

December 2009

What is full-day learning?

Ontario's full day learning program gives parents the option of enrolling their four and five-year old children in school for a full day of learning.

How will the program work?

Teachers and Early Childhood Educators will work together to help children learn during the regular school day. This new approach to early learning offers children an enriched learning environment designed to help them develop the foundational social, emotional, academic and physical skills necessary to succeed in school and in life.

When will the program begin?

The program will be phased in over several years starting in September 2010. In the first year, it will be available for up to 35,000 students and by 2015-16 up to 240,000 students will benefit from full-day learning.

Will full-day learning include before and after school programs?

A number of schools offering full-day learning will also provide before and after school programs delivered by Early Childhood Educators. For example, parents can choose to enroll their children from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. There will be a reasonable fee for these programs, but subsidies will be available for some families, based on financial need.

Which schools will be selected for the program?

Schools in Niagara that will begin offering full-day early learning in September 2010 will be announced early in 2010, in time for parents to register their children in the new program.

School boards, with input from municipalities, will recommend schools based on the following guidelines:

- Available space - the program can be introduced at a school that has classroom space available and does not require new additions or renovations.
- Impact on existing local child care - school boards and municipalities will work together to assess whether communities will be best served by selecting schools with existing child care programs, schools near licensed child care or schools in neighbourhoods where no child care is currently available for four and five-year-olds.
- Local need - school boards have been encouraged to consider the various needs of all communities that they serve and how the program could meet those needs. Some schools selected to offer the program in the first year will be those located in low-income neighbourhoods.

What is the affect of full-day learning on the child care system?

The impact of full-day learning on child care and early years programs will vary among communities. The Ontario government will work collaboratively with school boards, child care operators, municipalities and other partners in communities across Ontario to enhance and stabilize existing child care programs.

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