

Region of Waterloo Children's Services

Summer Institute 2016 Little Kids in Big School - Our Story







Establishing a strong foundation in the early years, and building on it is the single-most powerful key to Ontario's social and economic future.

What existed: Service Fragmentation & Chaos



Separate Systems – Same Children





Government Tabled Initial Legislation: Fall 2009 Full-Day Early Learning Statute Law Amendment Act: April 2010





A Time of Transformation

The focus is on building an "integrated system" for children prenatal-to-12 years of age on 2 levels:

1. Service planning level



2. Service delivery level \sim





Historical Picture

- 82% in Waterloo Region parents required childcare
- 34% of parents with students age 3-5 had access to licensed care
- 8% of parents with students age 6-12 had access to licensed care
- 28 of 103 elementary schools had licensed childcare colocated

Expanding Access to High Quality Regulated Care

Children who have access to high quality licensed early learning and child care have...

•Higher achievement and language scores

Demonstrate better social skills

•Exhibit fewer behaviour problems

Source: Region of Waterloo, Early Learning and Child Care Profile 2c



...Politics and Legislation: Impact of Advocacy

- Ontario School Boards must offer extended day programs for 4 and 5 year olds and include 6 and 7 year olds for viability; allows for programs for 8-12
- Can 'contract' with third party providers to deliver service, but the provider must be not-for-profit
- Providers must comply with Education legislation (Safe Schools)
- Extended Day program content must be delivered regardless of whether Board-operated or Third Party Provider operated





Early Learning and Child Care Service Plan

Region of Waterloo Children's Services

Addendum to the Children's Services

2011 Transition Plan

2012 - 2015





Region of Waterloo Children's Services 2010

Addendum to the 2010 Children's Services Serv

Stabilization Strategy

SOCIAL SERV

Three Goals

- 1. Vibrant, high quality inclusive service system
- 2. System wide approach
- 3. Integrated planning and service delivery

What Actually Happened





Kids thrive in 'seamless day of learning'

Waterloo pioneers school-run before- and after-school program as part of Ontario's full-day kindergarten initiative.

Waterloo shows the way Waterloo has shown that the original plan for full-day kindergarten in Ontario can be

carried out at the school board level.

As of September 8, 2015, there were **135 licensed ELCC centres** in Waterloo Region with approximately **4,844** spaces

available.

There are 6 more

in the Region of

Waterloo since 2013

licensed ELCC centres

licensed ELCC spaces

increased by more

than 5% since 2013

Total number of

As of August 2015, there were approximately 1,715 **Spaces** available in homebased care across the Region.



As of September 2015, 90% of schools in Waterloo Region are offering before and after school programs.



There are **48 more** school-based programs in the Region of Waterloo since 2013