Early Years Study 3 & Modernizing Ontario’s Early Years Services

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Children’s Planning Table
, November 26, 2012

Relative poverty rates for three social risk categories

Mothers’ labour is essential

Employment rate of women with children by age of youngest child, 1976 to 2009


 Experienced-based brain development

Factors affecting academic achievement – Age 11


Trajectories for Numeracy

Group %: 8.2%, 9.1%, 11.8%, 13.6%, 16.2%, 23.2%, 29.9%
Quality and duration matter (months of developmental age)

- low-quality
- average
- high-quality

ECE program attendance


Quality linked to better outcomes
Preschool quality and self-regulation and pro-social behaviour (age 11)

Preschool quality
- low
- medium
- high

Effect size

Social class and pre-school on literacy (age 7)

Universe access promotes equity - Vocabulary skills in children ages 4 and 5 years by family income

Vocabulary skills in children ages 4 and 5 years by family income

Number of children with ‘delayed’ vocabulary

- Affluent
- Moderate
- Low-Moderate
- Poor

Special tabulation.

Universality is more equitable

Special tabulation.
Cost of early school leavers

Public costs of high school non-completion in Canada by cohort (2008 dollars)

Cost per million

- Social assistance: $969 million
- Crime: $350 million
- Tax revenue loss: $378 million
- Revenue lost in Employment Insurance premiums: $201 million
- Employment Insurance cost: $1,100 million


Literacy and civic engagement

Civic engagement by literacy levels, Canada, population aged 16 and over, 2003

- High literacy level: 80% engaged
- Lower literacy levels: 55% to 62% engaged

Higher literacy levels are associated with increased civic engagement.
What has low cost early education and care done for Quebec?

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

Quebec mothers have:

- Moved Quebec 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, Quebec student test scores have moved from below to above the national average


Done right early education and care pays for itself

For every dollar Quebec spends on ECE, it collects $1.05 in increased taxes and reduced family payments, while the federal government gets $0.44

More money isn’t the only answer

- Better Beginnings; Better Futures – began in 1991; 25-year longitudinal demonstration project to provide information on the effectiveness of prevention
- 5,000 children – eight sites – 4–8 yrs (3); 0–4 (5)
- By Grade 12, $5,000 per child savings in special education alone 4–8 yr sites, less use of health, social & justice services
- No long term savings in the under 4s
- Why? Too few resources, too broad mandate, no universal platform to operate from
ECEC Across Canada
Percentage of 2 – 4-year-olds regularly attending an ECE centre by provinces and Canada

Canada: 52%
BC 41%
AB 31%
MB 43%
SK 34%
QC 69%
ON 56%
NB 36%
PE 41%
NL 31%
NS 38%

Across Canada, 50% of children between ages 2 and 4 years attend an early childhood education programs - up from 35% just 10 ago (McCain, Mustard & McCuaig, 2011)

More attention to monitoring

FIGURE 5.14 EDI use across Canada

Category 1: Provincial/territorial coverage (at least once by 2011)
Category 2: Working towards provincial/territorial coverage
Category 3: Ongoing commitment to implementing the EDI provincially/territorially

Source: Provincial/territorial profile www.earlyyearsstudy.ca

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Modernizing Ontario’s Early Years

Develop a comprehensive prenatal – age 12 policy framework which includes goal:

- 75% of preschool aged children regularly attend an ECE program

Accomplished by repurposing and building on existing services
Where are the kids 0-4 years

731,000 children 0–4 years
- 30% have a parent full-time in the home
- 23% parents off-shift to provide care
- 13% receive regular care from relatives
- 22% are in licensed child care
- 12% are with unlicensed child minders

Regardless of their care arrangement, children 0–4 years regularly attend an ECE program
- 95% 4 year olds
- 35% 2 & 3 year olds
- 20% of 0–2 year olds

Sources: ON Ministry of Finance; Lero, Cleveland, NLSCY (2011); Survey of Young Canadians (2012)

What parents - at home and in the workforce - want for young children

- Opportunities for their children to play with other children
- Acquire skills and motivation for learning that will help them in school
- Child care – permanent and occasional
- Places to meet other parents and caregivers
- Parenting advice

All children benefit from regularly attending a high quality early education program

The service starting point

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Licensed child care/group and home</th>
<th>Early Learning Division, Edu</th>
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</thead>
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<td>Parenting and Family Literacy Centres</td>
<td>Learning Environment Branch, Edu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ontario Early Years Centres</td>
<td>Regional offices, MCYS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Resource Centres</td>
<td>MCYS, CMSMs/DSSABs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preschool speech and language</td>
<td>MCYS, Various</td>
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<td>Data analysis coordinators</td>
<td>MCYS, Various</td>
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<tr>
<td>HBHC and other child and maternal health programs</td>
<td>MCYS, MHLCE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Re-engineering to meet goal

- Mandate every service to provide a regular ECE program – guided by the ELECT curriculum and delivered by RECEs.
- Families register with their neighbourhood ECE program; opens potential to assign every child with an Ontario School Number from birth to facilitate program evaluation.
- Public Health and regional service managers collaborate to provide outreach.
- In addition to ECE programming, families receive regular email information on child development and programs in their community.
- Central website and information generation.
Enhancing ECE quality

Improve qualifications
- Group licensed child care, 2/3 of all educators are RECEs
- Home child care agencies, all consultants are RECEs
- OEYCs, FRCs and PFLCs, the core staff are RECEs
- ECE-related degree required for early childhood advisors, program directors and consultants working in home child agencies
- Consult with College of ECEs to develop minimal professional development requirements
- Mandate training for home child care providers leading to credential

Monitoring
- Adopt a province-wide monitoring tool for all licensed ECE programs (Toronto Operating Criteria) and adapt as necessary for other ECE programs

Expand licensed ECE options

In response to other public policy initiatives including full year parental leave and full day kindergarten reorganize licensed ECE as follows:

- Children up to 24 months, a ratio of 1:4 with flexibility as in the existing DNA for under age children. Maximum group size of 12.
- Children 25 to 48 months, a ratio of 1:7 with similar flexibility as the existing DNA for under age children. Maximum group size of 21.
- Encourage part-day programs with flexible attendance options to open up licensed ECE as an alternative for more families.
Infrastructure changes

Management
• Single ECE policy framework managed by ELD
• Single service plan managed by CMSMs/DSSABs
• Licensing critical to service stability – new programs or expansions require CMSM/DSSAB to sign off

Funding
• Expand school GSN funding to include 0–4 early years programming space
• Include funded child care spaces under the same funding formula as kindergarten and elementary space

A funded space is included in regional children’s services plan; is open to families receiving subsidies and children with special needs

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