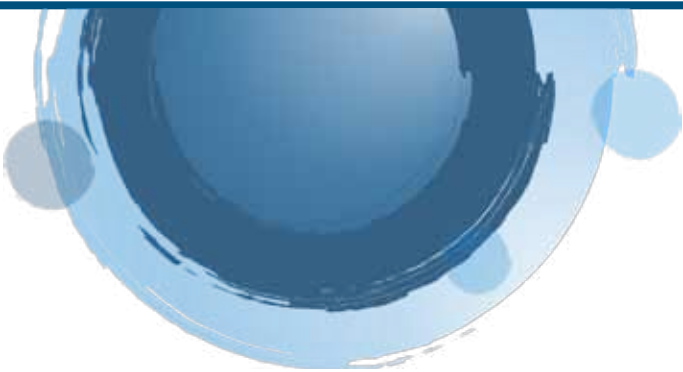


*Quality Child Care Niagara*  
**ANNUAL COMMUNITY REPORT 2022**



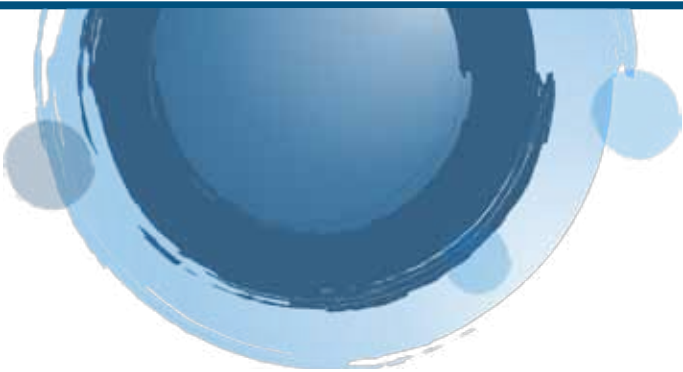


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"QCCN's values align with my statement of belief. Being a person originally from another country, I see the difference in accents, language and culture in the room. I see the diversity in my early learning environment. Putting inclusivity into practice by asking the children about the place they are from and what they know about it along with the places they wish to go to and learn about those places makes me included in the setting as well. This also involves engagement as the children are having conversations and learning about different countries."





## 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

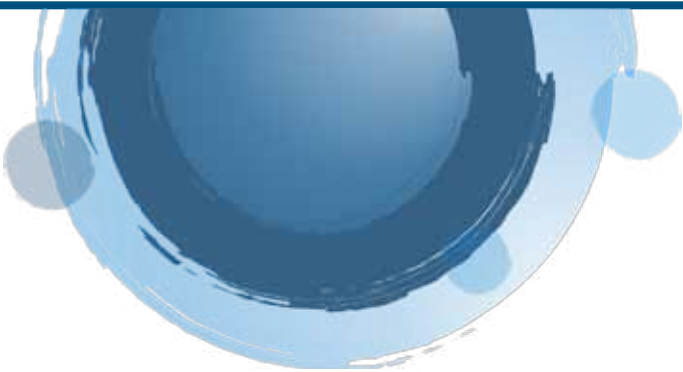
A strength-based, reciprocal partnership supporting children and professionals through a continuum of collaboration, training and the use of developmental tools.

## 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 connect 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 sincere gratitude to Niagara Region Children’s Services for their continued financial investment and commitment to Niagara’s Quality Initiative, Quality Child Care Niagara (QCCN), for 19 years.



## Recognition to Niagara’s Early Learning and Child Care Community

Quality Child Care Niagara (QCCN) would like to recognize the ongoing dedication and compassion of our early learning and child care community. The continued commitment to QCCN has fostered a community of strength-based, supportive approach to enhance the quality of programs across Niagara. We are looking forward to supporting programs in their quality journey over the coming years.

*“The value of early years educators cannot be overstated.” - How Does Learning Happen? Ontario’s Pedagogy for the Early Years*

*thank  
you*





## Quality Child Care Niagara Team

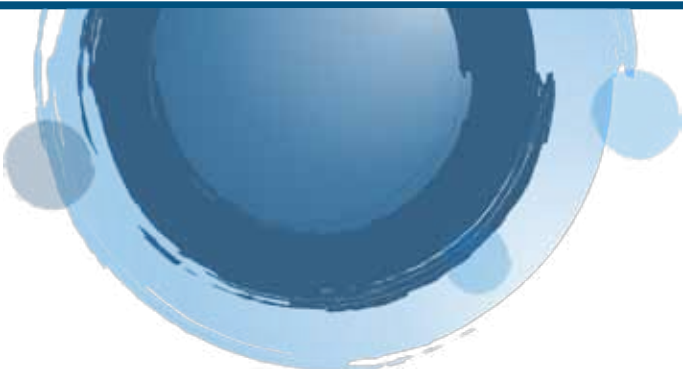
### Quality Child Care Niagara Advisory Committee

We thank our dedicated QCCN Advisory Committee members for their ongoing direction and guidance in supporting Quality Child Care Niagara. The QCCN Advisory Committee members are comprised of sixteen (16) agencies and have met five (5) times throughout 2022.

- Barbara Heerspring-Shorrock, Family and Children's Services Niagara
- Christina Clark/Ashley Bélanger, La Boîte à soleil
- Cynthia Bradshaw, Ministry of Education
- Helene Randle (Chair), Rosalind Blauer Centre for Child Care
- Jennifer Saltarelli, Pathstone Mental Health
- Katherine Martin, A Child's World Family Child Care Services of Niagara
- 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
- Michelle Maxwell, Niagara Children's Centre
- Monique Ransom, Fort Erie Native Cultural Centre Aboriginal Headstart & Kindergarten Program
- Sally Mazachowsky, Inclusive Child Care Supports Committee
- Sandra Richardson/Pam Dilts, Niagara Regional Health Department Healthy Babies Healthy Children
- Sharon Milne, Niagara Region (QCCN Liaison with ECCDC)
- Tracy Belcastro, Strive Niagara

### Quality Child Care Niagara Staff Members

- Priyanka Tan, Quality Child Care Niagara Coordinator, Early Childhood Community Development Centre



“I was reminded about intentionality in our curriculum planning. It is very easy to do things in a seasonal pattern but now I want to really question WHY are we doing each thing and WHAT are the children learning or skills we are building from this lesson or activity.”

## Support Visits, Tools, and Resources

In 2021 all centres received a questionnaire from Niagara Region Children’s Services to establish a new service model, Level of Support, to prioritize QCCN support visits. Following each centre’s response, Niagara Region Children’s Services used data variables to determine a Level of Support 1, 2, or 3. The goal of this new service model was to allocate more time with programs that require additional supports in place of visiting all programs once a year.

Starting 2022, the Level of Support program was implemented, and centres received QCCN support visits accordingly. The visits continued to take place through a supportive lens and were customized based on each centre. On average, the QCCN support visits were an hour in length and occurred monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly based on each program’s quality journey.

### The following are the overview of the Level of Supports:

- Level 1 - QCCN support visits are not required; however, programs can reach out to receive QCCN support at any point in time.
- Level 2 - Program receives QCCN support visits and some support is needed. Additional supports determined through program needs.
- Level 3 – Program receives QCCN support visits and additional supports are needed.

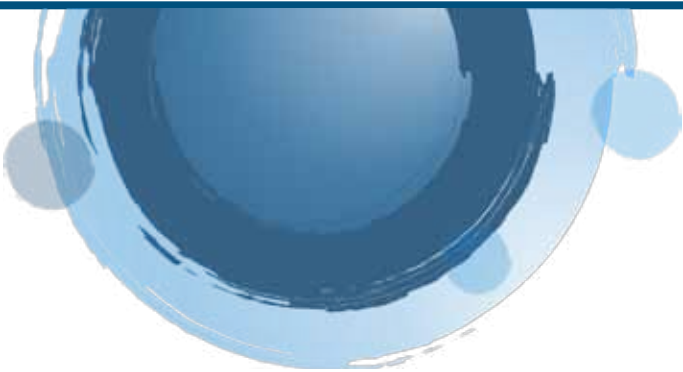
- **Ninety-eight (98) support visits** with **forty-two (42) centres** were completed between February and December 2022.
- **Five hundred and thirty-four (534) staff were consulted** during the support visits.

All centres continued to implement the QCCN tools and resources of which the following were mandatory:

- DISC Preschool Screen (DPS)
- Speech and Language Referral Checklist
- Behaviour C.A.R.E. Checklist
- Environmental Rating Scales (not mandatory during COVID-19)

On average, centres that requested QCCN refreshers were for DPS.

Throughout the year, centres began to reintroduce materials back into their environments and relook at their overall program following the COVID-19 pandemic along with the shift in public health guidelines. Educators utilized the QCCN tools and resources to reflect on their current practices, such as Program Profile, Caregiver Interaction Scale, Family Engagement Strategies, Brigance Readiness Binder, Developmental Profiles Textbook, and QCCN Developmental Reference Charts. These QCCN tools and resources were provided to educators to strengthen their connections with the children and families, reflect on the interactions with one another, engage families and the community back into the program, and continue to support inclusion.




"I love the passion and commitment that is put into these webinars and training modules. They are truly helpful and they are great tools for expanding our excellence as educators."

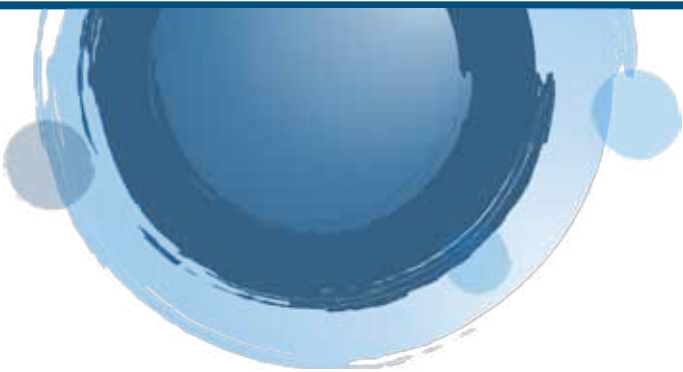
## Reflective Practice Institute Training

The Quality Child Care Niagara Reflective Practice Institutes for 2022 were offered through on-demand webinar modules to support individuals that required the training while being able to access the pre-recorded videos over a period of time at their own pace and schedule. Licensed child care centres, EarlyON centres, and Niagara College Early Childhood Education program students participated in the QCCN Reflective Practice Institutes.



"To help families experience a sense of belonging in a program you can ensure they are a part of the learning. Allowing them to see documentation and observations being made will allow them to feel included in the learning. In addition, inviting the families into the program for activities will help them feel like they belong. Engaging in culturally sensitive activities will allow the children to bring their cultures into the program and allow them to feel accepted. Constant communication with the families will provide them with a sense of belonging."





### Licensed Child Care Centres in Niagara

Educators supporting infants, toddlers, and preschool programs who did not previously complete the two-day in person Quality Child Care Niagara Reflective Practice Institute had registered to participate in the **five (5) webinar modules** that were offered in **three (3) rotations** throughout 2022.

#### Rotation Dates

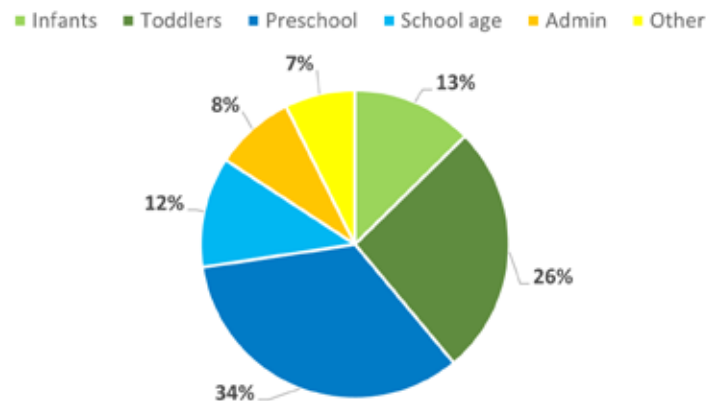
- January 25, 2022 – April 26, 2022
- May 17, 2022 – August 16, 2022
- September 13, 2022 – December 13, 2022

#### Statistics and Testimonials

- **107 educators** representing **53 centres** completed the QCCN Reflective Practice Institute Webinar Modules
- **71%** of the educators were working in the field on a **full-time** basis
- **24%** of the educators were working in the field on a **part-time** basis

“I found being able to go through each of the sessions again and get a refresher to be very valuable to me as an educator. I had participated in these sessions a couple years ago and being able to go through them again and gain a better understanding on how to complete each of them was very helpful.”

#### Educators Working With...



35% New to Niagara



19% Changed Careers



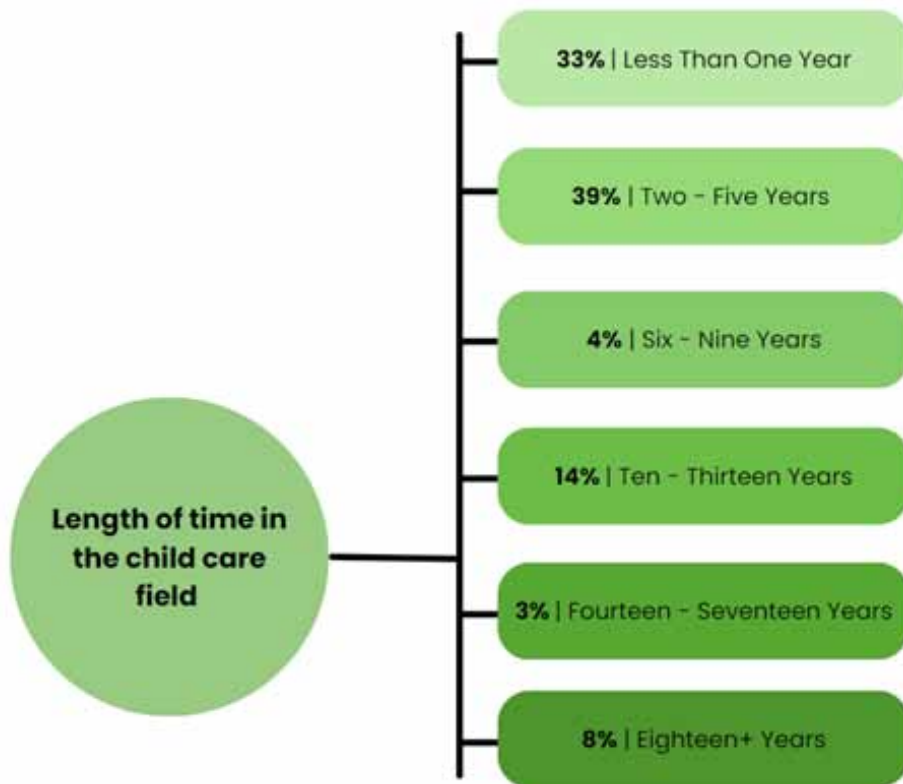
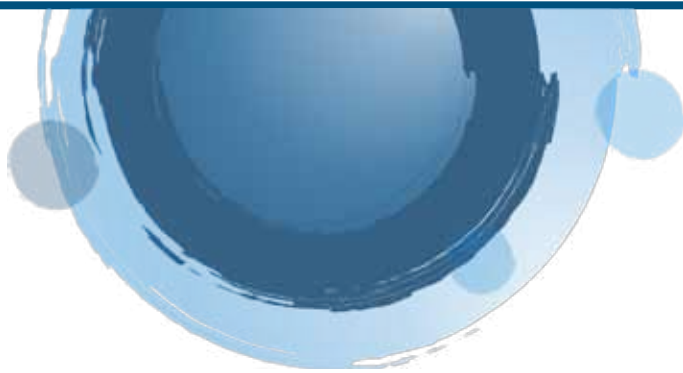
16% Recent Graduates



16% Refresher







**Did you know?**

Some educators that were new to Niagara came from the following places:

Chile	Philippines
Kitchener	Toronto
Stratford	Hamilton
Oakville	Brampton
Burlington	

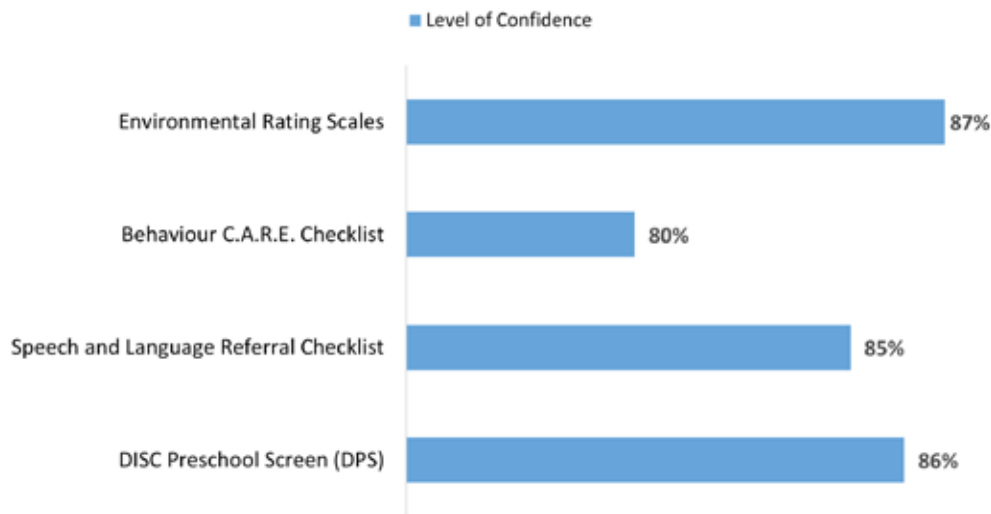
"All the [QCCN] components are equally valuable for us to learn as educators, especially for me who just started my career. I learned a lot of things which will aid me to become a more effective, responsible and knowledgeable educator. We must always set our best foot forward and incorporate all the things we have learned from the training to always contribute to the quality education of Niagara and most especially, for the kids."





“What I found most valuable from the modules was the detail in which the speakers went into explaining how to administer all the tools and resources, the importance of them and how to deliver the results appropriately. I am a first time learner of these tools and resources and I got a solid understanding of the importance of following the manuals, consulting with peers, and other professionals and practicing to deliver the most accurate results.”

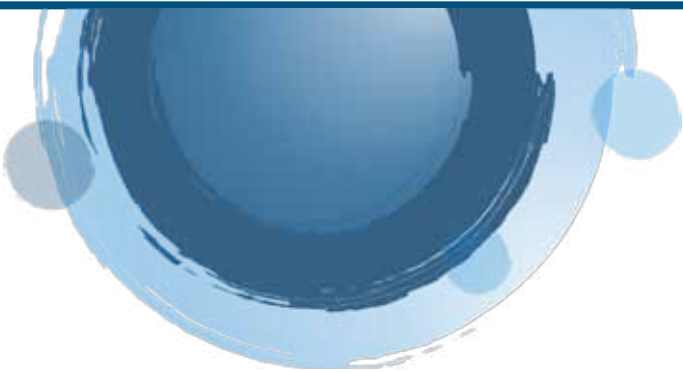
Following the QCCN Reflective Practice Institute Training, educators reflected on the webinar modules and were asked to indicate their **level of confidence** in completing the following **QCCN Tools and Resources**. For educators that did not feel confident in completing the QCCN Tools and Resources, the QCCN Coordinator supported the specific needs of the educators through additional supports; such as, one-on-one supports, QCCN Community Conversation Cafés, and QCCN Support Visits.



Out of the 107 educators, **97%** found the QCCN Tools and Resources from the training to be **impactful** to their current practice.

“I learned a lot of information from the QCCN Reflective Practice Institute. I believe it was equally valuable. I have not completed a DPS with a child and watching the webinar I believe gave me more confidence in myself when I do need to complete them.”





“As someone newer to the child care field, I found these modules so informative! It is truly hard to pinpoint the most valuable piece, the tools provided will be referenced continuously. I am thrilled to have been granted the opportunity to participate.”

### **Centres who participated in 2022 Quality Child Care Niagara Reflective Practice Institutes**

- ABC Daycare Centre
- ACW - Kids World
- ACW - Tiny Travellers
- Althorp Montessori School
- Anna’s Daycare Centre
- Au Coin Des Petits - Centre Prescolaire
- Beyond Montessori School
- Childcare Central
- Fonthill Montessori Preschool
- Fort Erie Co-operative Nursery School
- Fort Erie Native Cultural Centre Aboriginal Headstart & Kindergarten Program
- Grandview Community Daycare
- Grassie Christian Preschool
- Great Lakes Christian Preschool
- Greenbelt Academy & Early Learning Centre
- Greendale Before and After School Care
- Grimsby Co-operative Preschool
- Harbour Preschool
- Kids & Company – Niagara Queen
- Kidzdome Preschool
- Kidzdome Preschool - Nelles
- Kinder Academy Education Centre
- La Boîte à soleil - Fitch
- La Boîte à soleil - LaMarsh
- La Boîte à soleil - LHeritage
- La Boîte à soleil - Nouvel Horizon
- La Boîte à soleil - Saint Joseph
- Lakeview Before & After School Program
- Lakeview Community
- Les Coccinelles Zelees - Saint-Francois-d’Assise
- Mini Retreat Childcare
- Nelephant Montessori School (Casa)
- Nelephant Montessori Toddler Program
- Niagara Nursery School & Child Care Centre
- Niagara Regional Child Care Centre
- Parents Peace of Mind - Henley House
- Pathways Academy and Early Learning Centre
- Smithville Christian Preschool
- St. Davids Co-operative Nursery School
- St. Thomas’ Day Care
- Stamford Green Day Nursery
- The Chestnut Tree Preschool - Beamsville
- The Chestnut Tree Preschool - Grimsby
- The Chestnut Tree Preschool - Lincoln
- Thorold Community Child Care Services
- Toks Christian Daycare
- Top of the Ridge Day Care
- Turtle Club Day Care
- Vineland Christian Preschool
- Wainfleet Kiddy Kollege
- YMCA Child Care - Grapeview
- YMCA Child Care - Our Lady of Fatima Grimsby
- YMCA Child Care - Our Lady of Fatima St. Catharines



## EarlyON Centres in Niagara

In 2021, educators that were part of Quality EarlyON Niagara (QEN) centres participated in the **three (3) webinar modules**; DISC Preschool Screen (DPS), Speech and Language Referral Checklist, and Behaviour C.A.R.E. Checklist. This year, a catch-up training session was offered from **June to September 2022** for new and/or supply educators.

**Six (6) educators** completed the training with the majority working on a **part-time** basis with **6 to 9 years of experience Early Learning and Child Care Sector**. Educators indicated their **level of confidence** in completing the DPS, Speech and Language Referral Checklist, and Behaviour C.A.R.E. Checklist which were **86%** across the three modules.

**86% of the educators** felt the QCCN Tools and Resources to be **impactful** to their current practice.

"I found the most valuable thing I took from the QCCN reflective practice institute was to look more objectively at myself as an educator and pedagogical leader to identify skills I carry and to see areas I have an opportunity to strengthen where doing more research will be beneficial to my teaching practices."

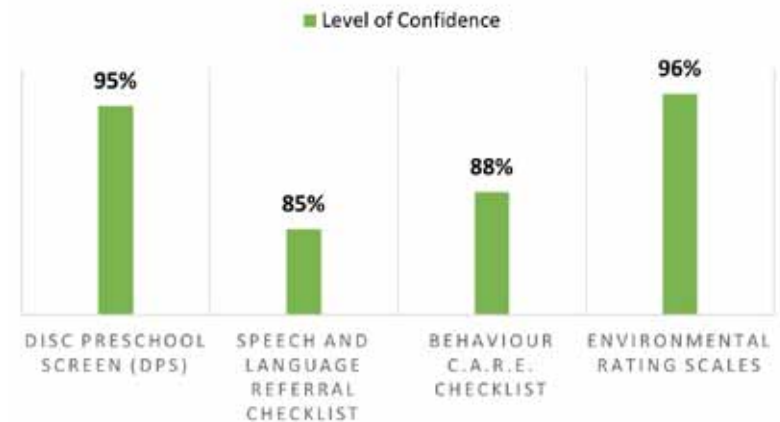
"It has given me confidence and experience with different types of screening tools, documentation tools, and observations. I have had the opportunity to strengthen my skills in class with my teacher so that when I am in the field I am ready."

## Niagara College

Students in the Early Childhood Education program at Niagara College participated in the same **five (5) webinar modules** as the educators in licensed child care centres to maintain consistency in the training components for when they graduate and enter into the early learning and child care field.

- **86 students** participated in the QCCN Reflective Practice Institute Webinar Modules
- **94%** of the students indicated they have gained a **greater understanding of the QCCN Tools and Resources**
- **93%** had shared they attained **new knowledge** following the training
- **99%** of the students felt the QCCN Tools and Resources to be **impactful** to their current and future practice.

"The knowledge learned from the QCCN Institute will support me in the future as I begin my practice as an Early Childhood Educator by being able to know how to connect families to the program, make them feel included, and by being able to support the children in the best way possible with their development and their space. I will be able to administer a DPS with no issue, or complete an ECERS-3 scale. The knowledge gained will help me be the best educator for the children and be able to support them the way they need."





## Community Conversation Cafés

Throughout the year, **nine (9) QCCN Community Conversation Cafés** were offered to the Niagara community as a way to connect with one another and create a community of practice. **One hundred and thirty (130) participants** attended the QCCN Community Conversation Cafés. Various topics were offered, based on the emergent trends, program requests and feedback, and the community's needs for support.

- Follow up from the QCCN Reflective Practice Institute | March 16, 2022
- Taking a Closer Look at the Referral Process | April 20, 2022
- Supporting Inclusive Practices through Utilizing QCCN Tools and Resources | May 18, 2022
- The Level of Support Visit Process | September 26, 2022
- EarlyON QCCN Reflective Practice Institute Follow Up | October 13, 2022
- Fostering QCCN Champions and Mentorship in your Program | October 27, 2022
- Preparing for a New Year with QCCN | November 24, 2022
- Follow Up from the QCCN Reflective Practice Institute Niagara College | December 5, 2022 and December 7, 2022

“Thank you for taking the time to host all the wonderful QCCN Community Conversation Cafés. Each one left me with some piece of new information or shared idea that I was able to bring back to my centre. Looking forward to seeing you in the new year with more QCCN Community Conversation Cafés.”

## Webpage and Statistics

The Quality Child Care Niagara website, found on [www.eccdc.org](http://www.eccdc.org), was updated in 2022 to provide educators with user-friendly access to all the QCCN information by organizing categories into three main components on the QCCN main page: *Resources and Tools*, *Training*, and *Support Visits*. In addition, under Quick Links educators can access supplementary resources and documents to support their ongoing quality journey. We continue to aim to provide up-to-date information on the QCCN website and incorporate feedback we receive from the Niagara community.

### The highest accessed pages on the QCCN website for 2022:

- QCCN main page: **2,137** visits (over 100% 📈 from 2021)
- Speech and Language page: **829** visits (140% 📈 from 2021)
- Frequently Asked Questions page: **374** visits (over 400% 📈 from 2021)
- Behaviour C.A.R.E. page: **329** visits (over 300% 📈 from 2021)
- “How To” Tutorial Videos page: **253** views (over 140% 📈 from 2021)
- The month of **November 2022** had the **highest** number of activities across the QCCN website

“By understanding and expanding my knowledge of QCCN through my reference charts and the textbooks, I will be able to expand my classroom environment for the children and staff, and allow me to hold a continuous chain of collaboration with the children and families who are in the classroom.”

## Quality Child Care Niagara Financial Report



