



## Early Learning Program – Key Facts

### Highlights of the early learning program for 2010-11

- 35,000 four- and five-year-olds in full-day early learning in September 2010—about 15 per cent of total kindergarten population
- Average class size: 26 students
- Classes will be led by a teacher and an ECE, who will work as a team
- Integrated extended day will provide before-school programming starting at about 7 a.m. and after-school programming until 6 p.m., at a reasonable cost to parents
- \$200 million in support from Ministry of Education for the program in year one, \$300 million in year two, \$245 million for capital and equipping costs

### Vision for early learning in Ontario

- *With Our Best Future in Mind*, by Charles Pascal, offers 20 recommendations.
- The report envisions a seamless continuum of early learning, child care and family supports for children from pre-natal to age 12.
- Government is currently focusing on full-day early learning for kindergarten-aged children.
- Full-day early learning is expected to be fully implemented in 2015-16 school year.
- Research indicates that every \$1 in early learning funding provides a seven-to-one return on investment.
- The implementation of this vision is supported by the passage into law of Bill 242, *Full Day Early Learning Statute Law Amendment Act, 2010*. Regulations are now under development.

### Transfer of responsibility for childcare

- To create a more integrated system, Ministry of Education will be responsible for childcare.
- Transfer of responsibility will be phased in.
  - childcare policy—April 2010
  - program management, including subsidies—fall 2010
  - childcare licensing—spring 2012

### Play-based learning program

- The new full-day early learning document combines *The Kindergarten Program (2006)*, *Early Learning for Every Child Today (ELECT)* and *Every Child Every Opportunity*.
- The new program is holistic and play-based—it focuses on creating an environment that promotes each child's physical, cognitive, language, emotional, social, and creative development and well-being.
- The new curriculum will remain in draft for 2010-11 school year.

## **Extended day program**

- Schools with full-day early learning will provide an integrated extended day program from about 7 a.m. to start of school and after school until 6 p.m.
- Extended day program is available to parents at a reasonable fee, with subsidies available based on need.

## **Roles of teachers and ECEs in full-day early learning classroom**

Team of two professionals in the early learning classroom—registered ECE and certified teacher. They have a “duty to co-operate” on the following activities:

- planning for and providing education to students in the full-day early learning program
- observing, monitoring and assessing the development of the students
- communicating with families
- maintaining a healthy physical, emotional and social learning environment
- performing all duties assigned to them by the principal with respect to the full-day early learning program

## **Training and professional development**

- Ministry of Education is providing train-the-trainer workshops for school board teams.
- Director of Education walk-through training is scheduled for June 2010.
- Train-the-trainer summer institutes will be provided.
- Ministry training will continue throughout 2010-11.
- School boards are encouraged to provide professional development during 2010-11.

## **More information**

- Ministry of Education website: [www.edu.gov.on.ca/earlylearning](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/earlylearning)
- *The Full-Day Early Learning–Kindergarten Program 2010-11*, draft [www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/kindergarten\\_english\\_apr13.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/kindergarten_english_apr13.pdf)
- Bill 242 *The Full Day Early Learning Statute Law Amendment Act, 2010* [www.ontla.on.ca/bills/bills-files/39\\_Parliament/Session2/b242rep.pdf](http://www.ontla.on.ca/bills/bills-files/39_Parliament/Session2/b242rep.pdf)
- early learning memos – <http://cal2.edu.gov.on.ca>

## **Still have questions about the early learning program?**

Submit your question to [www.edu.gov.on.ca/earlylearning/feedback.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/earlylearning/feedback.html)