

489 College St. #206
Toronto, ON, M6G 1A5
telephone: 416-538-0628
toll free: 1-800-594-7514
info@childcareontario.org

**Working with your CMSM or DSSAB to
protect & enhance child care services in your community**

Where to start

You must work together with other child care centres. Many issues have a long history in local communities, but we must bring together those who have been in the field for many years as well as enthusiastic newcomers.

Agree to a common set of principles and goals for your community

Working collaboratively is about forming relationships.

You need to be able to work together with fellow child care advocates & keep each other informed.

Who else do we need to form relationships with?

It is also important to develop positive relationships with your CMSM or DSSAB and children's services manager

Similarly, you need to know the local municipal or regional councillors who sit on the oversight committee for children's services and get to know their staff.

- Invite these councillors as well as other local politicians to tour your centre to learn first-hand about child care and to come to events that you host.
- Keep in touch with them, even if there are no urgent issues to maintain these relationships.
- If there is an issue or your need information, these local politicians are the key decision-makers in your community.

Which politicians sit on the committee that oversees child care planning and spending?

What issues have come before the committee in the past year (minutes of meetings and sometimes videos of council meetings are usually available on council websites). If you have a DSSAB, which covers a much bigger area, accessing minutes might be more difficult but it just as important.

Who has been supportive of child care in the past? They will be your allies moving forward.

Some Questions to Ask

- Under the new funding formula, does our municipality get less money in three years, stay the same, or see an increase? Those municipalities that receive LESS under this NEW funding formula will be receiving the One-Time “Mitigation Money” over this time. The Ministry of Education has assured municipalities that no Municipality will get less for the next three years. That means, there should *not* be any immediate cuts.
- Does your community have a child care service plan? Most municipal or regional councils have a service plan until 2014 and some are starting consultation on a new Child Care Service Plan.
- Every council will receive a recent memo describing the new stabilization funding. That memo may list some of the specific challenges for your community.
- It will be difficult for the OCBC to track all 47 of Ontario’s CMSM’s and DSSAB’s - So please keep in touch with any new developments – send an email to info@childcareontario.org or call us anytime on our toll-free line at 1-800-594-7514.

We are here to help!

Resources

Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care
www.childcareontario.org (child care news and campaign information)

contact us:

info@childcareontario.org or 1-800-594-7514

New outreach tool – Parent survey on child care options in Ontario

www.childcareontario.org/survey