Modernizing the Early Years

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

• 75% of preschool aged children regularly attending an ECE program

Accomplished this 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) custom runs.
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 EY service patchwork

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Licensed child care/group home</th>
<th>Early Learning Division, Edu</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<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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<td>HBHC and other child and maternal health programs</td>
<td>MCYS, MHLC</td>
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</tbody>
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Re-engineering to meet goal

- Mandate every service to provide a regular ECE program - guided by the ELECT curriculum framework 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
- OYEYCs, FRCs and PFLCs, the core staff are RECEs
- ECE-related degree required for early childhood provincial and regional advisors, ECE 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.
• School age space in schools does not require licensing.
• Develop outcome, in addition to input, measures for licensing.

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 space (CC, OEYC, FRP, PFLC etc)
• Include funded child care spaces under the same funding formula as kindergarten and elementary space
• Review intervention services to align from birth through school

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