



October 26, 2007

Dear members of the Home Child Care Association of Ontario.

The Board of Directors is very excited to bring you this new, improved version of the provider self-study guide, "I Care for Kids - I Care for Quality" (ICFK).

Many of you will remember that the tool was developed by the Elora Group and is based on the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) Accreditation Tool in the United States. The tool encourages providers to achieve a comprehensive standard of quality. In the Region of Waterloo and in Manitoulin, the guide was piloted with great success.

This past year, the HCCAO put your membership fees to work on your behalf. Volunteers from our Board and from across the province contributed time and resources so that the ICFK tool would reflect the latest thinking and the 'best practices' of our field. For this reason, this version of ICFK includes some significant improvements:

- It has been updated and includes all of the most recent changes made to the NAFCC evaluation tool.
- It has been translated into 'plain' English so that it can be accessible to more providers.
- A French version is included.

We encourage you to be creative in your use of the ICFK self-evaluation tool. We look forward to hearing about the innovative ways that your agency uses this tool to enhance quality in the licensed home child care sector.

Please visit our new website. Keep an eye out for a "members only" section which will be available in the near future and where you will be able to share creative ideas with other agencies.

Thank you for your part in providing quality child care for children in Ontario.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors  
Home Child Care Association of Ontario

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