



Every Kid
in our **Communities**
OF LEEDS & GRENVILLE

Early Years Service Providers Work Group Terms of Reference

Introduction

The Early Years Service Providers Work Group Group supports the common agenda of the Lead Table for EKIOC by facilitating communication between service providers; promoting service system integration; and encouraging local/municipal programs for children and families of children 0 to age 6 to work together to develop comprehensive integrated services.

Common Agenda

To build a community in which every child and youth is safe, healthy, valued and lives in a family and neighborhood where: all babies have the best start possible; all children and youth are cared for and safe; all children are ready for school; all children and youth are successful at school; all children and youth are practicing safe and healthy behaviors; and all youth are making successful transitions to adulthood.

Accountability

The Early Years Work Group reports to the Lead Table of EKIOC. The Early Years Service Providers Work Group will provide advice to the EKIOC Lead Table as it relates to planning for children from birth to 6 years and will ensure preparation of an annual work plan & will provide periodic (at least annual) reports on its activities to the EKIOC Lead Table. It may also bring specific issues to the Lead Table as needed.

Guiding Principles

- We believe parent and community involvement are essential in all child development and care.
- We support programs and initiatives that build parent and community capacity.
- We support environments that promote healthy child development and care.
- We promote and foster collaboration, co-operation, and integration of children's services.
- We value all children and are committed to embracing Leeds and Grenville's francophone, Indigenous, new immigrants, and other diverse communities.

- We support programs and services that ensure simplified access and coordinated services for families and children.
- We add our voice to discussions and decisions that impact on the lives of children and families.

Membership

- The membership consists of, but is not limited to, partner agency staff members, community stakeholders, and leaders.
- Participation is encouraged from individuals having expertise in services being provided to children 0 to 6.
- EKIOC seeks representation from a diversity of peoples and perspectives and from those with lived experience from across our partner organizations, particularly representatives from equity seeking communities, including:
 - Members from Indigenous communities
 - Members from the Black community and people of colour
 - Individuals who identify as 2SLGBTQ+
 - Individuals with visible and invisible disabilities
 - Other members of equity seeking or marginalized communities

Working Arrangements

- There will be two co-chairs of the Work Group, which will rotate through the members of the Early Years Work Group. The chairs will serve a term of 2 years (staggered) commencing in September of each year.
- The work group will meet at such times and places as determined by its members and will work mainly through video conferences and e-mail. Meetings will generally be held every other month for an hour and a half.
- A consensus building approach will be used whenever possible. In the rare case when a vote is required, all members present are voting members.
- Administrative support to the Work Group will be provided by the EKIOC Coordinator.

Review of Terms of Reference

These terms of reference will be reviewed annually in September.

Date of Approval & Review

May 3, 2023