**Little Children, Big Learning**

**#KindergartenWorks**

**Ontario’s Kindergarten Program: A Success Story**

The current learning model for Ontario’s Kindergarten program, with a certified teacher and a designated early childhood educator (DECE) working together, gives children and their families the start to school that they need.

Research shows that the partnership between a certified teacher and a DECE provides lasting benefits in reading, writing, numeracy, self-regulation and social skills and it “has shown major results when it comes to children’s social, emotional and cognitive development.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

Ontario’s Kindergarten program was designed by education experts, and it has proven to be a successful learning program, a model for other jurisdictions to follow and a fundamental piece of our world-class education system.

**The Teacher and DECE Team Make Kindergarten Work**

The full-time certified teacher and DECE team is essential to the Full-Day Kindergarten program.

Teachers have knowledge and understanding of the elementary school curriculum from Kindergarten to grade 8, and how the Kindergarten program expectations connect to later elementary grades. Teachers graduate from both university and a faculty of education program and are certified to teach by the Ontario College of Teachers.

Teachers know how to build upon the foundation provided in Kindergarten and are responsible for student learning, long-term planning, effective instruction, formative assessment and have the ultimate responsibility for evaluation and formal reporting to parents.

Most people understand the importance of teachers in Kindergarten classrooms. Seventy-six percent of Ontarians agreed that there needs to be a full-time teacher in every Kindergarten class.

Designated early childhood educators have knowledge and understanding of the developmental learning needs of young children. DECEs study early childhood development and focus on age-appropriate program planning, thus providing engaging opportunities and experiences for children that contribute to the assessment of their learning. DECEs graduate from community college and/or university and are registered to practice with the College of Early Childhood Educators.

Seventy-one percent of Ontarians agree that the team of a certified Kindergarten teacher and DECE is important to the success of the program.

**Kindergarten Works – Why Change It?**

Ontario’s Kindergarten program works. The certified teacher and DECE each bring specialized knowledge and skills to foster the development and growth of every student. Together they build personalized relationships with individual children and focus on each child’s safety and well-being.

Despite all the evidence showing the program works, the Ford Conservative government is considering damaging changes to Kindergarten; including the possibility of reducing or even eliminating the role of teachers in the classroom.

**Join us in protecting Kindergarten with a full-time teacher and a DECE.**

Maintaining and investing in the current Kindergarten program, including the full-time certified teacher/DECE team is critical to ensuring that Ontario’s youngest students get their very best start.

**Text KIDS to 647-560-8615**

**Take Action at BuildingBetterSchools.ca/Kindergarten**

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1. Charles E. Pascal, *Full-day Kindergarten – The Best of What We Imagined is Happening*, The Conversation, March 5, 2019. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)