

# Hosting an MPP visit to a child care centre

A great next step after an MPP meeting at a constituency office is to invite the MPP to visit a local child care program. Or if the MPP's staff has been unable to schedule a meeting, try offering a program tour instead. This might be more appealing to the MPP, as they will know that they will have a chance to meet many constituents and see a local community program.

A centre visit can also be a great alternative to an office meeting if you would feel more comfortable in a less formal setting or would prefer to show instead of tell the MPP about the importance of quality child care.

Before inviting the MPP, be sure that you have buy-in from others at the centre – director, Board members and staff. Propose this idea to your centre director or at the next Board or staff meeting. It can be a fun and friendly way to start getting involved in advocacy.

In planning the visit, be sure to invite at least a couple of parents, as well as some educators who can speak to their experiences. Review the speaking notes for MPP meetings in this kit, but feel free to adapt them to a less formal meeting.

Sometimes it works best to have the visit during opening hours when the MPP can see the centre in action, but for other centres it works better to do a tour afterhours. Discuss what works well with your group, but also be ready to be flexible with the MPP's schedule. If you are having a summer BBQ or other community event at your centre, consider inviting your MPP along.

Be sure to follow up with the MPP after the event to thank them for visiting. This is all about building a relationship with your MPP. You are their link to the child care community, and a trusted local voice on issues that impact child care.

## Email template to invite your MPP to visit your child care centre

Hello MPP \_\_\_\_\_;

On behalf of the staff and parents at \_\_\_\_\_ Early Learning and Child Care Centre I am writing to invite you to visit our centre, located in your riding and serving \_\_\_\_\_ families. We would love to give you a tour of our program, show you what we do, introduce you to some staff and parents, and discuss the important contributions that our programs make to our local community and the economy. Please let me know some dates and times that work well for you and we will make an effort to accommodate your schedule.

Sincerely, \_\_\_\_\_

