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



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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





EDUCATION, KNOWLEDGE, CREDENTIALS

Post doctorate, PhD 8 years – plus

Post graduate degree
MA, MEd, MECE (to be developed),
MSW, MA Children and Youth etc
6 years or 12 semesters

Post degree certificates 5 years or 10 semesters

Degree – BECE (to be developed), BA, BSc Children's Studies etc. 4 years or 8 semesters

Post diploma specialist certificates (directors, resource specialists, special needs, etc) 3 years or 6 or more semesters

> Diploma – ECE 2 year or 4 semesters

Pre-diploma certificates – ECA 1 year or 2 Semesters



Other careers (no sector change): advocacy, professional associations, special projects, (pilots demonstrations), coordination, resource and referral, resource development, board of directors/governance

Other careers (sector change – additional credentials, education required): primary school teacher-school system, Child and Youth Worker (shelters, hospitals etc.)

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 <u>all</u> children

Key message - Merging of Pedagogy

ELECT, Early Learning for Every Child Today

- Province wide curriculum framework for preschoolers
- Through play, young children discover the basics of learning
- Continuum of Developmentdescription of growth & learning

Full-Day Learning-Kindergarten Program

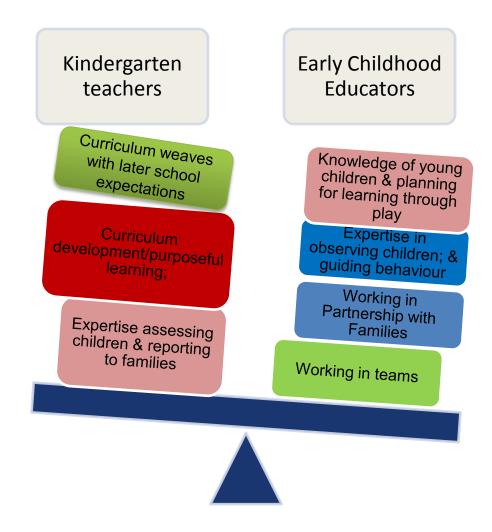
- Builds on ELECT, Kindergarten Program Revised & Summary of Evidence
- Introduces basics of language, math, science, arts, physical activity & personal development through activities rooted in play.*
- Draft for first year

Kindergarten Program Revised

- Province-wide curriculum for 4/5 year olds
- Introduces basics of math, science, arts, physical activity



Bridging unique understandings how young children learn



Key message – Creating Teams of Reflective Educators

Teacher

- Evaluates children's developmental progress within the context of the Early Learning Program expectations.
- Prepares summative reports to parents.
 - Prepares children for transition to Grade 1 curriculum.

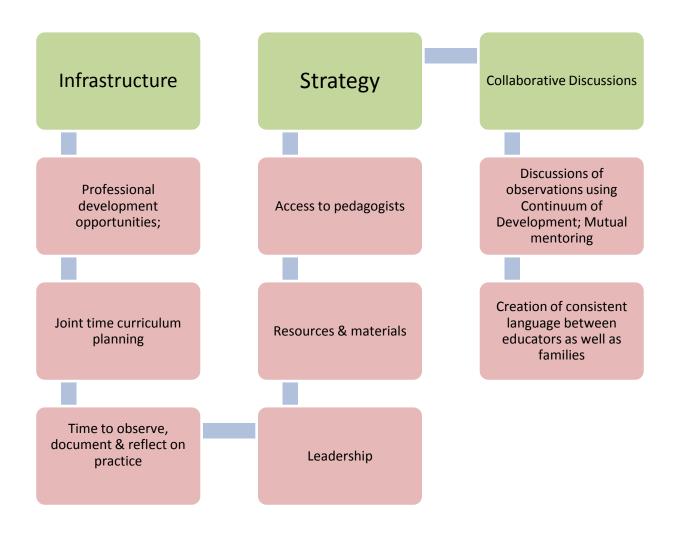
Teacher & ECE

- Plan and implement the Early Learning Program.
- Monitor children's progress.
- Communicate with families regularly.
- Maintain healthy physical, emotional and social learning environments.

ECE

- Implements extended day activities.
 - Plans and implements summer programming.
 - Liaises with community partners.

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