



SECURING THE FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN

Preschool Excellence Initiative - Q & A for parents

The Province is taking significant measures to build an accessible, sustainable and quality driven early learning system – which recognizes the need for parental choice.

After extensive consultation, Government is developing an integrated early learning system in PEI in which Early Years Centres and Infant Homes will provide families with stable, sustainable access to high quality early learning. In Early Years Centers and Infant Homes, parent fees will be regulated, all staff will be trained and certified, and educators will receive better pay. To achieve these benefits, government is significantly increasing its investment in early learning. All across the Island, existing centers will have the option of becoming an Early Years Center.

The Preschool Excellence Initiative is a tremendous step forward, but we do recognize that there will be a transition period for operators and families. Throughout this time, Government will support operators as they decide on whether to move to the new model, retain their current centre model, close or merge with another centre. Supports are also being put in place to minimize disruption and help families as the changes occur.

The following Q&A is designed to answer some questions you may have regarding the transition process and is not meant to be an exhaustive list. Please feel free to contact The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development by phone, e-mail or the web site, www.gov.pe.ca/eecd.

Q Will my center be open this fall?

A Yes, unless your center informs you otherwise. If your center does decide to close, or to make changes, they will assist you in finding a quality, regulated option for your children.

Q How will I be kept informed of changes?

A As centres make their decisions to convert to an Early Years Centre, remain private, or close, the supervisors will inform families. Families will have access to advisory and referral services to assist them in making choices if a change occurs at their centre.

Q My center now allows me to take my child out for the summer and return in the fall. Will this still be possible?

A This decision remains the decision of the center.

Q I don't have my child registered anywhere now. How will I know where to send my child?

A The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will be working closely with early childhood operators to ensure up-to-date information on centres and spaces during the transition to the new model. Should you require any assistance locating a space please call 368-6513 or 569-7528.



Q What does the plan's emphasis on early learning mean for my child?

A Early Years Centres will provide a caring, comfortable and nurturing environment, in which all staff will be trained and certified. Your child will be provided with age-appropriate activities and play, guided by a curriculum framework to promote consistently high quality early learning across the system.

Q Can my center charge above the regulated fee?

A If a center is an Early Years Center the parent fee will be regulated at the same level throughout the Island and extra-billing will not be allowed. Should centers remain private, they can set their own parent fees.

Q Can the center charge me additional costs such as a supply fee, computer or music programs?

A Currently, programming options such as these are considered voluntary for families, and normally involve additional parent fees. All Early Years Centres will be required to have Parent Advisory Committees, allowing a parent voice in decisions such as additional programming and fees.

Q Can my child attend part-time?

A Many programs currently offer part-time service. Policies are being developed with regard to the Early Years Centers and Infant Homes to ensure consistency and responsiveness to the varied needs of families and children.

Q Will there be after-school care for my school age child?

A Current programs offering after-school care only will not be affected by the changes under the Preschool Excellence Initiative. The Early Years Centres, although primarily intended for children aged 0-4, may offer after-school care if space permits. Centres that decide to remain private may continue or expand their after-school programs.

Q What if the center I want in my community is full?

A The network of Early Years Centres is being planned to fully meet existing and expected demand. Should the demand for spaces increase beyond forecast levels, Government will respond.

Q Will the Child Care Subsidy Program rates match the new center rates?

A Yes. The Child Care Subsidy Program per diems have been increased to match the Early Years Centre rates. As well, income thresholds have been increased by \$2,000 to allow more families to benefit from the program.

Q Can a center refuse to take my child?

A Where space is available at Early Years Centres, all children will be welcomed. Should space not be available, you will be assisted to find a space at another centre.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:

569-7528 or 368-6513

Monday - Friday 8am - 4pm

email - earlylearning@edu.pe.ca

www.gov.pe.ca/eecd



Education and
Early Childhood
Development

