adolescence / Early adulthood

Synapse formation:
- Birth
- Sensory
- Limbic system
- Prefrontal cortex
- Language

Neurobiology:
- Cell differentiation
- Myelination
- Puberty hormones
- Neuron differentiation
NEURAL PATHWAYS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prenatal</th>
<th>Early childhood</th>
<th>Middle childhood</th>
<th>Adolescence / Early adulthood</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>vision hearing touch</td>
<td>symbols &amp; ideas</td>
<td>mental inferences</td>
<td>metalinguistic awareness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Birth</td>
<td>mindfulness</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>arousal &amp; recovery</td>
<td>reading</td>
<td></td>
<td>critical thinking</td>
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<tr>
<td>sleep &amp; wakefulness</td>
<td>mathematics</td>
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<td>reflective thinking</td>
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<tr>
<td>social relationships</td>
<td>inquiry</td>
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<tr>
<td>shared attention</td>
<td>thinking strategies</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>talking</td>
<td></td>
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<td>considered response</td>
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<td>Emerging abilities</td>
<td>memory</td>
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ECER 2014
FACTORS AFFECTING ACHIEVEMENT
AGE 11

# DONE RIGHT EARLY EDUCATION PAYS FOR ITSELF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Premise</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
<th>Ratio</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Increased women’s employment by 70,000</td>
<td>Quebec gains $1.5 B in increased tax revenue</td>
<td>For every $1 spent on ECEC, Quebec receives $1.05</td>
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<td>Enhanced maternal employment pays for the program</td>
<td>Pays $340 M less in tax and social benefits to families</td>
<td>Federal government receives $.44</td>
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<td>Increased GDP by $5.2 B</td>
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Economic Consequences of Quebec’s Educational Childcare Policy

Pierre Fortin
Luc Godbout
Suzie St-Cerny

2010

$580,000 per community site for 5 years

3 sites involving children 4-8 years
5 sites involving children birth to 4 years

Matched similar neighbourhoods

No difference for BBBF sites focused on birth to 4 years but reduced use of health, special education, child welfare in 4-8 years sites compared to matched neighbourhoods

For every $1 spent in school-based programs, $2 saved in reduced costs to public and community agencies
WHAT HAS LOW COST EARLY EDUCATION AND CARE DONE FOR QUÉBEC?

70,000 more mothers are working
They generate $1.5-billion annually in taxes
And draw $340-million less in social transfers
Boosting the GDP by $5-billion

QUÉBEC MOTHERS HAVE:

Moved Québec from the bottom to the top in female labour force participation in Canada
Halved child poverty rates
Halved social assistance rates for lone parents
Boosted fertility
Meanwhile, Québec student test scores have moved from below to above the national average
For every dollar Québec spends on ECE, it collects $1.05 in increased taxes and reduced family payments, while the federal government gets $0.55
Relative poverty rates for three social risk categories

Early Childhood Education Report 2014: It’s time for preschool
The ECE workforce

1. Wages improving
2. Increased post-secondary qualifications
3. Distinction between ECEs and assistants
4. Increased unionization

ECER 2014
With exception of Nunavut, there is at least one quality measurement tool in use in every P/T

Accountability through program monitoring
Increased definition of ECE scope of practice

Eight P/Ts require ECES to be certified or registered.
Increased undergraduate and graduate post-secondary opportunities in ECE

ECE policy and practice research in Canada
ECEs challenged to make significant changes

College ECE programs challenged to shift curriculum content to prepare ECEs for a changing landscape

Moving from cottage industry to a system
PERCENT CHANGE IN ECE ATTENDANCE
BY CHILDREN 2 TO 4 YEARS OLD
CHANGE IN CANADA ECE SPENDING AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE GDP


0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.7 0.8 0.9 1.0

0 2006 2011 2014 OECD average
MORE ATTENTION TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Change in ECE Report Results

- NL
- PE
- NS
- NB
- QC
- ON
- MB
- SK
- AB
- BC
- NT

2014
2011
Joining up family resources, & maternal, newborn and child health with early childhood education?
THE EARLY EDUCATION CHALLENGE

Research indicates integrated delivery of early childhood and family support programs from a stable platform serves more families, more cost-effectively and in ways that families want to be served.
INTEGRATED CHILD & FAMILY CENTRE

- Public policy & infrastructure
- Neighbourhood & Schools
- Local Decision-Making
- Public policy & infrastructure

- Early childhood education
- Pre/post natal
- Nonparental care
- Parenting
- Child & maternal health
- Resources
- Early interventions
Plan for Child & Family Centres
A PAN-CANADIAN MONITORING OF FAMILY RESOURCE/EARLY INTERVENTION/FAMILY HEALTH?

A sister monitoring tool to the ECE Report

Benchmarks based in evidence

Data publicly available across Canada

A credible, non-government host
REFERENCES


www.earlyyearsstudy.ca

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Early Childhood Education Report 2014: www.timeforpreschool.ca

Atkinson Centre: www.oise.utoronto.ca/atkinson

Contact: zeenat.janmohamed@utoronto.ca