

A vision  
for  
an early learning system  
in Ontario  
that includes  
home child care



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# The Need for Transformation

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- Early learning and child care are **crucial** to Ontario's success. Children, families and the economy benefit.
- Significant **challenges** in child care sector:
  - o outdated legislation and funding approach
  - o program quality
  - o accountability
- Need to develop a **comprehensive vision** and **plan for child care** that works with FDK.
- Government **platform commitment**: *“work with our partners to modernize Ontario's child care system and support centres as they transition to offering affordable care to families with younger children.”*



# Child care **investments**

- In 2012-13, **\$90 million** to modernize child care sector
  - Brings funding to more than **\$1 billion**, up 90% since 2003-04
- **\$133 million** allocated over 2 years to CMSMs/DSSAB
- **\$3.3 million** to **First Nations**
- **\$44 million** for retrofits and renovations to **school-based child care** centres transitioning to younger children

# Overview

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- Government commitment to **modernize** child care system and **support child care centres**
- Summer **2012**—**stakeholder** discussion and **engagement** activities
- **Discussion paper**, *Modernizing Child Care in Ontario: Sharing Conversations, Strengthening Partnerships, Working Together*
- Input on long-term **vision** and **objectives** over next **3 years**



# Long-term **vision**

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- **High-quality, accessible** and **coordinated** early learning and child care for children before they start school and for school-aged children
- Learning in **safe** and **caring play-based environments**
- System that **promotes healthy, physical, social, emotional** and **cognitive development** and focuses on **early identification** and **intervention** for children in need of supports
- Services **located in** or **linked with schools** to enhance **seamlessness** for children and families, where possible



# Guiding **principles**

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- **Support** and **choice** for children and families
- Commitment to **quality programs** for all children
- Efficient **funding formula**
- Supportive **legislation** and regulations
- **Evidence-based** decision making and reporting



# Proposed **action plan** for next 3 years

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1. **Operating** funding formula
2. **Capital** funding priorities
3. **Quality** programs
4. Modernized **legislative** and regulatory framework
5. Support for **accountability** and capacity-building





# Operating funding formula

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To modernize the approach to operating funding within the next three years, the government will develop and implement a new, more **transparent** approach to funding that **responds to demand** for services, helps **stabilize fees** and improves **reliability** of child care, to better support child care operators and parents.





# Capital funding priorities

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To support child care operators as they adapt to full-day kindergarten over the next three years, the government will pursue a capital funding approach that emphasizes **child care spaces in schools** in order to increase **seamlessness** for children and **convenience** for families.



# Quality programs

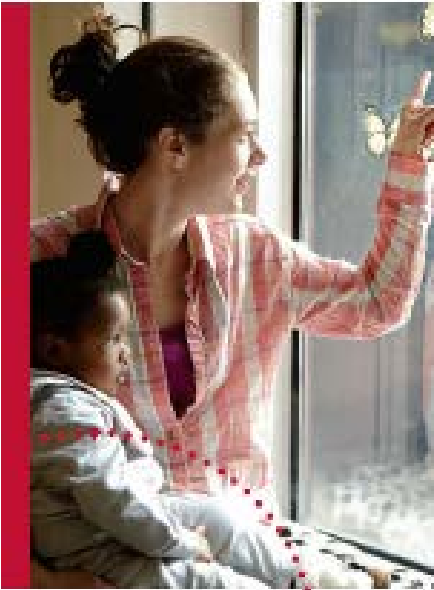
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Over the next three years, the government will work to enhance program **quality** and **consistency** by developing **mandatory** provincial **program guidelines** for child care operators. We will also develop an updated **framework** to support children with **special needs** and offer new resources and information for **parents** and providers.



# Modernized **legislative** and regulatory framework

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To put the child care sector on the path towards modernization over the next three years, the government will propose **legislative** and **regulatory** amendments to reflect up-to-date **evidence** and experience and to support health, safety and quality for children, parents and providers.



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# Modernized **legislative** and regulatory framework

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- How can the government more effectively **harmonize standards** across legislation as well as regulatory requirements in child care (e.g., numbers/ages of children in licensed vs. unlicensed home care)?
- How could new licensing approaches support home- and centre-based care in smaller, **rural** and **remote** communities (e.g., permitting home-based providers to care for more children where there is more than one provider, providing greater flexibility for family or mixed age groupings and space configurations)?

# Support for **accountability** and capacity-building

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As the government modernizes child care over the next three years, we will improve **data collection**, enhance licensing procedures and develop supports for parents and operators to help us better evaluate **outcomes**, support sector capacity, reduce duplication and improve **accountability**.