



Partners Promoting the Importance of Early Childhood Education
Recommendations for Proposed Regulatory Changes
Under the Day Nurseries Act and the Early Childhood Educators Act

Who We Are:

- We are a group of licensed child care organizations dedicated to providing high quality children's programs.
- We have representation from organizations that oversee 80% of licensed child care spaces in the City of London.
- Published "Early Years Matter" as a guide for the community that lists licensed child care in the City of London with a distribution of 8400 copies annually. It is also available on the Family Info and City of London websites.
- Established a Full Day Learning Symposium with Dr. Charles Pascal in the summer of 2009.
- Participated in "Adopt a Councilor" initiatives.
- Meet monthly to discuss the promotion of Early Childhood Education in the City of London.
- Published "What's Best" brochure to promote the importance of licensed child care in London and Middlesex.
- Completed 2 Facebook contests to drive the public to our Facebook page that promotes the benefits of licensed child care. Currently have over 2,400 fans on our Facebook page.
- Facebook page drives fans to familyinfo.ca where families can access information about child care centres, OEYC centres, apply for subsidized child care and access the 1 List, centralized waiting list.
- Print campaign promoting licensed child care monthly in Mom & Caregiver magazine, annually in the Parent Resource Guide, and annually in the Active Guide.



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Proposed Regulatory Change – Enhancing Quality

<p>Changes to Regulation 262</p>	<p>1. Replacing the requirement to have a program of activities with a requirement to have a program that focuses on quality interactions, inquiry based learning, and holistic development. Replace the daily posted program plans with a requirement to regularly communicate with families about their child’s learning activities.</p> <p>2. Simplify the requirements for outdoor play and provide more flexibility related to rest time to enable Educators to use professional discretion to be responsive to children in their care.</p>
<p>Recommendations</p>	<p>1. Replace the current practice of posting daily program plans with children’s portfolios, observation and documentation techniques, display boards, regular parent communication and the use of technology to support these ideas. (eg. HiMama) Implement funding to support the use of technology, including funding for professional development.</p> <p>2. Simplifying the requirements for outdoor play, including the playground standards’ consistency between the local school boards and school age programs. Maintain current ratios under the Day Nurseries Act during outdoor time. Simplify Clause <u>21</u>, 1 & 2, to ensure outdoor space is available for the number of children utilizing it at any one time, rather than outdoor space being available for the licensed capacity of a centre.</p> <p>Reduce the need for 1 cot for each child in the program. Many children do not nap while in child care so ensure there are accommodations for children who do not nap. Simplify the requirements for rest areas to ensure better supervision of children who are napping. (eg. half walls, instead of separate rooms for Infants)</p>
<p>Reason</p>	<p>2. Children enrolled in school age and extended day programs are not able to use climbing equipment in school yards during the extended day and after school programs that they have been utilizing during the day while in school. Playground guidelines need to be consistent between the schools and community programs using the schools to provide consistency for the children and their families.</p> <p>Non-napping children need guidance and stimulation while their peers are resting. Ensure flexibility with ratios to accommodate the children who are not resting while their peers are resting. (eg. mixed age groupings at nap time, nap rooms that are visible, reduced ratios once children are sleeping)</p>



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Proposed Regulatory Changes – Increasing Access and Flexibility

Changes to Regulation 262	Proposed Ratios:			
	Age Group	Ratio	Maximum Group Size	Number of Employees
	0-1	1:3	10	3 (minimum 1 RECE)
	1-2	1:5	15	3 (minimum 1 RECE)
	2-4	1:8	16/24	2/3 (minimum 1/2 RECE)
	4-5	1:13	26	2 (minimum 1 RECE)
	6-8	1:15	30	2 (minimum 1 qualified)
	9-12	1:20	20	1 (1 qualified)
Recommendations	<p>That all current ratios under the Day Nurseries Act for children ages 0 -12 remain the same with 20% mixed age groupings being allowed in each classroom, rather than with each age group. <u>Eliminate Clause 55, 2 (b)</u>. The 4-5 year old age group ratio to remain at 1:10 for quality purposes but this age grouping also needs to be consistent with the local school boards. The use of youth volunteers should reflect an age span of 5 years between the oldest child in the age group and the youth volunteer. <u>A minimum of 2 out of 3 RECEs</u> working with all age groups in the 0-3 age ranges.</p> <p>Qualified staff members from related disciplines can effectively work with children between the ages of 6-12. These disciplines may include Early Childhood Education, Recreation and Leisure, Developmental Service Work, Social Service Work, Ontario Teacher’s Certificate, or other related qualifications.</p>			
Reason	<p>In order to enhance quality for the most developmentally vulnerable age groups, ratios must remain the same or improve from the current practice. The proposed regulatory changes to ratio requirements do not reflect quality education for young children. Allowing more flexibility with 20% mixed age groupings will offer greater flexibility for child care providers.</p> <p>Licensed Infant care will not be offered by many organizations should the age grouping change to 0-1 year due to the expense of licensed Infant programs. Many families still require care for children under 1 year and will be forced to choose unregulated child care services for their children under 1 year of age due to lack of licensed spaces.</p> <p>A minimum standard of a least 2 RECEs in each age group under the age of 4 must be maintained to enhance quality education for young children.</p>			



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Proposed Regulatory Changes – Enhancing Health and Safety

Changes to Regulation 262	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All employees, volunteers, operators, home visitors, and adults in home child cares require Criminal Reference Checks (CRC) and Vulnerable Sector Screening (VSS) every 5 years, with an offence declaration signed annually. 2. All child care centre supervisors, 50% of all full-time employees working in child care centres and all PHDC home providers have current first aid. CPR would only be a recommendation. 3. Licensed operators to follow the latest version of the Canada Food Guide, have menus reviewed by a registered dietician, and establish policies and procedures describing their approach to providing high-quality meals/snacks and positive meal time experiences.
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All employees, volunteers, students, operators, home visitors, and adults in home child cares require a Criminal Reference Check (CRC) and Vulnerable Sector Screening (VSS) <u>upon hire and an offence declaration signed annually thereafter.</u> 2. As a minimum standard all child care centre supervisors, <u>100 % of all program staff working in child care centres and all PHDC home providers have current first aid and current CPR.</u> 3. Licensed operators to follow the latest version of the Canada Food Guide, have menus reviewed by a registered dietician and or the local health unit, and establish policies and procedures describing their approach to providing high-quality meals/snacks and positive meal time experiences.
Reason	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No recommendation for a Criminal Reference Check (CRC) and Vulnerable Sector Screening (VSS) to be completed every 5 years. This is keeping in consistency with the local school boards. 2. Current practice at most licensed child care centres requires all employees to maintain current first aid and CPR. This standard practice promotes the health and safety of the vulnerable population we serve. 3. All operators need to provide healthy and nutritious meals/snacks to young children to ensure they are starting out on a healthy path in life and developing good habits at a young age.



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The following Partners' Members support these recommendations. Specific recommendations by Partners' Members, that did not reach 100% consensus, will be addressed individually by organizations in separate submissions.

Acorn Christian Daycare

Arbour Glen Day Nursery

Blossom's E.C.E. Centre

Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Centre

Calvary Nursery School

Chelsea Green Children's Centre

Childreach

Cronyn Child Care Centre

Growing Concern Child Care Centre

KidZone Day Care

La Ribambelle

London Bridge Child Care Services

London Children's Connection

Parkwood Children's Daycare Centre

Simply Kids Child Development and Learning Center

Village Day Nursery

Wee Watch Licensed Home Child Care

Western Day Care Centre

Whitehills Childcare Association

YMCA of London Child Care