



Statement to the Legislature

The Honourable Liz Sandals
Minister of Education

Recognizing Child Care Workers
And Early Childhood Educators In Ontario

October 30, 2013

Check Against Delivery

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am pleased to stand in the House today to celebrate Ontario's dedicated child care workers and early childhood educators.

Today marks the 13th annual Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day in Ontario.

This is a special day to recognize the important role that child care workers and early childhood educators play in the healthy development of our children —

To show our appreciation for the countless hours they spend enriching their lives and preparing them for success in the future.

They are true leaders in early learning.

Each and every day, they provide quality child care and guidance to children across the province, focusing on each child's physical, intellectual, social and creative development.

Mr. Speaker, our government is working to modernize child care so that it is high-quality, seamless and responsive to parents' needs.

Child care workers and early childhood educators are valued partners in our ongoing efforts. Through their passion and commitment, they give our children a strong start in life.

Our child care workers provide us parents and grandparents with peace of mind knowing our kids get the guidance, support and encouragement they need to flourish and reach their full potential.

They make it look easy and natural, but I know how diligently they work to support our children.

With their training and work experience, early childhood educators are critical in full-day kindergarten classrooms, where they work alongside teachers to support children as they begin their journey of learning.

A recent study with Queen's and McMaster universities showed that students who attended full-day kindergarten improved their readiness for Grade 1 and accelerated their development in every area.

Results like these show us that this transformational program is giving Ontario's children a better start in school and preparing them for success in Grade 1 and beyond.

And approximately 7,000 early childhood educators working in the 2,600 schools that offer full-day kindergarten across the province are vital to that success.

By the time the program is fully implemented in September 2014, more than 10,000 early childhood educators will be working in all of the province's publicly funded elementary schools, making a huge difference in the lives of more than one quarter of a million children each year.

On this special day of recognition, I want to thank all of the child care workers and early childhood educators in Ontario for contributing to a strong publicly funded education system and a high quality child care sector.

Through their hard work and commitment, they are giving our children a brighter future, providing families with the support they need, and building a stronger Ontario.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Compendium

In recognition of Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day, Education Minister Liz Sandals is thanking child care workers and early childhood educators for giving Ontario's youngest learners the best possible start.