

Summary of the “Modernizing Child Care in Ontario” Discussion Paper
Please note: Summary done by the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care

Ontario needs a child care system that works with full-day kindergarten, improves on the challenges with current funding, revises and updates the out-dated Day Nurseries Act (DNA), challenges the inconsistencies in quality and increases accountability. To achieve these factors the Ontario Government has released a document entitled Modernizing Child Care in Ontario (2012). This document outlines the guiding principles for an improved child care system in Ontario, outlines a short term (3-year) action plan and gives opportunities for feedback.

Provide your feedback on how child care should look in Ontario. Share your experience, knowledge and expertise on the early learning sector!

A Long-Term Vision for Child Care

“The Government of Ontario’s long-term vision is to build a high-quality, accessible and coordinated early learning and child care system for children before they start school and for school-aged children. The system will focus on learning in safe and caring play-based environments, on healthy physical, social, emotional and cognitive development, and on early identification and intervention for children in need of supports. Where possible, services will be located in or linked with schools to enhance seamlessness for children and families” (Government of Ontario, 2012, pg. 4).

5 Guiding Principles:

1. Support and choice for children and families
2. Commitment to quality programs for all children
3. Efficient funding formula
4. Supportive legislation and regulations
5. Evidence-based decision-making and reporting

Short Term Plan to achieve the guiding principles – Over the next three years:

1. Operating Funding Formula
 - Demands for service
 - Help stabilize fees
 - Improve reliability of care
2. Capital Funding Priorities
 - Emphasizes child care spaces in schools to increase seamlessness for children and families
3. Quality Programs
 - Developing mandatory provincial program guidelines for child care operators
 - Updated framework to support children with special needs
 - New resources to parents and providers
4. Modernized Legislative And Regulatory Frameworks
 - Amendments to reflect up-to-date evidence, experiences and research
5. Support For Accountability And Capacity-Building
 - Enhance licensing procedures
 - Develop supports to better evaluate outcomes
 - Support capacity
 - Reduce duplication
 - Improve accountability
 - Improve data collection

For the full discussion paper – http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/Modernizing_Child_Care.pdf

For more information on how to provide feedback - <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/professionals.html>