



Quality Child Care Niagara ANNUAL COMMUNITY REPORT 2021

Connections. Optimism. Dedicated Service



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“ The early learning environment at my place of work and my personal values directly mirror the values, visions and statement of Quality Child Care Niagara. Providing an engaging, happy and supportive space for children to develop their own sense of belonging while being taught the importance of creativity and respect for one another, setting them up for success that will follow them for the rest of their lives. ”

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

The Early Childhood Community Development Centre (ECCDC) extends gratitude to Niagara Region Children's Services for the opportunity to continue supporting Niagara's licensed child care programs with this very important work. We appreciate our collaborative efforts in planning and coordination.



Quality Child Care Niagara in Alignment with Ontario's Legislation and Ontario's Frameworks

The Quality Child Care Niagara Team recognizes the importance of aligning all QCCN training, resources, templates and visits with Ontario's early learning legislative requirements and frameworks including the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*; *How Does Learning Happen? Early Learning for Every Child Today* and *Think Feel Act*.

“ We consistently provide an early learning environment that will support our children and are committed to respecting and promoting the uniqueness of each child and family. We are committed to supporting our children through the use of developmental tools and resources as well as providing experiences to support the strengths, needs and interests of our children. ”

Quality Child Care Niagara Team

Quality Child Care Niagara Advisory Committee

The QCCN Advisory Committee is comprised of community partners from seventeen (17) agencies. These dedicated volunteers met five (5) times in 2021 to offer their time, advisement, and guidance in supporting Quality Child Care Niagara.

- Brenda-Lynn Haley, Pathstone Mental Health
- Cynthia Bradshaw and Kari-Lyn Burkholder, Ministry of Education
- Debbie Hamilton and Michelle Maxwell, Niagara Children's Centre
- Lindsay Milligan and Drew Kean, Niagara College
- Helen Lake and Sharon Milne, Niagara Region (QCCN Liaison with ECCDC)
- Helene Randle (Chair), Rosalind Blauer Centre for Child Care
- Katherine Martin A Child's World Family Child Care Services of Niagara
- Kim Cole, Niagara Child Care Sector Executive
- 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
- Christina Clark, Francophone Child Care Centres – La Boîte à soleil
- Sandra Richardson/Pam Dilts, Niagara Regional Health Department Healthy Babies Healthy Children
- Tracy Belcastro, Strive Niagara
- Tricia Rae/Lori Bailey, EarlyON Centres
- Monique Ransom, Fort Erie Native Cultural Centre Aboriginal Headstart & Kindergarten Program

“ In our early learning environment, we put the Quality Child Care Niagara's vision, values, and statement into practice by ensuring inclusive practices are utilized with all children and their families. As educators, we understand the need for meeting children where they are in their development and are committed to learning new ways to continue that growth. We work with the children and their families to promote engagement, reflective and respectful learning. ”

Quality Child Care Niagara Staff Members

- Priyanka Tan (on leave) Quality Child Care Niagara Coordinator, Early Childhood Community Development Centre
- Katie-Lynn Parkinson, Interim Quality Child Care Niagara Coordinator, Early Childhood Community Development Centre

Quality Child Care Niagara Tools and Resources

QCCN Tutorial Videos

Nine (9) videos were developed to provide support in using the various QCCN tools in alignment with the Reflective Practice Institute. The videos are accessible [by clicking here](#).

- How to Design a Family Engagement Survey?
- How to Complete ITERS-3 and ECERS-3 Score Sheet
- Getting Started with the DPS
- How do I use the Brigance Readiness Activities Binder?
- Referring to the Early Years Curriculum Plan Criteria
- ITERS-3 and ECERS-3 Scoring Example
- How to Complete the Caregiver Interaction Scale
- DPS Age Calculation
- What are the QCCN Developmental Reference Guidelines?

QCCN Tip Sheets

Seven (7) information sheets were designed to highlight additional strategies in using the QCCN Tools. The following topics have been highlighted and may be found [by clicking here](#).

- Behaviour C.A.R.E. Checklist
- Caregiver Interaction Scales
- Disc Preschool Screen (DPS)
- Speech and Language Referral Checklist
- Environmental Rating Scales
- Program Profile
- QCCN Resources

“ Having these tools available when planning will allow us to alter specific details of our activities to ensure that we will meet all of the children’s developmental needs. Some areas of activities may be difficult to complete for some children so having these resources can help us understand how we can adjust the activity to meet everyone’s needs. It is important to be inclusive of all students not only through our behaviour but through our planning. ”

Implementing QCCN in Cooperative Programs Tips

This information sheet was designed in collaboration with Niagara’s cooperative programs to share ideas of incorporating QCCN within a unique setting.

Quality Child Care Niagara Reflective Practice Institute Training for 2021

This year's Quality Child Care Niagara Practice Institutes were offered as five (5) pre-recorded online webinar modules in three (3) rotations to support educators who required the training and provided flexibility with educators' schedules.

Rotation Dates

- January 29, 2021 – April 29, 2021
- May 17, 2021 – August 17, 2021
- September 14, 2021 – December 14, 2021

Statistics and Testimonials

- **66%** of participants are currently working in the field full time
- Average of years in the field:
 - **40%** of participants have been in the field for 2-5 years
 - **27%** of participants have in the field less than a year
 - **12%** of participants have been in the field for over 18 years
- After completing the training:
 - **86%** of participants reported feeling confident or very confident in completing the DPS
 - **85%** of participants commented on feeling confident or very confident in completing the Speech and Language Developmental Checklists
 - **83%** of participants' feedback demonstrated they felt confident or very confident in completing the Behaviour C.A.R.E. Checklist

"I like how there was time to pause and reflect, there was lots of examples and videos from other educators and resources."

"I valued being provided worksheets to practice each tool and reviewing it with the instructors. Ensuring that I was completing it correctly (ex. calculating ages for DPS). Being provided resources that I was unfamiliar with that will help in my practice/planning going forward (ex. Brigance Readiness Activities) the videos and Evaluation (being able to reflect back on all important points from each module)."

"This training helped remind me of the importance of how I teach and how it is applied in the classroom"

"I believe that it is truly about having responsive and meaningful relationships with not only the children that we work with but also their families. It is important to document and reflect pedagogically."

"I value importance of early identification for referrals, strength-based partnerships with parents, consistency, and programming to connect with children and families."



QCCN Networking Opportunities through Conversation Cafés

The QCCN Community Conversation Cafés provided an ongoing opportunity for educators to connect to review best practices in utilizing the QCCN tools.

In 2021 there were **eight (8)** conversation cafés offered with **one hundred and eight (108)** registered participants

- Next Steps for Further Support Following the QCCN Webinar Modules - January 13, 2021
- Speech and Language Referral Checklist - January 27, 2021
- Exploring the use of Quality Child Care Niagara Tools, Tips and Strategies for Implementing - February 24, 2021
- QCCN Reflective Practice Institute Webinar Steps for Quality EarlyON Niagara - May 13, 2021
- Next Steps for Continued Support Following the QCCN Webinar Modules - June 30, 2021
- Tips, Strategies and Further Information on the QCCN Tools and Resources - September 27, 2021
- Engaging Families Through the Completion of the DPS - November 24, 2021
- Supporting your Early Learning Environment December 15, 2021

“ The QCCN’s vision is put into practice in my early learning environment by having RECEs that are continuing on with their professional learning to support children and families. The QCCN’s values are put into practice in my early learning environment by being intentional with how we learn with the children and how the classroom environment looks. The QCCN’s statement is put into practice in my early learning environment by bringing in tools, like Speech and Language Referral Checklist, DPS to help out in our classroom. ”

“ I strive to provide an environment that is inclusive of all children and their families and that promotes children’s interests and enhancing children’s strengths. I work with knowledgeable educators and professionals who I collaborate with to offer and receive support in order to provide an environment that children can thrive in. ”

Centres who participated in 2021 Quality Child Care Niagara Reflective Practice Institutes

- ABC Daycare
- ACW Woodlawn
- Althorp Montessori School
- Anna's Day Care Centre
- Au Coin Des Petits - Centre Prescolaire
- Beamsville Early Learning and Child Care Centre
- Beyond Montessori School
- Boys and Girls Club of Niagara
- Boys and Girls Club of Niagara– St. Gabriel Lalemant
- Brighter Futures – Welland Site
- Brilliant Futures Montessori
- Bunting Child Care Centre
- C. Sisters of the Sacred Heart Children's Day Care
- Centre éducatif les p'tigroux
- Fort Erie Cooperative Nursery School
- Fort Erie Native Cultural Centre Aboriginal Headstart & Kindergarten
- Glendale Early Learning Child Care Centre
- Grapeview Daycare Centre
- Greenbelt Academy& Early Learning Centre
- Grimsby Cooperative Preschool
- Kids Place
- Kidzdome Preschool
- Kinder Academy Education Centre
- La Boîte à soleil – Fitch
- La Boîte à soleil – Franco Niagara
- La Boîte à soleil – Nouvel Horizon
- La Boîte à soleil – L'Heritage
- La Boîte à soleil – La Marsh
- Lakeview Daycare
- Les Coccinelles Zelles
- Maple Crest Early Learning
- Mini Retreat Childcare

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

- **Eighty-eight (88)** Niagara College students participated in the QCCN Reflective Practice Institute in 2021 where students received support following the training within a conversation café held in December.

Testimonials from the Niagara College Reflective Practice Institute

"I was surprised how fast the time went when watching each webinar, I found the speakers very informative and well spoken."

"I always wanted to know more about the DPS and the first module of this QCCN course was about the DPS and helped me learn strategies to support children and families."

"I thought the QCCN experience was packed with a ton of information that I found to be helpful in my schooling as well!"

"Quality Child Care Niagara Reflective Practice Institute showed me an approach that was designed to enhance the quality of early childhood programs. It also showed how this is a partnership between the children, professionals and families through a continuum of collaboration, training, and the use of developmental tools."

“ In my Early Learning Environment, we strive to create an environment where each individual child has a sense of belonging created by the inviting, inclusive environment of the classroom and activities. We are welcoming of families' cultural diversities and strive to make those cultures part of our environment to make them a part of everyday life. **”**

"The Quality Child Care Niagara Reflective Practice Institute helped me gain further knowledge in learning about the development of each child as well as how to document and observe the children. It showed me there are resources available to educators to support and further our knowledge of new information as well as expanding on what we already know."

"The training helped me gain further knowledge about the DPS, Speech and Language Referral Checklist and the importance of a supportive environment as well as different developmental planning tools to use for documentation and in our daily routines."

"I learned about the checklists and resources and educator can use to support children and how to reach out for further supports in the community."

"The training was very informative and full of practical knowledge, as well as being easy to understand and follow."

Quality EarlyON Niagara Reflective Practice Institute Training for 2021

The Quality EarlyON Niagara (QEN) received QCCN Training as three (3) pre-recorded modules; Disc Preschool Screen (DPS), Speech and Language Referral Checklist, and Behaviour C.A.R.E. Checklist. The training had **forty-two (42)** participants in attendance. Following the training **thirty-three (33)** participants attended a conversation café to further dialogue and connect.

Quality Child Care Niagara Webpage and Statistics for 2021

Quality Child Care Niagara tools and resources are available on the QCCN website found on www.eccdc.org in order to provide educators with the most up-to-date documents in an accessible way. We continue to strive for innovative ways in engaging the Niagara community through various avenues including the QCCN website.

- **1,061** visits to the QCCN Main page
- **680** visits to the Support Forms Page which holds the forms for the QCCN Tools and Resources
- **346** visits to the Speech and Language Referral Checklist forms
- **103** visits to the Support Visits Page which hold information about the QCCN Support Visits as well as supportive documents
- **102** visits to the Tutorial videos page
- **79** visits were made to the Reports & Resources page where memos and other community communications detailing updates or changes regarding QCCN Components can be found
- **73** visits to the Frequently Asked Questions are on the website

The highest downloaded documents from the QCCN website in 2021 were:

- The **Speech and Language Referral Form** was downloaded **89** times
- The **Speech and Language Referral Checklist Overview and Instructions** for QCCN was downloaded **81** times
- The **Behaviour C.A.R.E. Checklist** was downloaded **75** times
- The **DPS Tracking Sheet** was downloaded **65** times

“ I found everything I learned extremely valuable but the thing I found the most valuable was learning that I can go on to the ECCDC website and there are so many resources from QCCN that I can go back and look at whenever I need to refresh my memory as well as all of the forms being there to easily access whenever you need them. ”

Quality Child Care Niagara Financial Report

2021 Quality Child Care Niagara Expenses

