

# *Quality Child Care Niagara* **ANNUAL COMMUNITY REPORT 2024**





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"Here at Fort Erie International Academy Child Care, we thank you and your team at ECCDC for your continued support in our center and within our team. Working collaboratively with you, has been instrumental in our success in teaching and shaping these little minds that are our future. You have helped to create a strong foundation that we can place building blocks on to ensure the highest level of care and education is provided. We are so grateful and look forward to your continued mentorship and opportunities you bring forth."

Dakota Blough, Childcare Supervisor  
Fort Erie International Academy Child Care





"I strongly agree with QCCN statement about collaboration, training, and providing learning tools to educators. As a centre, we believe in making collaborative efforts and providing tools and resources to our staff so they can provide high quality care to all children. At our centre, we are trying to implement QCCN values. We are still in the initial stages, but we are confident that with practice, we will be able to achieve the desired outcome. Engagement, inclusivity and creating welcoming environment for children and families is our top priority."

## The Quality Child Care Niagara Approach

### Land Acknowledgement

Early Childhood Community Development Centre is located in Thorold, Ontario which is situated on the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and protected by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum agreement. In acknowledging the Indigenous Peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today, we are sharing our friendship, respect, and appreciation of the resources we have received from the land.

### Who We Are

**Quality Child Care Niagara (QCCN)** is Niagara Region's Quality Initiative Program for the early learning and child care sector. QCCN was established in 1999 with two main principles: the importance of **early identification** for **early referrals of all children**, and **high quality** early childhood development opportunities. With the funding from Niagara Region Children's Services, Early Childhood Community Development Centre continues to deliver Quality Child Care Niagara to support and enhance programs in their unique quality journey through **QCCN Tools and Resources, Training, and Support Visits**.

### Our Vision

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

### Our Statement

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



## Our Values

In describing Quality Child Care Niagara 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 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 Partners

Quality Child Care Niagara Funder

Niagara Region Children’s Services



QCCN Program Coordinating Agency

Early Childhood Community Development Centre



QCCN Speech and Behaviour Supports

Pathstone Mental Health and Niagara Children’s Centre







## Quality Child Care Niagara Advisory Committee

- Lori Bailey, EarlyON DSBN Curriculum Support Services
- Ashley Bélanger, La Boîte à soleil
- Tracy Belcastro, Strive Niagara
- Lucy Belchior/Roxane Lewis, YMCA of Niagara Child Care Services
- Lorrey Ariel Bonilla, Early Childhood Community Development Centre
- Cynthia Bradshaw, Ministry of Education
- Jennifer Butera/Melissa Carroll, Niagara Region Children's Services
- Barb Heersping-Shorrock, Family and Children's Services Niagara
- Drew Kean, Niagara College
- Louise King-Hall, Fort Erie Native Cultural Centre Aboriginal Headstart
- Sarah Kuhn, Niagara Region Public Health
- Melissa McLauchlan, Niagara Child Care Sector Executive Committee
- Katherine Martin, A Child's World Family Child Care Services of Niagara
- Michelle Maxwell/Rebecca Main, Niagara Children's Centre Preschool Speech and Language
- Sally Mazachowsky, Special Needs Resource Leadership Committee
- Helene Randle (Chair), Rosalind Blauer Centre for Child Care
- Jennifer Saltarelli, Pathstone Mental Health
- Priyanka Tan/Kelsey Henderson (Interim), Early Childhood Community Development Centre

## Quality Child Care Niagara Coordinator

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

"As an educator and manager, I really appreciated having access to tools that support children, families and educators in such a holistic manner. Additionally, the in-person group training allowed staff groups to learn about the many QCCN tool as well as updates to those tools collectively. The creation of virtual QCCN training in response to the challenges of COVID-19 has allowed educators to continue to receive this valuable training in a very accessible manner. I am very proud to be part of the Quality Child Care Advisory Committee and the work it does to ensure that Quality Child Care Niagara tools and resources continue to be a strong source of support in our community!"

Helene Randle, Executive Director, Rosalind Blauer Centre for Child Care



## Quality Child Care Niagara Services Offered in 2024

269

Individuals completed the QCCN Reflective Practice Institute Training

3,294

DISC Preschool Screen (DPS) and Speech and Language Checklist completed

2,514

Speech and Language Checklist completed

4,100+

Educators have been trained in QCCN since its inception

“As an educator, the most valuable aspect of the QCCN Reflective Practice Institute is likely the opportunity it provides for self-reflection and professional growth. Engaging in reflective practices allows educators to critically examine their teaching methods, interactions with children and families, and overall approach to early childhood education.”



"The ECCDC has been an extraordinary asset when it comes to guiding our program with all of our QCCN requirements. The QCCN team was very quick to respond with any questions or concerns we were having with some of the provided tools. Our educators feel confident utilizing the tools provided for QCCN and know that there is plenty of support if needed."

Treina Gautreau (she/her) R.E.C.E., Program Lead  
Grimsby Community Preschool

## Support Visits, Tools, and Resources

QCCN continues to follow the Level of Support service model that was implemented in 2022. This method allows for the QCCN Coordinator to prioritize QCCN Support Visits by allocating more time with programs that require additional supports, whereas previously all programs received an annual QCCN Support Visit. To determine the Level of Support in 2024 for each centre, Niagara Region Children's Services issued a questionnaire in which the collected data determined the individual centre's Level of Support to either 1, 2, or 3. Based on the centre's Level of Support, the QCCN Support Visits were customized to support the needs of each centre through an asset-based approach.

Additionally, QCCN continues to visit centres that are in receipt of Short Term Specialized Support Funding during their first seven weeks to complete ECCDC's Program Inclusion Reflection Tool with the centre, as per Niagara Region Children's Services' updated Short Term Specialized Support Funding policy. Following the seven-week point, Niagara Region Children's Services staff meets with the centre to review the completed Program Inclusion Reflection Tool along with additional requirements from the centre.

- **160 Support Visits** with **83 centres** were completed
- **496 educators** were consulted during the Support Visits

Centres continued to implement the mandatory DPS and Speech and Language Pathology Referral Checklist for each child which were recorded in the monthly QCCN Statistical Reporting. Additional QCCN tools such as the Behaviour C.A.R.E. Checklist, Environmental Rating Scales, Caregiver Interaction Scales, and the Program Profile have been utilized on an as-needed basis. QCCN Resources, such as Brigance Readiness Binder, Developmental Profiles Textbook, Family Engagement Strategies, and QCCN Developmental Reference Charts were also used by centres to support their ongoing quality journey.





## Reflective Practice Institute Training

### Licensed Child Care Centres in Niagara

Educators supporting infants, toddlers, and/or preschool programs who previously did not complete the full **Quality Child Care Niagara Reflective Practice Institute** had registered to participate in the **five (5) Webinar Modules** that were offered in **two (2) rotations** throughout 2024. Each rotation was available over a three-month period, and educators were able to complete the training at their own pace and schedule.

### Webinar Modules



In addition to the five (5) Webinar Modules, educators that have *completed* the QCCN Reflective Practice Institute Training in the past (between November 20215 to August 2023) and currently supporting infant, toddler, and/or preschool programs in Niagara were required to complete the *mandatory* new **QCCN Speech and Language Training** to ensure the community continues to receive consistent QCCN training to support their work. This **1-hour, pre-recorded Webinar Module** training included the new Niagara Children’s Centre’s Online Referral Portal, updated Checklists, Referral Process, and documents. Centres were welcome to complete the QCCN Speech and Language Training as a team during their staff meeting or educators could complete it at their own pace and schedule.



## QCCN Reflective Practice Institute Training 5 Webinar Modules

### Training Dates

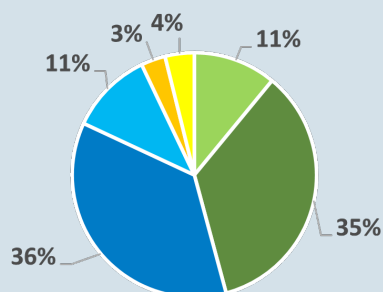
- March 25, 2024 – June 3, 2024
- September 30, 2024 – December 9, 2024

### Statistics and Testimonials

- **225 educators** representing **74 centres** completed the QCCN Reflective Practice Institute Training
- **84% of educators** were working in the field on a **full-time** basis
- **17% of educators** were working in the field on a **part-time** basis

### Educators Working With...

■ Infants 
 ■ Toddlers 
 ■ Preschool 
 ■ School age 
 ■ Admin 
 ■ Other



- **96% of educators** indicated the QCCN Tools and Resources from the training to be **impactful** to their current practice.

## QCCN Speech and Language Training 1-hour Webinar Module

### Training Dates

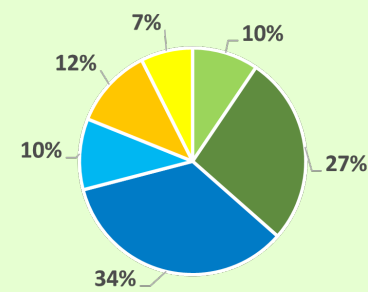
- October 23, 2023 – October 21, 2024

### Statistics and Testimonials (October 23 – December 31, 2024)

- **835 educators** completed the QCCN Speech and Language Training
- **88% of educators** are working in the field on a **full-time** basis
- **12% of educators** are working in the field on a **part-time** basis

### Educators Working With...

■ Infants 
 ■ Toddlers 
 ■ Preschool 
 ■ School age 
 ■ Admin 
 ■ Other



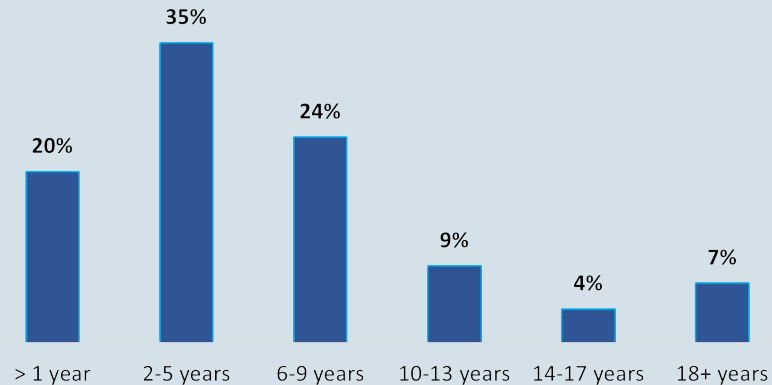
- **93% of educators** indicated the QCCN Speech and Language Tools from the training to be **impactful** to their current practice.



"I found the webinar format to be very useful given you could stop and pause and reflect on the questions. I found the instructors to be very knowledgeable in each specific area. I appreciated that it was not solely one instructor as it allowed for a different perspective."

### QCCN Reflective Practice Institute Training 5 Webinar Modules

Length of time in the child care field



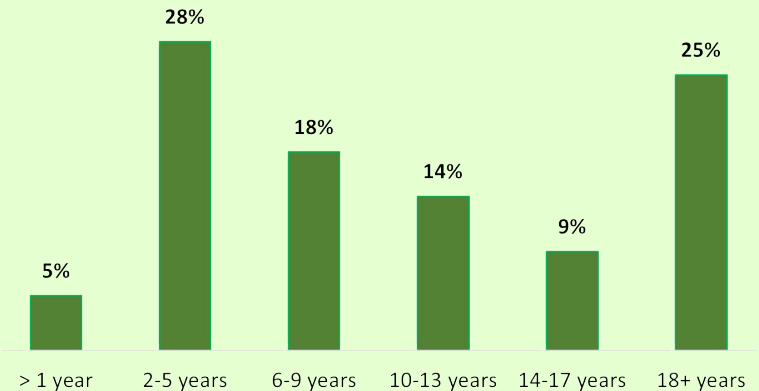
"I feel well-equipped to implement the strategies and insights gained from the institute effectively in my professional practice."

#### Did you know?

Some educators that were new to Niagara came from the following places: Quebec, Hamilton, Peel, Simcoe, Spain, and Philippines.

### QCCN Speech and Language Training 1-hour Webinar Module

Length of time in the child care field



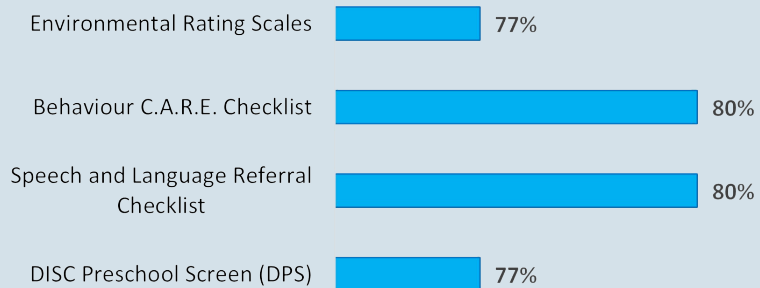
"The most valuable part of the webinar was learning how important it is to identify speech and language issues early. It also provided clear steps for using the referral checklist to help children get the support they need."

#### Did you know?

- **81% of educators** completed the QCCN Speech and Language Training at their **own pace and schedule**
- **19% of educators** completed the QCCN Speech and Language Training **as a staff team**

## QCCN Reflective Practice Institute Training 5 Webinar Modules

■ Level of Confidence



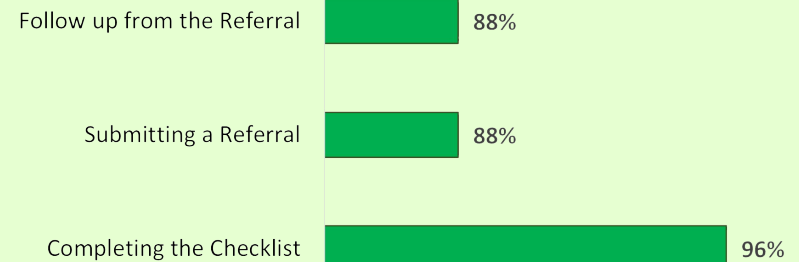
"I found overall the many tools that were introduced to me were extremely valuable, especially the tools which will help me identify behaviours such as the DPS, Environmental rating scales and the C.A.R.E checklists. These tools help me to understand everyday behaviours of the children I will be working with."



## QCCN Speech and Language Training 1-hour Webinar Module

"The pace, tone, and mindfulness of the presenter (Debbie) made for a great learning experience. The flow of the module helped ensure consistency and provide clarity to any grey areas."

■ Level of Confidence



"What I found was most valuable are the resources that were provided. QCCN has a multitude of resources to help support children and their families, as well as supporting us educators."



## QCCN Reflective Practice Institute Training - 5 Webinar Modules

### Centres who participated in 2024 QCCN Reflective Practice Institute

- ABC Daycare Centre
- ACW (Country Kids, Fairview, First Friends, John Brant, Lookout Ridge, North Court, Ross, Tiny Travellers)
- Adamo Montessori Academy (Main, Welland)
- Alexandra Ridge Montessori
- Althorp Montessori School
- Anna's Daycare Centre
- Beamsville Early Learning & Child Care Centre
- Bee Montessori Niagara Inc.
- Beyond Montessori School
- BGC Niagara (EJ Freeland, Niagara Falls Child Care Centre)
- Bunting Child Care Program
- Cedar Creek Childcare
- Childcare Central
- Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir
- Dunnville Christian Preschool
- Fonthill Montessori Preschool - Site 2
- Garderie les coccinelles zélées d'Immaculée-Conception
- Garderie les coccinelles zélées Saint-François-d'Assise
- Grassie Christian Preschool
- Harbour Preschool
- Hickory Creek Childcare
- Kids Kastle Co-operative Nursery School
- Kids Place
- Kidzdome Preschool
- Kings Heritage Christian Childcare
- La Boîte à soleil (Fitch, Franco-Niagara, LaMarsh, L'héritage, Nouvel Horizon, Saint Joseph, Sainte-Marguerite-Bourgeoys)
- Margaret Jarrell Centre
- Mini Retreat Childcare
- Nelephant Montessori Toddler Program
- Parents' Peace of Mind (East, West)
- Pathways Academy and Early Learning Centre
- Pine Grove Child Care
- Playtown Niagara - Town's Little Leaders
- Power Glen Early Learning & Childcare Centre
- Smithville Christian Preschool
- St. David's Co-operative Nursery School
- Stamford Green Day Nursery
- Sven H. Dohnberg Centre
- Sweet Love Childcare Centre Inc.
- Terra Viva Montessori Bilingual
- Thorold Co-operative Nursery School
- Top of the Ridge Day Care
- Trail Ridge Montessori Junior School
- Turtle Club Day Care (EYES Niagara)
- Vineland Christian Preschool
- Wainfleet Kiddy Kollege
- Way To Grow (Smithville, St. Catharines)
- Way to Grow Daycare - Valley Way (now with BGCN NF)
- Western Hill Child Care Centre
- YMCA Child Care (Durdan/Loretto, Glynn A Green, Grapeview, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Smith School)



## QCCN Speech and Language Training 1-hour Webinar Module

### Centres who participated in 2023-2024 QCCN Speech and Language Training

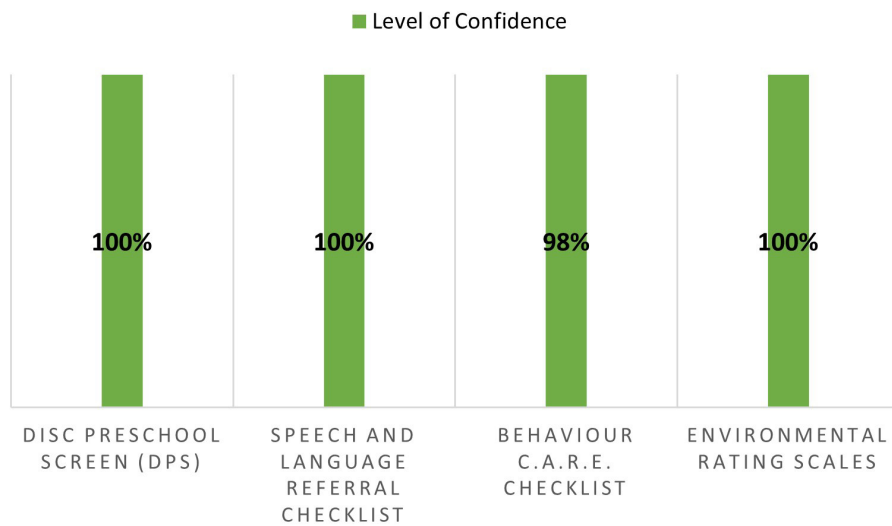
- ABC Day Care Centre
- ACW (Country Kids, Fairview, First Friends, Forestview, John Brant, Kids World, Lookout Ridge, North Court, Princess Margaret, Ross, Tiny Travellers, Woodlawn)
- Adamo Montessori Academy (Fenwick, Welland)
- Alexandra Ridge Montessori
- Althorp Montessori School (St. Catharines, Thorold)
- Anna's Day Care
- Beamsville Early Learning and Child Care Centre
- Bee Montessori School (Hagar, Portage)
- Beyond Montessori School
- BGC Niagara (EJ Feeland, McLeod, St. Gabriel, St. Catharines)
- Branscombe Early Learning and Family Centre
- Bunting Child Care Program
- C. Sisters of the Sacred Heart Day Care
- Cedar Creek Childcare
- Childcare Central
- EYES Turtle Club Day Care
- Fonthill Montessori Preschool (and 2)
- Fort Erie Aboriginal Head Start
- Fort Erie Co-Operative Nursery School
- Fort Erie International Academy Childcare
- Fort Erie Regional Child Care Centre
- Garderie les coccinelles zélées d'Immaculée-Conception
- Garderie les coccinelles zélées Saint-François-d'Assise
- Glendale Early Learning Child Care Centre
- Grandview Community Daycare
- Grapeview Day Care Centre
- Grassie Christian Preschool
- Great Lakes Christian Preschool
- Greenbelt Academy & Early Learning Centre
- Grimsby Community Preschool
- Harbour Preschool
- Hickory Creek Childcare
- Kid's Kastle Co-Operative Nursery School
- Kids Place
- Kidzdome Preschool
- Kinder Academy
- Kings Heritage Christian Childcare
- La Boîte à soleil (Fitch, Franco Niagara, LaMarsh, L'Heritage, Nouvel Horizon, Sainte-Marguerite-Bourgeoys, St. Joseph)
- La Petite Etoile et club d'après l'école
- Lakeview Community Daycare
- Maple Crest Early School
- Maple Leaf Montessori
- Mini Retreat Childcare Main
- Nelephant Montessori School (and Toddler Program)
- North End Co-Operative Preschool
- Parents' Peace of Mind (East, Henley, West)
- Pathways Academy and Early Learning Centre
- Playtown Niagara - Town's Little Leaders
- Port Colborne Regional Child Care Centre
- Port Dalhousie Nursery School Inc
- Power Glen Early Learning & Child Care Centre
- Rosalind Blauer Centre for Child Care
- Smithville Christian Preschool
- St Catharines Regional Child Care Centre
- St. David's Co-operative Nursery School
- St. Thomas' Day care
- Stamford Green Day Nursery
- STRIVE (Family Learning Child Care Centre, Margaret Jarrell Centre, Pine Grove Child Care Centre, Sven Dohnberg Centre, Welland Parent Child Care Centre)
- Sweet Love Childcare
- Terra Viva Montessori (Port Dalhousie, Scott)
- The Chestnut Tree (Lincoln Manor, Beamsville, Grimsby)
- The Day Care Centre
- Thorold Community Child Care Services
- Thorold Co-operative Nursery School Inc
- Top of the Ridge Day Care Inc
- Tots-N-Tikes
- Trail Ridge Montessori (Junior, Main) Under the Rainbow-Wakanioten Child Care Centre
- Vineland Christian Preschool
- Wainfleet Kiddie Kollege
- Way to Grow Daycare (Pelham, Smithville, St. Catharines, St. David's, Valley Way)
- Welland Regional Child Care Centre
- West Lincoln Co-Operative Nursery School Inc.
- Western Hill Child Care Program
- YMCA Child Care (Father Fogarty, Glynn A Green School, Grapeview School, Kate S. Durdan/Sisters of Loretto School, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Parnall School, Smith)



## Niagara College

The QCCN Reflective Practice Institute Training was again offered to **Niagara College Early Childhood Education** program students. Each student received the same training as educators in licensed child care centres to ensure consistency as the students enter the early learning and child care field.

- **37 students** completed the QCCN Reflective Practice Institute Training
- **89%** of the students indicated they have gained a **greater understanding of the QCCN Tools and Resources**
- **93%** have attained **new knowledge** following the training
- **93%** of the students reported the QCCN Tools and Resources to be **impactful** to their current and future practice



"I feel QCCN aims to make educators feel they are always supported when any doubt or hesitation comes in regard to performing the screening tools. After the conversation café, I felt any questions that might arise I can always reach QCNN or ECCDC or even other educators who know more about the tools. I feel empowered about learning useful ways to observe children's performance and advocate for their development which is important for them and their families as well. I feel more comfortable about talking to families about the importance of these observations not only as a protocol but as an instrument to help children thrive."



## Community Conversation Cafés

Quality Child Care Niagara fosters quality through our community of practice; also known as QCCN Community Conversation Cafés. These informal meeting times allow for Quality Child Care Niagara to engage with the community and fulfill our commitment to the practice of continuous learning, questioning, and critical thinking. Various topics were offered virtually, based on emergent trends, program requests and feedback, and the community's needs for support.

- **7 QCCN Community Conversation Cafés** were offered to the Niagara community
- **122 participants** attended the QCCN Community Conversation Cafés

Starting Conversations Through Interacting and Connecting | September 26, 2024

Supporting Your Early Learning Environment | October 24, 2024

Introduction to QCCN for Niagara Support Staff Registry | November 12, 2024

Engaging Families through the Completion of the DPS | November 21, 2024

Further Support Following the QCCN Reflective Practice Institute Niagara College, Part 1 | December 3, 2024

Further Support Following the QCCN Reflective Practice Institute Niagara College, Part 2 | December 3, 2024

Further Support Following the QCCN Reflective Practice Institute Niagara College, Part 2 | December 6, 2024

"The café talk afterward with someone who works with QCCN was really nice, as it allowed for more interaction and deeper conversation."



## Webpage and Statistics

- QCCN Main Page had **2,333 visits** this year
- QCCN Resources and Tools page: **2,601 visits** (6% ↗ from 2023)
- QCCN Training page: **1080 visits** (52% ↗ from 2023)
- QCCN Vision, Statement, and Values page: **135 views**
- Environmental Rating Scales page: **393 views**
- The month of **October** had the **highest** number of page views across the QCCN website due to the resources and tools pages having up to 100% more activity than usual, followed closely by the month of **September** due to the training page having 100% more views than usual.





## Quality Child Care Niagara Financial Report

### 2024 Quality Child Care Niagara Expenses

