

**With our Best Future
in Mind: College's
role in *Transforming
the ELP Vision into
Action***



Karen Chandler, Professor
School of Early Childhood
George Brown College
Toronto, Canada

Achievement - appreciation of learning in the early years

- Attained widespread recognition of EC as the foundation for lifelong learning, health & behaviour & as a foundation for future success
- Universal program for 4/5 years olds, ultimately serving 247,000 more 4/5 year olds
- Importance of role of ECEs



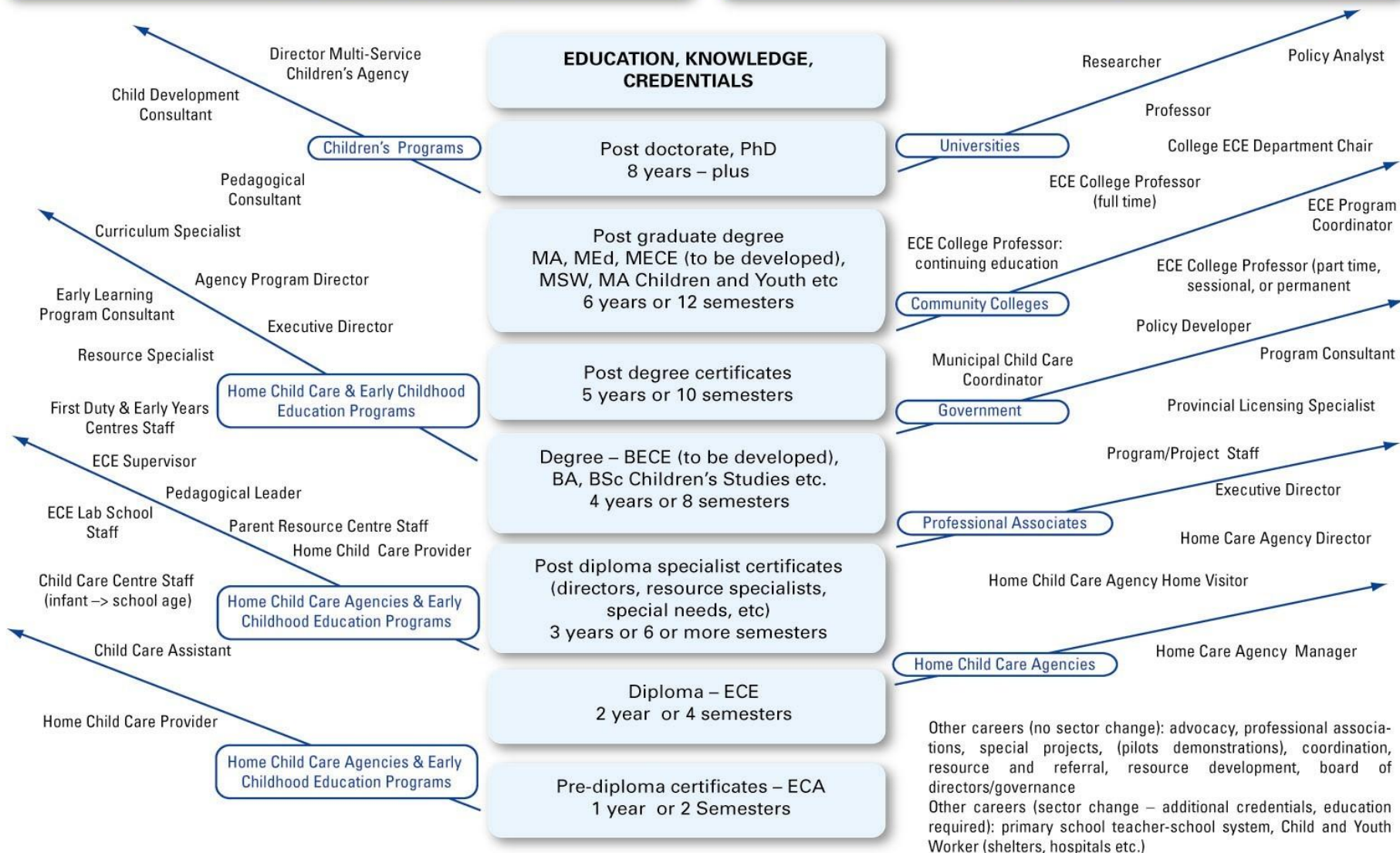
Colleges prepare EC graduates for variety of programs

- Currently for children from zero to 12 years of age.
- Primarily child care centres
- Family resource programs
- Specialty populations,
- Many continue education
- For some time a majority of grads plan to work in school , system



Careers working directly with Children

Careers working indirectly with Children



Underlying key message - 'Care & Education' - **Inseparable Concepts**

'Care & education' are **inseparable**, they are inextricably linked.

EC plays multiple roles for young children & families:

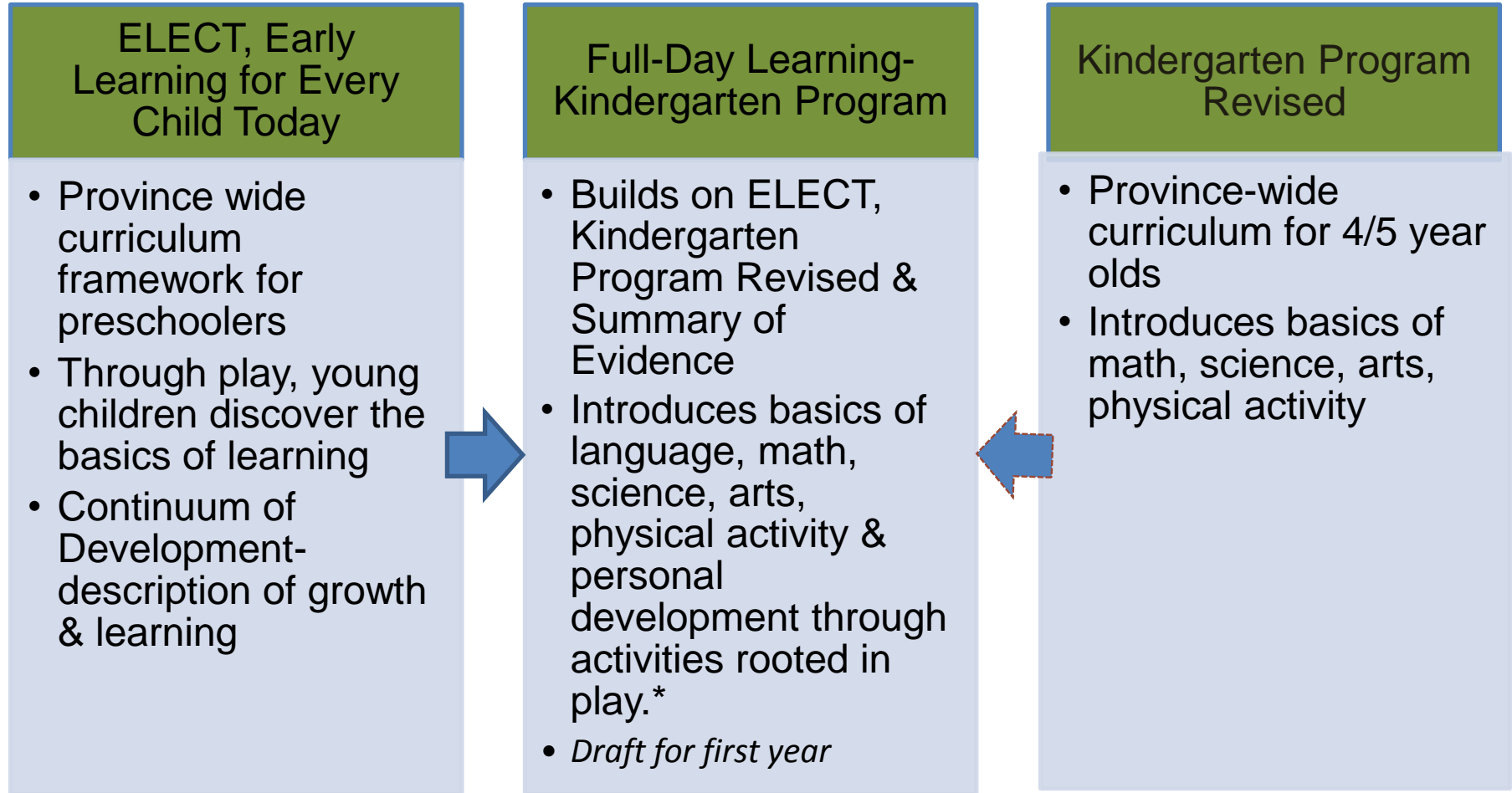
- Serve children's development & learning needs
- Provide some care aspects
- Meet parents' employment & education needs
- Strong emphasis on family's role in the learning & development process

Underlying key message - Young children learn in different ways than older children

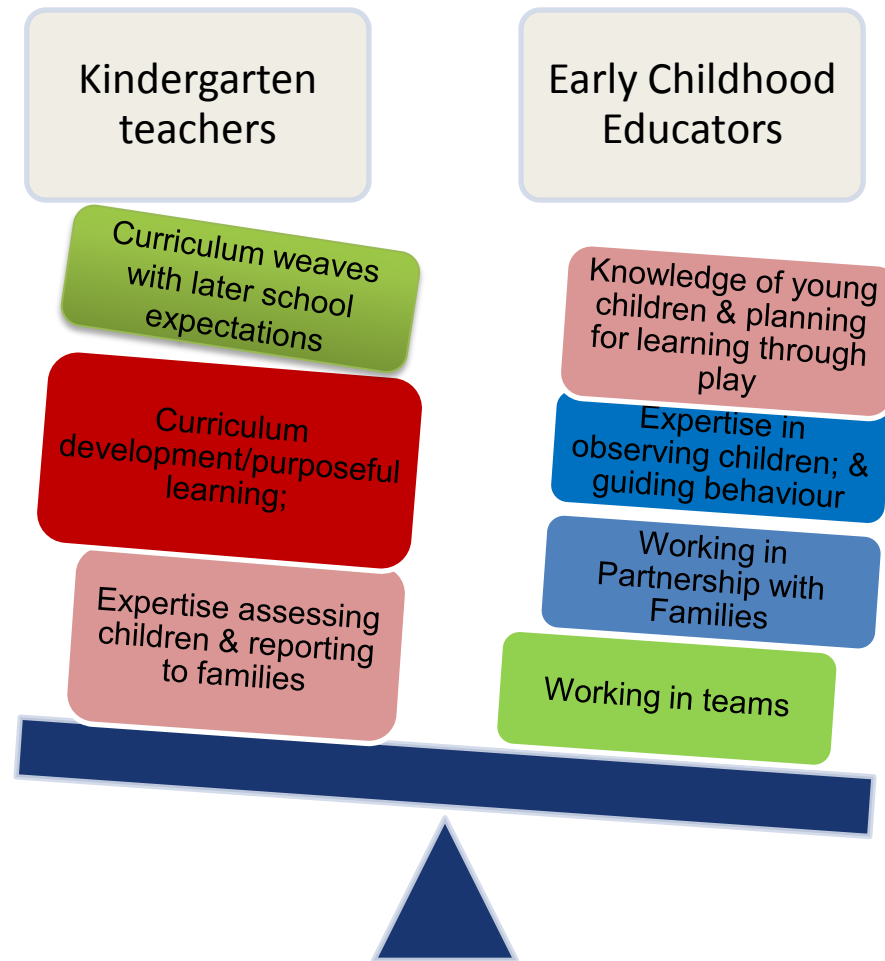
Colleges work to prepare educators who:

- Knowledgeable about child development
- Respond to children's unique learning styles
- Relationships are key –children need strong attachments with significant adults
- Appreciate the impact of family, culture, gender... have on learning
- Respond to the needs of all children

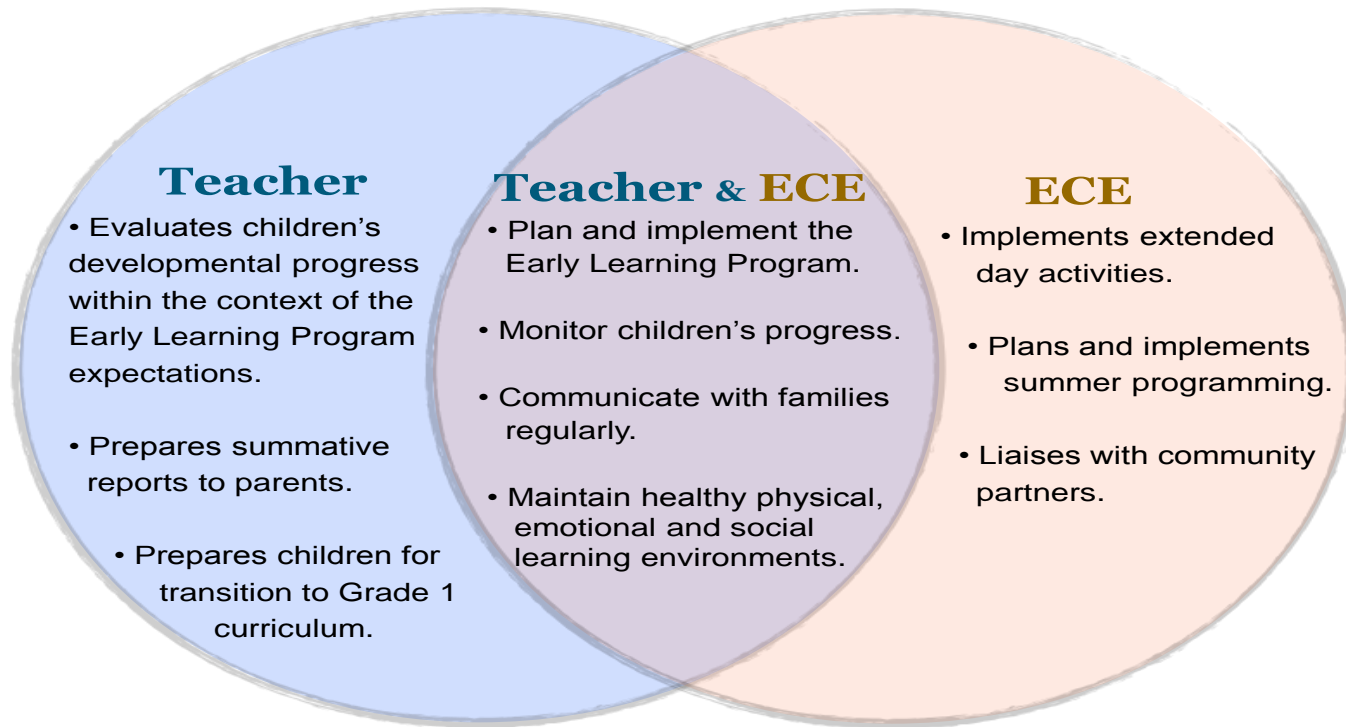
Key message - Merging of Pedagogy



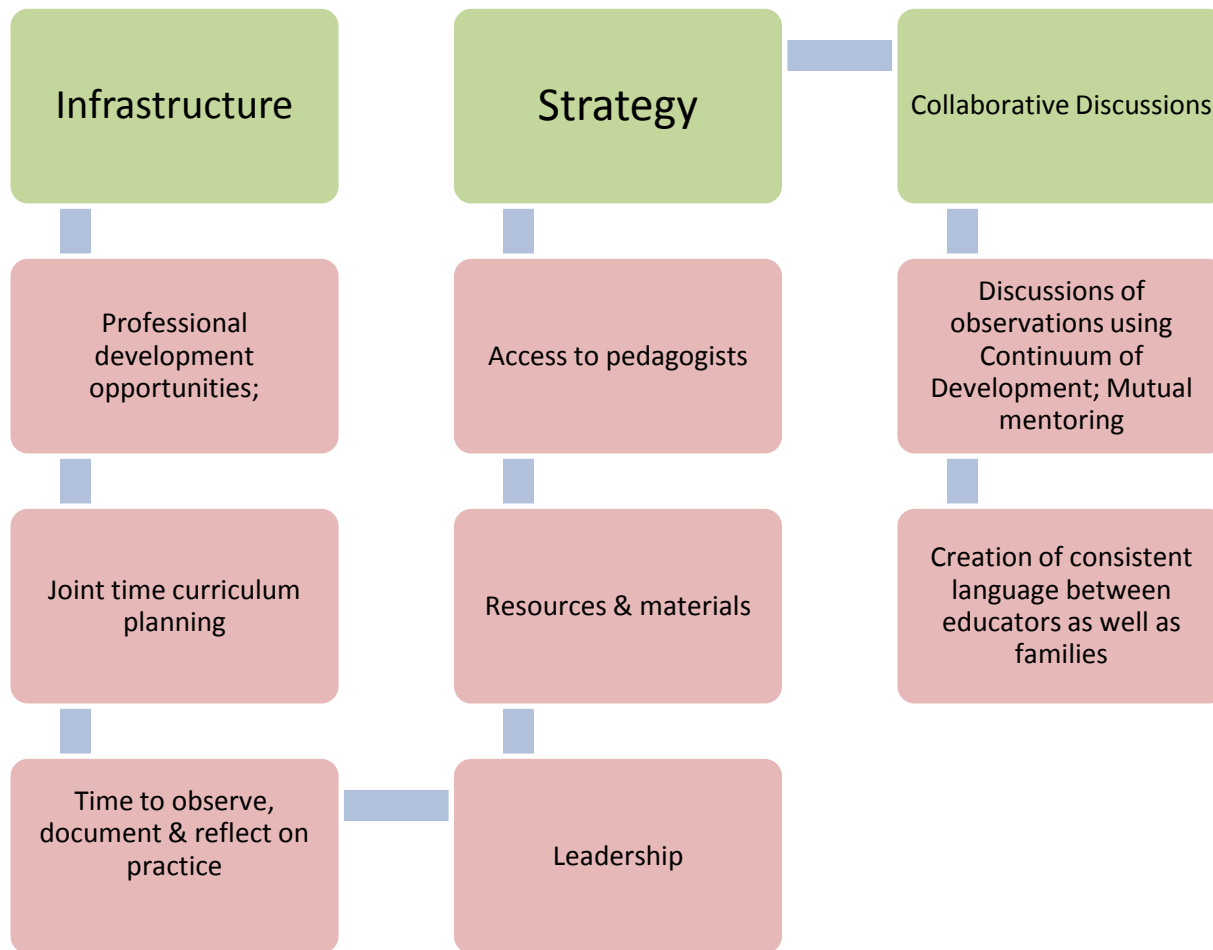
Bridging unique understandings how young children learn



Key message – Creating Teams of Reflective Educators



Need for Infrastructure: Creation of Pedagogical Meeting Place



Strengthen Fusion of 2 Disciplines

- Strengthen influence of EC pedagogy into schools
- Curriculum in schools to be more young child & family focused
- Need to integrate Emergent Curriculum into schools system with more rigid times frames & a subject focus (math, literacy)

Caring & Learning Together: A cross-national study of integration of ECE and Education within education (2010), UNESCO

Resources needed to achieve this vision

- By 2016 - 247,000 4/5 year olds
- Scope – need 20,000 ECE's
- Will the demand for ELP overwhelm colleges preparing for multiple career paths?
- Need to further strengthen leadership (mentoring, PD..)

Current challenges:

- Diversity of students & providing adequate supports
- Space/quality field placements

Opportunity: Broader more Inclusive Vision for children & families

- Recognizing the multi-sectoral nature of EC policy.
- In addition to being concerned with child care & early education, it also included children's health, nutrition, social welfare, women's employment, equal opportunities & poverty issues.
- Transforming this vision into action is an iterative process.
- Implementation is collaborative & incremental
- In order for the system to evolve, we must accept challenges will arise
- Problem solving collectively how we will get there.
- This is our opportunity to achieve coordinated, coherent approaches that optimize each child's holistic development