



Greetings!



MESSAGE FROM
DIANE DALEY, CEO

Signs of spring are everywhere!

It seems that the winter season flew by without many major snow storms, I remember many winters past when our entire outdoors were covered in white for most of the season. This seems like such a long time ago. Many of us have commented about the lack of sunlight we have experienced this past winter, so I'm sure we welcome and look forward to the spring weather and enjoying the beautiful sunshine.

At Family Day we are invested in outdoor education and engaging outdoors in all seasons. We embrace the opportunity to be out in nature, ensuring

that the children in our care have great outdoor learning experiences regardless of the season. Over the years we have worked to reduce barriers to being outdoors in nature through taking a critical look at our attitudes, behavior and knowledge, as it relates to the benefits of being outdoors. Like families, our educators play a key role in supporting this commitment to outdoor education. It's amazing to see how our educators have championed this commitment in their programs. This is just one of the ways our valued educators bring their expertise, skills and knowledge to their work on a daily basis.

For more information about outdoor education and to learn more about what we are doing in our programs, we encourage you to follow us on Facebook where we post regular examples of the outdoor learning happening in our programs. You can also speak to your child's educator or your center supervisor.

In this issue of FOCUS we shed light on Early Childhood Education and the skills, knowledge and expertise they bring to the workforce.

Diane Daley
CEO



Why is early childhood care and education important?

From birth to age eight, the incredible brain development of children represents a critical window of opportunity for education. When children are safe, healthy, and learning well during their early years, they are better equipped to achieve their full developmental potential as adults and participate effectively in all aspects of life. Providing quality early childhood care and education is a means to promote equity, diversity, social justice and sustainable development.

The College of Early Childhood Educators (College) was established in 2009 to regulate and govern Ontario's Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs).

The College regulates the profession of early childhood education by establishing ethical and professional standards for RECEs, requiring continuous professional learning and development. With a mission to serve and protect the public interest by regulating the profession of early childhood education, the College values transparency and accountability, integrity, fairness, inclusion, respect, dignity, diversity, equal opportunity and adheres firmly to moral and ethical principles.

Supporting recruitment, retention and development to ensure all families have access to qualified professional educators, the College ensures its members enter the profession prepared and are supported throughout their careers to practice at the highest standards.



What do you know about your child's Registered Early Childhood Educator?

Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) are trained, qualified and accountable. All RECEs:

- Understand child development
- Attend to children's needs, interests and stages of development
- Plan programs for learning through play
- Maintain safe, healthy and stimulating environments
- Communicate regularly with families

RECEs relate to children and their individual needs, empowering them to achieve their full potential and be true to themselves. These highly and continuously trained professionals can profoundly change the course of a child's life.

RECEs share children's developmental milestones and unique strengths with families. This knowledge and caring can help busy working parents and caregivers to "see" their children through the eyes of a professional; they can then use this knowledge to further nurture their children at home.

Research shows that RECEs in Ontario like their jobs and place importance and value on educating and caring for children; they are also committed to furthering their education, professional development and knowledge. They care deeply about their chosen profession.

RECEs are the backbone of our community, playing a key role in helping to build a solid foundation for childhood learning and development.

The multi-dimensional role of RECEs

First and foremost, the best educators use a warm, responsive and inclusive approach to foster positive relationships with children, families, colleagues, and communities. They consider themselves as co-learners with families: learning with children, about children, and from children. They use play to support development, challenge thinking, and extend learning. They engage in meaningful relationships with families and caregivers--learning about, with, and from them. RECEs share their professional knowledge and experience with families, while also seeking out knowledge and perspectives from families' points of view.

Reflective practitioners, RECEs listen, observe, document, and have conversations with families to understand every child as a unique individual.

Just as children learn through questioning and testing theories in their play, RECEs question new ideas and test theories. They consider new approaches and new ways of thinking about their work. When they engage in continuous learning, questioning, exploring ideas and adjusting practices, they achieve the best outcomes for children, families and themselves.

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A better start in life

As children step into a wider social circle outside their immediate families, they can enjoy meaningful connections with RECEs: who are capable and competent professionals and are so instrumental in a child's development.

The time, talent and energy of RECEs means:

- A higher quality of child care
- Advocacy on behalf of children, families and caregivers
- Demonstrated commitment and creativity
- Leadership, commitment and exemplary education practices converge to help children make the best possible start in life

Holistic growth

RECEs are committed to providing an environment that empowers children to reach their full potential. Since a child's main method of learning and developing in the early years is play, RECEs create opportunities to explore, observe, experiment, solve problems and learn from mistakes.

Social skills development

RECEs help children acquire vital skills such as listening to others, self-expression, making friends, turn taking, cooperating and taking responsibility for their actions.

Early literacy and physical development

It's more than just reading, writing and arithmetic. Children learn literacy and numeracy skills through listening to stories, talking about pictures, drawing, singing, playing musical instruments or pouring sand into different-sized containers. RECEs can enhance a child's physical development by offering fun, 'play-like' activities such as running, throwing and active sports.

Enhancing effective parenting

Raising children can be challenging without support and guidance, particularly for first-time parents. This is where RECEs become valued partners with parents; they equip families with tools they can use at home to maximize their children's development, keep progress on track and concentrate on areas that may need extra attention.



Sources:

<https://childcarecanada.org>

<https://cccf-fcsge.ca>

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