



Quality Child Care Niagara ANNUAL COMMUNITY REPORT 2020



"Working in a cooperative preschool the [QCCN] value of engagement resonates most with me as we pride ourselves on engaging families and keeping them as involved as possible. By doing this the other values such as inclusivity and inviting environments become second nature." - Jennifer Westveer



Fort Erie Co-operative Nursery School

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I love that QCCN puts an emphasis on ensuring that each child is given the opportunity and assistance they need to reach their own potential. I also believe that it is important to tailor your classroom environment and approach to the specific children and families you interact with daily so that everyone is able to participate at whatever level they are capable and that all children and families feel like they are included in learning and play.

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QCCN Vision

A consistent approach to excellence in early learning for children and families through the commitment of highly knowledgeable and responsive educators.

QCCN Statement

A strength-based, reciprocal partnership supporting children and professionals through a continuum of collaboration, training and the use of developmental tools.

QCCN Values

The following values explain our notion of Quality.

- **Accountability** – Quality Child Care Niagara values dedication to implementing QCCN in alignment with organization policies, funding requirements, legislation and the College of Early Childhood Educators *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice*.
- **Commitment** – Quality Child Care Niagara values the loyalty and devotion of educators in supporting Niagara’s children and families.
- **Engagement** – Quality Child Care Niagara promotes programs, environments and plans which deeply connects children, educators and families and reflect their hopes, interests and strengths.
- **Inclusivity** – Quality Child Care Niagara values, respects and promotes the uniqueness of each educator, child and family.
- **Intentionality** – Quality Child Care Niagara encourages educators to plan with purpose and meaning through an inquiry based approach.
- **Inviting Environments** – Quality Child Care Niagara recognizes the importance of interactive play spaces which are imaginative, flexible and fun to support competent risk taking unique to each child.
- **Reflective** – Quality Child Care Niagara values the practice of continuous learning, questioning and critical thinking.
- **Respectful** – Quality Child Care Niagara honours each early learning program, educator, child and family as unique, competent and capable.
- **Responsive** – Quality Child Care Niagara expects educators to consistently adapt their planning, environments and experiences; to support the strengths, interests and hopes of children and their families.

Quality Child Care Niagara Funder

Quality Child Care Niagara has been funded by Niagara Region Children's Services for 17 years and the Early Childhood Community Development Centre (ECCDC) is grateful to have been the coordinating agency since the start of Quality Child Care Niagara.



“ I recently moved to the Niagara Region from Ottawa therefore this is my first introduction to QCCN. I immediately appreciated QCCN's vision of creating a consistent approach in early learning centres. I think this is important and an excellent step to increasing quality care for all children, despite their socioeconomic backgrounds. In terms of QCCN's values, I noticed some clear connections with How Does Learning Happen. I graduated roughly two years ago now and was trained under HDLH. Engagement, inclusivity, responsiveness, continuous learning, and respect are all key features in Ontario's pedagogy for the early years. - Rebecca Dunks ”

Quality Child Care Niagara Team

Quality Child Care Niagara Advisory Members

The QCCN Advisory Committee comprised of community partners from sixteen (16) agencies met in-person and virtually four (4) times in 2020 to collectively discuss the impact of QCCN on Niagara's early learning and child care community.

- Bill Helmeczi/Linda Morrice, Pathstone Mental Health
- Brenda-Lynn Haley, Pathstone Mental Health
- Cynthia Bradshaw/Kari-Lyn Burkholder, Ministry of Education
- Debbie Hamilton, Niagara Children's Centre/QCCN Community Mentor Consultant
- Drew Kean (on leave), Niagara College
- Helen Lake, Niagara Region (QCCN Liaison with ECCDC)
- Helene Randle (chair), Rosalind Blauer Centre for Child Care/QCCN Community Mentor Consultant
- Jane Gouck, QCCN Community Mentor Consultant
- Katherine Martin, A Child's World Family Child Care Services of Niagara/QCCN Community Mentor Consultant
- Kim Cole, Niagara Child Care Sector Executive
- Lori Bailey, EarlyON Centres
- Lorrey Ariel Bonilla, Early Childhood Community Development Centre
- Lucy Belchior, YMCA of Niagara Child Care Service
- Roxane Hendrie, Rosalind Blauer Centre for Child Care
- Sally Mazachowsky, Inclusive Child Care Supports Committee
- Samantha Babin, Family and Children's Services
- Christina Clark, Francophone Child Care Centres – La Boîte à soleil
- Sandra Richardson/Pam Dilts, Niagara Regional Health Department Healthy Babies Healthy Children
- Sharon Milne, Niagara Region (QCCN Support)
- Tracy Belcastro, Strive Niagara
- Trudy Hill/Monique Ransom, Fort Erie Native Cultural Centre Aboriginal Headstart & Kindergarten Program

Quality Child Care Niagara 2020 Subcommittee

During the year there was a lot of reconceptualizing to help pivot the training and program visits to online formats. Members from the QCCN Advisory Committee formed a QCCN Subcommittee that met regularly through virtual meetings to support and contribute feedback on the transformation of the QCCN webinar module training which was brought back to QCCN Advisory. The ECCDC appreciates the opportunity to rethink the QCCN components alongside the Advisory working group. We extend gratitude to the smaller working committee for providing so much guidance and advice with new tools, in developing the online modules for QCCN and in rethinking the visits to incorporate virtual visits

- Bill Helmeczi, Pathstone Mental Health
- Candice Penny, Niagara Nursery School & Child Care Centre/QCCN Community Mentor Consultant
- Debbie Hamilton, Niagara Children's Centre/QCCN Community Mentor Consultant
- Helen Lake, Niagara Region
- Helene Randle, Rosalind Blauer Centre for Child Care/QCCN Community Mentor Consultant
- Jane Gouck, QCCN Community Mentor Consultant
- Katherine Martin, A Child's World Family Child Care Services of Niagara/QCCN Community Mentor Consultant
- Lorrey Ariel Bonilla, Early Childhood Community Development Centre
- Lucy Belchior, YMCA of Niagara Child Care Service
- Roxane Hendrie, Rosalind Blauer Centre for Child Care

Quality Child Care Niagara Staff Members

- Priyanka Tan, Quality Child Care Niagara Coordinator
- Katie-Lynn Parkinson Quality Child Care Niagara Program Consultant (January – August 2020)
- Natalie Lane, Quality Child Care Niagara Program Consultant (September to December 2020)

“ So many of our staff team have great ideas and we always collaborate and share with each other. I learn so much from the QCCN team and the ECCDC which I bring back to our team! ”
- Tiffany Brzozowski, Resource Consultant with Strive Niagara

Quality Child Care Niagara Support Visits

- **One hundred and ten (110) support visits** either in person or virtually were completed from January to mid-March and October to December 2020 by the QCCN Team.
- **Two hundred and seventy-six (276)** staff were consulted during the support visits
- Beginning October 2020, QCCN Support Visits were transformed to be offered virtually allowing program educators and children to maintain safety while still connecting with the QCCN team and keeping the tools an important priority. The purpose of the visits was to reconnect to have conversations on how their Team was implementing the tools, despite the barriers presented by COVID-19 and learn how they could be further supported with these unique challenges.

QCCN Virtual Network Opportunities through Community Conversation Cafés

From April to July, **13 QCCN Community Conversation Cafés** were offered while QCCN Support Visits were on hold due to the pandemic.



Parents Peace of Mind – Henley



Tots-N-Tikes



Glendale Early Learning Child Care Centre

QCCN Virtual Network Opportunities through Community Conversation Cafés continued

- Community of Practice: April 23, 2020
- Brain Story: April 30, 2020
- Program Reflection: May 7, 2020
- Roles of the Modern Reflective Educator: May 14, 2020
- Sharing Your Strategies for Observation and Documentation: May 21, 2020
- Implementing ITERS-3 and ECERS-3 in Your Program: May 28, 2020
- Positive Interactions through Connecting versus Directing: June 5, 2020
- Taking a Deeper Dive into the QCCN Developmental Resources: June 12, 2020
- Supporting your Ongoing Commitment to Quality Child Care: June 19, 2020
- Continuing Quality Improvement through a Family Engagement Survey: June 26, 2020
- Community of Practice in your Program: July 3, 2020
- Next Steps, Further Support through the ECERS: July 7, 2020
- Communities of Practice: July 17, 2020
- **Total Number of Educators Who Participated in Virtual QCCN Community Conversation Cafés: 179**

“ These [tools] are important because early intervention is key to helping a child who may be experiencing developmental delays. By regularly using these tools, we increase the likelihood of detecting these delays and helping get the children the help that they need. Also, in the cases where the children aren't experiencing delays, they help us to see where the child is at and learn what is best to help them learn ”

"I think the program environment serves as a place that communicates belonging for children and creates a sense of safety and wellbeing for children to then explore from. The program environment is their space and our role as educators is to ensure it reflects that."



Grimsby Co-operative Preschool

Quality Child Care Niagara Tools and Resources

- **QCCN Annual Support Visit Form** was modified to highlight specific areas of support that needed focus during this time and to be shorter in length to meet the time constraints centres could possibly face with the many new policies and procedures in place.
- **Centre Image Release Form** was updated to include a section with tips, strategies, and a visual on how to take a photo of children “not clearly identified.”
- **QCCN Support Visit Process Chart** was developed to ensure centre Supervisors had a clear understanding of the new way of conducting the visits all the while considering the same supportive approach Quality Child Care Niagara has always followed.
- **Strategies to Develop Family Engagement for Educators document** was designed to support educators with their ongoing collaborative partnership with families through family engagement reflections and strategies on how to design a family engagement survey.
- **Introduction to Quality Child Care Niagara handout** was developed for educators and families to highlight the developmental screening tools, overview of Quality Child Care Niagara, and its Vision, Statement and Values.
- **DPS & Speech and Language Tracking Sheet** was created with the feedback and request from educators within our community which reflects the importance of the developmental screening tools. This document allows the tracking of both DPS and Speech and Language on one convenient sheet.
- **Strategies and Resources for Implementing QCCN Tools and Tasks handout** is being developed through connecting with educators and community partners in Niagara to support the ongoing implementation of Quality Child Care Niagara tools and resources during these unparalleled times by including strategies and resources.

Quality Child Care Niagara Training

QCCN New Supplementary Webinars Offered to Niagara's Early Learning Community

- **13 QCCN New Supplementary Webinars** were offered to Niagara's Early Learning Community during the months of April to August DISC Preschool Screen (DPS) Age Calculation: April 28, 2020
- Fostering Family Engagement: May 5, 2020
- Children's Actions, Relationships, and Emotions (CARE) Tool: May 13, 2020
- Looking at the ITERS-3 and ECERS-3 through a New Lens: May 26, 2020
- Reflecting on the Caregiver Interaction Scale: June 2, 2020
- Next Steps for Implementing DPS in your Program: June 9, 2020
- Celebrating 20 years of Quality Child Care Niagara: June 16, 2020
- Designing a Family Engagement Survey: June 23, 2020
- DPS Age Calculation: June 30, 2020
- ITERS-3 AND ECERS-3 Scoring: July 10, 2020
- Roles of the Modern Reflective Educator: July 14, 2020
- Taking a Look into the QCCN Resource Tools: August 7, 2020
- Next Steps for Implementing DPS in your Program: August 28, 2020
- **Total Number of Educators Who Participated in the Supplementary QCCN Webinars: 211**

“The Family Engagement Survey is an excellent way for families to feel a sense of belonging in the program. This is a stated goal in How Does Learning Happen and therefore is in direct alignment with Ontario's pedagogy for the early years. Given the Covid-19 restrictions, this becomes particularly important as many parents have been excluded from entering child care centres. It is also a great opportunity for centres to find out what matters to families and how programs can be adjusted to accommodate their needs.”

"When I look back on my journey through 2020, there was a lot of time spent reflecting on my own practice and setting goals. While my child care centre was closed from March to August, the QCCN Conversation Cafés and Community of Practice were great starting points for these reflections. It provided a great experience to connect with other educators and discuss strategies and experiences, QCCN tools, and how to effectively make use of them within the program. After returning, the greatest tool was the QCCN Program Profile. It provides the perfect opportunity to delve deeper and look at the parts of each group that make it truly what it is and what potential it can have." - Andrea Lavoie, RECE



The Chestnut Tree Preschool - Beamsville

Niagara College - Quality Child Care Niagara Reflective Practice Institute Webinar Modules Training

- **105 Niagara College students** participated in the QCCN Reflective Practice Institute Pre-Recorded Webinar Modules
- **93% of students** felt **confident** in applying the skills they learned to their current and future practice.
- **93% of students** gained **new knowledge** and **96%** had a **greater understanding** of the QCCN tools and resources.
- **98% of students** found the tools and resources from the QCCN Institute to be **impactful** to their current and future practice.
- **QCCN Community Conversation Café: Next Steps for Further Support Following the QCCN Webinar Modules for Niagara College Students** was delivered in December following the completion of the five pre-recorded webinar modules.

Did you know?

The students participated in the pre-recorded QCCN webinar modules from not only Ontario, but also from different Provinces and Overseas.




“ The QCCN virtual training modules were an excellent opportunity for our ECE students to deepen their understanding of quality tools and pathways to support children and families. We are living in a time that is encouraging us to be creative and grow in ways we may have never imagined. This training was a wonderful demonstration of flexibility and resilience for our students as they begin their journey as early childhood educators. We appreciate collaborating with the ECCDC team on this innovative format to provide this valuable professional experience for our soon to be graduates. ”

- Niagara College Early Childhood Education (ECE) Faculty

Child Care Centres - Quality Child Care Niagara Reflective Practice Institute Webinar Modules Training

The two-day in-person QCCN Reflective Practice Institute was transformed into five (5) webinar modules offered through Zoom. The live webinar module training was available for educators supporting infant, toddler and preschool programs who did not previously participate in the two-day QCCN Reflective Practice Institutes and the pre-recorded webinar module training was available for the Niagara College students.

- **69 educators representing 37 centres** attended the live QCCN Reflective Practice Institute Webinar Modules
- **96% of educators** found the tools and resources from the training to be **impactful** to their current practice
- **92% of educators** felt **confident** in applying what they had learned from the training to their current practice

 <p>Brigance Readiness Binder Sample Activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine motor skills – cutting with scissors • The sequence contains 12 developmental steps for learning how to cut with scissors from developmental age 2 to developmental age 7. 	 <p><i>Jane Gouck, retired Resource Consultant and QCCN Community Mentor Consultant, facilitated Module 3 webinar.</i></p>
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Quality Child Care Niagara Reflective Practice Institute Webinar Modules

Module 1: Introduction to QCCN Reflective Practice Institute and DPS

- Background and History of QCCN
- DISC Preschool Screen (DPS)

Module 2: Environmental Supports

- Program Profile
- Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scales including Resource and Inventory List and Environmental Feedback Form

Module 3: QCCN Developmental Planning Tools

- Early Years Curriculum Plan Criteria
- Developmental Profiles Textbook, QCCN Developmental Reference Charts, Brigance Readiness Binder including Best Practices in Using QCCN Tools

Module 4: Becoming a Reflective Practitioner and Engaging Family and Children

- Caregiver Interaction Scale
- Behaviour C.A.R.E. Checklist
- Engaging Families and Children through Strong Relationships

Module 5: Speech & Language and Emergent Literacy

- Speech and Language Developmental Checklist
- Building Blocks of Emergent Literacy
- Overview of QCCN and Frequently Asked Questions

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This past year, the Niagara Children’s Centre revised their QCCN Speech and Language Referral Checklist and Referral Processes. The QCCN Staff and Advisory Committee were dedicated to supporting every aspect of the revision and implementation process from brainstorming about potential improvements, to analyzing community feedback, to providing quality opportunities for students and educators to learn and embrace the new tools and processes. As a direct result of this collaborative partnership, we expect that children with communication delays will be more easily identified within child care settings and be able to access needed services at earlier ages.” - Niagara Children’s Centre

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Centres who participated in 2020 Quality Child Care Niagara Reflective Practice Institute Webinars

- ABC Daycare Centre
- Anna's Daycare Centre
- Au Coin Des Petits – Centre Prescolaire
- Boys and Girls Club of Niagara – St. Gabriel Lalemant Child Care
- Community Living St. Catharines
- EarlyON – Bethlehem Place
- EarlyON Centre de Sante, Coin des Families – Centre de Sante Communautaire Hamilton-Niagara
- EarlyON Grimsby Strive Niagara
- EarlyON Niagara Catholic
- EarlyON Plymouth Public School
- EarlyON Port Cares
- Great Lakes Christian Preschool
- Grimsby Co-operative Preschool
- Kidzdome Preschool Nelles
- La Boîte à soleil – Empress
- La Boîte à soleil – Franco – Niagara
- La Boîte à soleil – LaMarsh
- La Boîte à soleil – Nouvel Horizon
- La Boîte à soleil – Saint Joseph
- Les Coccinelles Zelees
- Mini Retreat Child Care
- Niagara Region Children Services – Administration
- North End Co-operative Preschool
- Parents Peace of Mind – East
- Parents Peace of Mind – Henley House
- Port Colborne Regional Child Care Centre
- Stamford Green Day Nursery
- Strive Niagara - Resource Consultant
- The Day Care Centre
- Thorold Community Child Care Services
- Thorold Co-operative Nursery School
- Top of the Ridge Day Care
- Under the Rainbow Wakanioten Child Care
- Way to Grow – Pelham
- Way to Grow – Smithville
- Way to Grow Daycare – St. Catharines
- Wee Care Day Care – Niagara Queen Site



Educators described family engagement using one word during a collaborative discussion at the QCCN Webinar – Fostering Family Engagement session

Quality Child Care Niagara Webpage and Statistics for 2020

- QCCN website had **1,581 visits** this year with the highest in the month of October
- **500%** increase in visits for the Frequently Asked Questions page from last year
- **Three new webpages** were added to the QCCN website; **QCCN Sessions Online**, **QCCN Support Visits**, and **Niagara College Students**
- QCCN Sessions Online webpage was created in June with a total of **245 visits** where it highlights all the QCCN Community Conversation Cafés and QCCN Webinar sessions that were offered this year
- **134 visits** were made to the QCCN Support Visits webpage which was developed in September in preparation for the virtual support visits beginning in October
- Niagara College Students webpage had **133 visits** since September which consisted of information on the webinar training modules

“ I’m learning again how important that all types of interactions is so important in a child’s healthy development, we are with them every single day, we are responsible for all the information we show them, teach them, experience with them, we know all this matters but learning about it again makes you question yourself about what else or what more can I work on with the children, or in what other ways to make it more simple and more interesting so they can get to absorb more during their time spent with us, it never ends. - Melanie Huot ”

Quality Child Care Niagara Reflective Practice Webinar Feedback and Testimonials

"Being new to Niagara, I found this course very valuable overall in giving me an overview of what QCCN does. In particular, I enjoyed the modules on environmental design and speech and language development. Based on the comments in the module about the environment, we recently redesigned the preschool room in my centre."

"I found overall the many tools that were introduced to me were extremely valuable, especially the tools which will help me identify behaviours such as the DPS, Environmental rating scales and the C.A.R.E checklists. These tools help me to understand everyday behaviours of the children I will be working alongside. These will be most valuable because it will be a relief to be more educated on how to document, reflect and plan programming that will work with where the child is developmentally, by using their strengths to work toward the next stage of development so that they become happier, more confident and go into grade school with a confident and inquisitive mindset."

"I learned many strategies through this QCCN lecture. It was a challenge to learn how to create a safe environment for children. I was able to think again about the learning environment of children that I had just passed by, and realized that I had to create an environment that was safer, more diverse, more provoking to children's thinking, and more extensive thinking ... I would like to thank QCCN for being able to learn more systematically and professionally through this [training]."

"I think personally inclusion is my top value and top priority, coming from a family with members that need that extra support has made me focus really hard on inclusion, and I think the QCCN's vision supports that as well."

"Thank you so much for putting this together during covid-19. I was happy to participate from home and advance my professional development during these difficult circumstances."

"I truly appreciated all of the lessons and knowledge I have gained from these modules. It was hard with it being online but I am very thankful I was able to still receive these lessons and assistance about how to use all of the difference tools we learned about throughout these lessons."

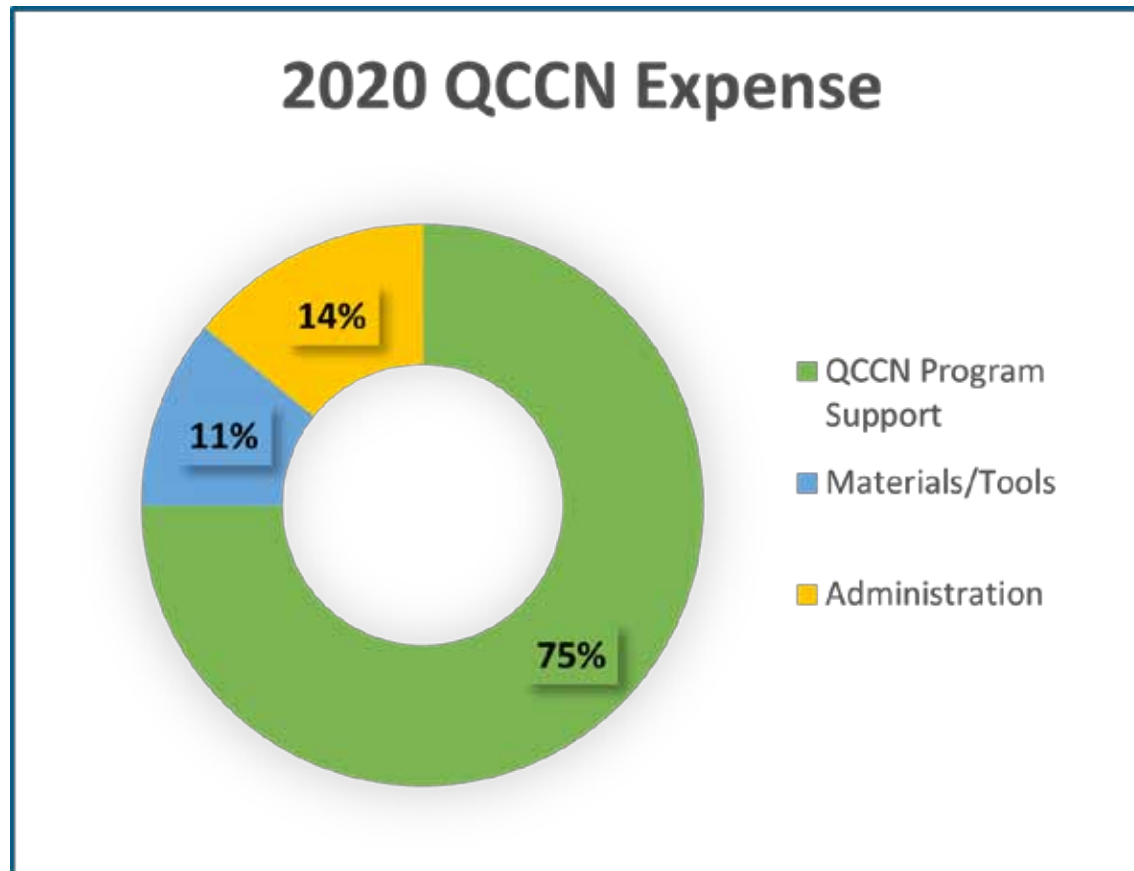


Thorold Co-
operative
Nursery School



ACW Tiny Travellers

2020 Financial Report



St. Thomas
Day Care

"Learn character from trees, values
from roots, and change from leaves."
- Tasneem Hameed"

