

Update on child care partnerships with the Ministry of Education

It's hard for me to believe that it's already been six months since we began our formal relationship with Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs), District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs) and the child care sector in funding and contract management. Here in the Early Learning Division, and more broadly in the Ministry of Education, we recognize that child care is a vital part of early learning. We're excited to have this new partnership and to be working closely together.

I thought this would be a good time to review the milestones and accomplishments of the past months.

In April 2010, the Ontario government first announced the transfer of responsibility for child care to the Ministry of Education, to create an integrated system and support transitions for children and families.

The government is taking a phased approach.

- Child care policy and program responsibilities were transferred in May 2010.
- Funding and contract management for CMSMs and DSSABs were transferred on January 1, 2011.
- Funding and contract management for First Nations child care were transferred on April 1, 2011.

January 25, 2011 orientation meeting for CMSMs/DSSABs

I was pleased to meet representatives from each CMSM/DSSAB at our January 25 orientation. It was an opportunity to meet face-to-face, to share ideas and information, and to build a strong working relationship. The feedback indicated that participants appreciated the event and found it helpful and informative.

Child care contracts complete for 2011

We now have signed contracts with all CMSMs/DSSABs for 2011. We hope that the streamlined reporting and other improvements are proving beneficial.

Launch of enhancements to licensed child care website

In May, we added new features to the licensed child care website: www.ontario.ca/licensedchildcare. The website now provides additional information about licensed child care centres and private-home day care agencies, including the most recent inspection reports, providing ratings of:

- safety and cleanliness of equipment and furnishings
- food and nutrition
- approved emergency procedures and practices
- safe storage of medications
- staffing and supervision

The online information is an additional level of transparency for parents. All licensed child care centres were already required to post inspection summaries in their centres and provide detailed inspection reports to parents on request.

Guidance for supervision of students, volunteers in child care centres

In May, we provided direction that, effective September 6, 2011, all licensed child care centres and private-home day care agency operators will be required to develop and implement a policy for the supervision of volunteers and placement students in child care programs. View the policy:

www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/memos/may2011/supervisionPolicy.doc

Staffing changes in the Early Learning Division

As we look forward to the coming year, there are a few staffing changes we've put in place to continue to respond to the important work of child care and early learning.

- Jill Vienneau is taking on the permanent new role of Director of Child Care Quality Assurance and Licensing. Jill will lead the preparation and planning required to have the Ministry of Education assume responsibility for child care quality assurance and licensing, and will provide ongoing leadership in this area. At this time, child care licensing and enforcement remains the responsibility of the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.
- Rupert Gordon is taking on the permanent new role of Director for the Early Learning and Child Care Policy and Program Branch (the position previously held by Jill).
- Also effective immediately is Siobhan Kelly-Davis' permanent role as Manager in the Early Learning and Child Care Implementation Branch. Your main contact with us regarding funding and contract management remains your local Child Care Advisor. For your reference, their contact information is listed at the end of this update.

Looking ahead

In the fall, we'll begin communicating with you about 2012 contracts.

More information

Your local Child Care Advisor is your first contact for information. Here are some quick links you may find useful:

EL memos: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/memosummary.html>

Day Nurseries Act for Child Care Supervisors of Ontario website: <http://www.childcarelearning.on.ca>

Early Learning Framework: *Early Learning for Every Child Today* (ELECT) document: http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/earlychildhood/early_learning_for_every_child_today.aspx

Full-Day Early Learning—Kindergarten Program:

http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/kindergarten_english_june3.pdf

Webcast—2010:EL12 Overview and Extended Day Fee Calculation Tool Demo (originally broadcast January 12, 2011)

- Go to www.ontario.ca/iCAST
- Click on “Published Events” in the top navigation bar
- Click on EL12 Webcast Sessions
- Enter the following password: EDU
- Select the session, either English or French you wish to view

Webcast—Full-Day Kindergarten Extended Day (originally broadcast February 25, 2011)

- Go to www.ontario.ca/iCAST
- Click on “Published Events” in the top navigation bar
- Click on EDU FDK-Extended Day
- Enter the following password: EDU
- Select the session, either English or French you wish to view

Webinar: Overview of Recent Changes to Extended Day and Third Party Programs (originally broadcast June 14, 2011) <http://events.digitalmedia.telus.com/ontarioeducationld/061411/index.php>

Regards,

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