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Monthly Newsletter of the Early Years
Division, Ontario Ministry of Education

In this latest edition of our early years newsletter, we share program quality information, along with other news, updates and resources of interest to our child care partners.

Ministry launches Child Care Licensing System on Dec. 11

The ministry will launch the new Child Care Licensing System—CCLS—on Dec. 11, 2013. Child care operators will use the new system to carry out licensing tasks including renewing licenses, reporting serious occurrences, requesting director approval for program staff, requesting license revisions, applying for new licenses and more!

The ministry will be hosting a province-wide webinar on Dec. 11 from 1 to 3 p.m., to provide useful information about the new system. Register for the webinar at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the webinar:

<http://events.digitalmedia.telus.com/ops/121113/index2.php?page=register>

Registering on CCLS

When the system launches, each child care operator in the province will receive three emails with unique log-in information and a link to the new system. When you receive this log-in information, you will complete a one-time registration process. A registration guide will be available that will provide detailed instructions.

It is important to note that the registration emails will be sent to the owner or organizational head (for example, the executive director, president or the chief of the first nation) that the ministry has on file.

Make sure to check the system requirements

To use CCLS, you must have the following:

- a computer with an internet connection
- Internet Explorer 8 or 9 / Firefox 20
- Adobe Reader (<http://get.adobe.com/reader/>)
- reliable business email address that is on file with the ministry
- either a Windows or Mac operating system

A help desk is up and running to answer your questions about these system requirements. Send an email to childcare.helpdesk@ontario.ca or contact your local Child Care Quality Assurance and Licensing Office who will refer your question to the Help Desk.



Resources and support

The Ministry will support the CCLS launch with comprehensive operator training and support including:

- a province-wide webinar
- a registration guide and video
- a user guide for ongoing CCLS use
- a help desk equipped to provide technical assistance on an on-going basis

New professional learning resources for educators working in early learning settings

As you know, the Ministry of Education is committed to supporting early years settings in providing high quality early learning and development opportunities for children across Ontario.

The *Ontario Early Years Policy Framework* describes how high quality programs have an extraordinary and long-lasting impact on children's development, and therefore we want to do everything we can to support educators in this important work.

As part of this process, the Ministry worked with leading experts in the field of early childhood education to develop six research briefs and several associated video clips for educators working in early years settings. These resources build on the existing resources that have been developed related to the Early Learning Framework.

We are pleased to announce that these resources are now complete and can be found on the Ministry's website at:

www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/research.html

The briefs and video clips highlight key research findings and practical tips for educators related to seven elements of early years program quality. These elements include

- positive adult-child relationships and brain development
- learning environments
- pedagogical documentation
- pedagogical leadership
- self-regulation
- parent engagement
- inclusion

The resources are not intended to provide an in-depth analysis of each topic, rather they serve to highlight key ideas that educators may find useful in their understanding about young children. They are intended to encourage critical reflection and discussion about these ideas and challenge educators as they consider their daily practice from new perspectives.

We encourage you to read the briefs and watch the clips and consider how they might apply to you and your work. We invite you to share the resources with your colleagues and families, and encourage you to use the reflective questions that appear throughout the site to stimulate personal reflection and team discussions on each topic.

We hope that you will find these materials useful as we all work towards supporting high quality experiences for young children and their families.

