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Child Care Watch

Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care Newsletter

Happy New Year!

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Ontario Can't Work Without Child Care:

Touring Ontario to discuss the financial crisis in child care and the upcoming provincial budget



It is essential the 2011 budget to include increased funding for child care. Without it we will see child care fees rise anywhere from 15 to 30%.

In preparation for the Ontario Budget, the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care, along with the Ontario Federation of Labour, will be hosting community forums across the province to discuss:

- Lack of funding for early learning and child care programs
- Impacts of Ontario's Early Learning Program on child care
- How to stop increasing parent fees
- Ensuring that all child care staff have decent wages

Communities we will be visiting: Belleville (Jan 25), Peterborough (Jan 26), Hamilton (Feb 2), Thunder Bay (Feb 9), Orillia (Feb 16th), Windsor (Feb 28), Kitchener/Waterloo/Cambridge (TBD), Sudbury (TBD), Ottawa (March 10)

- Click on city to view a poster for the event!

Materials for the campaign are now available!

Fact Sheet: [Ontario's Early Learning Program: Impacts on Child Care](#)

Fact Sheet: [Child Care Overview and Information for Parents](#)

[February 14th-18th, 2011 is the Week of Action for Child Care.](#)

Print the flyer and let us know what you'll be doing to raise awareness in your community!

[What can I do if I only have...](#) – Suggestions for small actions you can take, even if you just have a few moments!

Please feel free to print out any or all of these resources and distribute them to staff, parents, colleagues, friends & family. Child care and early learning *must* be on the public agenda, and spreading the word about these issues is the best way to raise awareness.

Don't hesitate to [e-mail](#) us if you have questions about the campaign or how to get involved.

We will be using results from our Financial Impact Survey as evidence to show that we need stabilization funding in our sector. If your centre has not yet done the survey, please [click here](#).

Advocates Call for Coroner's Inquest into Death in Unlicensed Home Child Care

Child care advocates were shocked by the death of 14 month old Duy-An Nguyen in an unlicensed home child care. Our condolences go out to her family and everyone affected by this tragedy. As a result of the tragedy, the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care is calling for Coroner's Inquiry which would investigate the death and system failures in Ontario's child care system that allowed it to occur.

"We have a system of licensed home child care. To allow someone to advertise and charge for child care in their home, but opt-out of licensing requirements puts children at risk. The Ontario Government is doing nothing to provide safeguards for families. The Ontario Government must ensure a safe environment for all children and ensure access to high quality, affordable child care for all families who choose to access the service" said Andrea Calver, Coordinator, Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care.

To read our press release, along with news coverage and responses from partners such as

the Ontario Federation of Labour, CUPE Ontario, Andrea Horwath and Olivia Chow, please [click here](#).

Government Plans to Amend Full-day Learning Legislation

In December 2010, Dalton McGuinty announced the Government would amend the recently passed the Full Day Learning Statute to allow school boards to contract out after-school programs to child care programs.

The move away from the school boards delivering “extended day” programming is a move away from a publicly operated and universal system. In licensed child care, as a result of underfunding, we only have enough spaces to serve 20% of children.

In addition, the move toward third party operators will not make our child care system more stable. To ensure high quality early learning in schools, we need to:

- Ensure after-school programs be run by non-profit child care operators with rent-free space.
- Ensure collaboration between schools and child care centres to ensure the third party arrangements are as seamless as is possible.
- Ensure that child care programs running after-school programs offer comparable salaries and benefits with ECE’s working in the full-day learning program.
- Increase space for early learning and child care programs in our schools to expand access.

For more information on the decision as well as responses throughout the community, please [click here](#).

If your program or centre is facing impacts from Full-Day Learning, please complete our **survey** by [clicking here](#). We will use your stories as evidence of the need for stabilization funding to the child care sector.

You can also check out our **Early Learning Program Impacts Kit** for tools to help you through this transition. It is available free for download on our website. [Click here](#).

NEW! Best Practices for Ontario's Early Learning Program

For over ten years we have produced a publication entitled the [Child Care Management Guide](#), which is now in its third edition. The Guide was revised to reflect current legislation and management practices and provides community based child care programs with learning and management tools. The guide is accompanied by a number of sample policies that can be downloaded and customized to meet the needs of the individual centre. It has also been used as a more formal learning text in ECE programs at Colleges across Ontario. We are excited to announce that thanks to the support of the Trillium Foundation, we now have the guide [available in French](#).

As ECE's move in to school boards and early learning staff teams are formed, such tools are vital to developing a strong and high quality program. With this in mind, we have drawn from the Child Care Management Guide to create Best Practices for Ontario's Early Learning Program.

[Best Practices for Ontario's Early Learning Program](#) is designed to help elementary schools in Ontario operate a full-day and extended day early learning program for four- and five-year olds. Principals and the early learning staff team (teachers and early childhood educators working side-by-side) should find it a useful resource as it is specifically geared to the needs of those who are responsible for the operations of the full-day and extended day early learning program for four- and five- year olds in Ontario. This includes information on the roles of the staff team (including developing and evaluating your program); best practices for health, safety and nutrition; curriculum (including planning tools on developmentally appropriate and play based learning); family involvement and community outreach. The development of best practices helps to sustain programs over time. Practices that support excellence in program development will lead to quality services for children and families in Ontario.

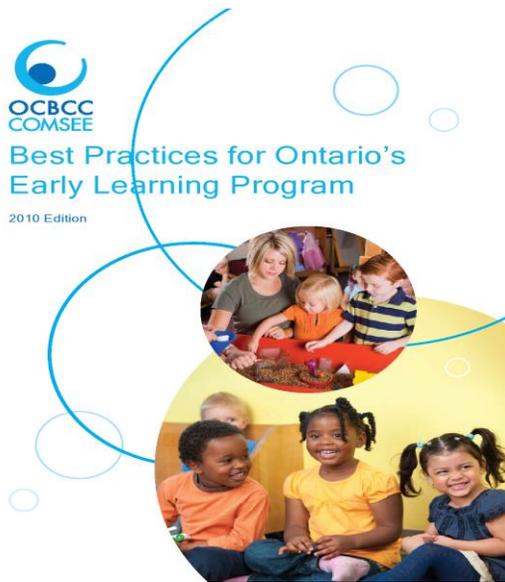
We are having this publication translated in to French and hope to have copies available at the end of February.

[Click here](#) to view the table of contents, or check out our [publications page](#) for more information on ordering the book as well as links to the table of contents and order form.



Best Practices for Ontario's Early Learning Program

2010 Edition



About the OCBCC and How to Keep in Touch!

The OCBCC is committed to bringing about an Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) system that is not-for-profit and publicly funded, universally accessible, and high quality.

Follow us on Twitter: [@ChildCareON](https://twitter.com/ChildCareON) or <http://twitter.com/ChildCareON> and join our facebook page at www.facebook.com/home.php#!/OCBCC

To visit the OCBCC web site, [click here](#).

Please consider joining the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care.

Student Memberships are \$30.00 / year.

Child Care Worker: \$37.50 / year

All Other Individuals: \$60.00 / year

Organizational Memberships start at \$100.

Join today! [Click here](#) for the membership form or [Click here](#) to Join the OCBCC

Looking for child care resources and publications? Go to

<http://www.childcareontario.org/publications>

Looking for child care news? Go to www.childcareontario.org



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