



# Quality Child Care Niagara ANNUAL COMMUNITY REPORT 2018

*An Exciting Year In Review*





Each year is an exciting time for the Early Learning Community as they share their journey of how they demonstrate commitment to quality within their programs.

Professionals share their knowledge and understanding when supporting young children and how it directly aligns with QCCN's Vision and Values. Thanks to their dedication, we continue to Build strong reciprocal relationships within Niagara.

Maple Crest Early School

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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*.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Commitment** – Quality Child Care Niagara values the loyalty and devotion of educators in supporting Niagara’s children and families.



## Giving Thanks to the Funder of Quality Child Care Niagara

Quality Child Care Niagara (QCCN) is celebrating its 15-year anniversary. We are honoured to continue the work that began in 2004 by dedicated early childhood educators and local agencies. The Early Childhood Community Development Centre extends sincere gratitude to Niagara Region Children's Services for their continued commitment and financial investment and for entrusting the ongoing privilege of coordinating QCCN to our organization.



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

Quality Child Care Niagara (QCCN) continues to incorporate the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* as well as Ontario's Frameworks (*Early Learning for Every Child Today, Think Feel Act, How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years*) within the tools, resources, Annual Support Visits and Two (2) Day Reflective Practice Institutes. The Quality Child Care Niagara Advisory Committee, Program Consultants, and Community Mentor Consultants stay abreast of changes that may impact Quality Child Care Niagara and continuously reflect on changes that need to be implemented to ensure alignment with Niagara's quality initiative and Ontario's Ministry of Education.

“ As an early childhood educator, I realized through the training how important it is to engage staff, families and children and build strong relationships because we are lifelong learners and should feel that we belong and deserve the opportunity to engage in meaningful work. ”

## Quality Child Care Niagara Team

### 2018 Quality Child Care Niagara Advisory Members

The QCCN Advisory Committee is comprised of community partners from 21 agencies who met five times in 2018 to discuss the impact of QCCN on Niagara's child care community.

- Lorrey Arial Bonilla, Early Childhood Community Development Centre
- Tracy Belcastro, Strive Niagara
- Lucy Belchoir, YMCA of Niagara Child Care Service
- Cynthia Bradshaw/Kari-Lyn Burkholder, Ministry of Education
- Jamie Ciancio (on leave)/Samantha Babin, Family and Children's Services
- Christina Clark (on leave)/Samantha Beauparlant, Francophone Child Care Centres – La Boîte à soleil
- Kim Cole, Niagara Child Care Sector Executive
- Patricia Couroux, Coaching and Mentoring Services Coordinator, Early Childhood Community Development Centre
- Pat Eversden (retired), QCCN Consultant/QCCN Community Mentor Consultant
- Jane Gouck, QCCN Community Mentor Consultant
- Brenda-Lynn Haley, Pathstone Mental Health
- Debbie Hamilton, Speech Services Niagara/QCCN Community Mentor Consultant
- Bill Helmeczi/Linda Morrice, Pathstone Mental Health
- Roxane Hendrie, Rosalind Blauer Centre for Child Care
- Amanda Hicks/Rose Burns/Jeff Biletschi/Pam Dilts, Niagara Regional Health Department Healthy Babies Healthy Children
- Trudy Hill, Fort Erie Native Cultural Centre Aboriginal Headstart & Kindergarten Program
- Drew Kean, Niagara College
- Helen Lake, Niagara Region (QCCN Liaison with ECCDC)
- Nancy Lisi (retired)/Tricia Rae/Lori Bailey, EarlyON Centres
- Katherine Martin, A Child's World/QCCN Community Mentor Consultant
- Sally Mazachowsky, Inclusive Child Care Supports Committee
- Chelsea Micek, Strive Niagara
- Sharon Milne, Niagara Region (QCCN Support)
- Helen Randle (chair), Rosalind Blauer Child Care Centre/QCCN Community Mentor Consultant
- Jennifer Saltarelli, Pathstone Mental Health

### Quality Child Care Niagara Staff Members

- Priyanka Tan, Quality Child Care Niagara Coordinator, Early Childhood Community Development Centre
- Natalie Lane, Quality Child Care Niagara Program Consultant, Early Childhood Community Development Centre

### Quality Child Care Niagara Community Mentor Consultants

- Pat Eversden, Quality Child Care Niagara Consultant (retired in 2018)
- Jane Gouck, QCCN Community Mentor Consultant
- Debbie Hamilton, QCCN Community Mentor Consultant, Speech Services Niagara
- Katherine Martin, QCCN Community Mentor Consultant, A Child's World
- Helen Randle, Community Mentor Consultant, Rosalind Blauer Centre for Child Care
- Christina Clark (on leave), Community Mentor Consultant, La Boîte à soleil

### Quality Child Care Niagara Administration Supports

- Lorrey Ariel Bonilla, Executive Director, Early Childhood Community Development Centre
- Patricia Couroux, Coaching and Mentoring Services Coordinator, Early Childhood Community Development Centre
- Cheryl McMillan, Finance & IT Infrastructure Manager, Early Childhood Community Development Centre
- Julie Thompson, Publications Administrator and Confidential Secretary, Early Childhood Community Development Centre

“ The QCCN Reflective Practice Institutes give me the most up-to-date education on what is happening in Ontario and the Niagara Region. ”

## Quality Child Care Niagara Happenings in 2018

It has been an exciting and eventful year for QCCN as the Niagara early learning community continued to foster milestones to support and strengthen the implementation of QCCN.

- Through QCCN, a **new four-part training series was created for Niagara's Resource Consultants**, to be delivered in 2019 with the endorsement of Inclusive Child Care Supports Committee and with the development support of a sub-committee which included participation from local Resource Consultants.
- In October and November of 2018, **223 Niagara College second year students were trained in the DISC Preschool Screen (DPS) and the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scales-3 (ECERS-3)** as part of their Early Childhood Education Diploma Program.
- The **QCCN Tools and Resources were presented to 244 participants from 22 agencies** throughout August and October 2018 via presentations and staff meeting visits.
- The QCCN Advisory Committee was pleased to have **new members join in 2018 to provide perspectives from the Indigenous Planning Committee, Family and Children's Services, and Niagara's EarlyON Programs.**
- The **QCCN Exceptional Program Award was presented at Niagara's Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence** on November 15, 2018. Two members from the QCCN Advisory Committee volunteered to visit the four nominated centres with two staff from the QCCN Team in order to select the program to receive recognition.
- A **new QCCN Annual Support Visit Process Chart was developed** in order to outline the process of the QCCN Annual Support Visits and associated timelines.
- Programs were supported in the collection of statistics through the **development of a stat collection task group** who guided new processes and procedures with regards to the collection of statistics.



## Quality Child Care Niagara Annual Support Visits

- One hundred and sixty-nine programs were visited by QCCN Program Consultants
- QCCN Program Consultants consulted with 800 staff during these visits

The Quality Child Care Niagara Program Consultants observed quite a transformation in reflective practices following participation in the QCCN Training Institutes. Child care programs more strongly demonstrated the reflective practice model and utilization of the QCCN Portfolio of Tools in many new ways, including: QCCN Champions being established within new roles and changes taking place to environments; policies; and interactions with families. Feedback received by the Quality Child Care Niagara Program Consultants illustrated that educators were feeling uplifted, supported, and inspired following participation in the QCCN Institutes, in a time where legislative changes brought increasing administrative duties and challenge.

“ The QCCN Reflective Practice Institutes have helped me recognize areas where improvement can be made and how to go about instituting those changes, as well as identified areas where my co-workers and I excel. ”



St. Thomas Day Care



Lakeview Before & After School Program



Kids Place

## Quality Child Care Niagara Reflective Practice Institute Training for 2018

- **Eighty-two educators representing 20 agencies participated** in the Two-Day Reflective Practice Institutes.
- **Forty-six educators representing 11 agencies participated** in the Three-Day School Age Reflective Practice Institutes.
- **Two hundred and twenty-three students from Niagara College participated** in the DISC Preschool Screen (DPS) and Environmental Rating Scales-3 (ECERS-3).

### An Overview of the 2018 Quality Child Care Niagara Reflective Institutes

The QCCN Program Consultants, ECCDC Administrative Team, and Community Mentor Consultants worked collaboratively to support programs with the Reflective Practice Institutes. The ECCDC Administrative Team supported the registration management, event coordination, and facilitation for the institutes. The QCCN Community Mentor Consultants connected with each participant and Supervisor prior to the training to introduce themselves and highlight what to expect during the Institutes. Throughout the Institutes, the QCCN Community Mentor Consultants supported the participants by facilitating reflective questions. Following each Institute, the QCCN Community Mentor Consultants connected with participants and Supervisors, gathering feedback needed to further support them in implementing the training and tools.

### QCCN Two-Day Reflective Practice Institute Agendas

#### Day 1 – Quality Child Care Niagara Alignment with Ontario's Early Learning Frameworks

1. Background and History of Quality Child Care Niagara
2. Alignment with Ontario Legislation
3. Connecting with College of Early Childhood Educators *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice*
4. Reflecting Upon Ontario's Frameworks
5. Engaging Staff Families and Children Through Strong Relationships
6. Supporting Best Practices in Using Quality Child Care Niagara Tools and Resources

#### Day 2 – Moving from Theory to Practice

1. Becoming a Reflective Practitioner
2. Early Years Curriculum Planning
3. Emergent Literacy
4. Observation and Documentation
5. Scan of Related Initiatives

## Quality Child Care Niagara Tools and Resources

The following documents were created or further updated to inspire the ongoing growth of programs and to keep the momentum of reflective practices alive. The documents are housed on the Quality Child Care Niagara webpages found on [www.eccdc.org](http://www.eccdc.org)

- **Support Visit Tip Sheet** – The purpose of the tip sheet is to inform centre Supervisors of the QCCN components that are reviewed during an annual QCCN Annual Support Visit. The form is sent prior to the visit so that Supervisors can collect the requested documentation.
- **Annual Support Visit Form** – The form was revised to gather more in-depth information during the visits to align with Ontario's early learning pedagogy and QCCN's values.
- **Quality Child Care Niagara (QCCN) Handout** – Was created to help families gain an understanding of Quality Child Care Niagara. In addition to distributing to families upon registration, it was found to be a helpful tool to orient new staff.
- **DPS, Speech and Language** and **C.A.R.E Consent forms** – The revision of the consent forms was to make it easier for families to give consent for a period of time. Changes were also made to the C.A.R.E checklist through practitioner feedback.
- **Speech and Language Tracking Sheet** – Was created for centres to record the information related to children's Speech and Language Developmental Checklist with ease and convenience.
- **Resource & Inventory Lists** – The list of recommended resources and equipment that align with QCCN was revised to reflect current practices and growing trends and theories within the early learning and child care field.
- Rethinking **ITERS-3, ECERS-3, SACERS** and **FCCERS-R** in alignment with *How Does Learning Happen?* – Was created to emphasize the use of the Environmental Rating Scale as a tool designed to enhance the quality of the learning environments while aligning with *How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years* and the four foundations.
- **Annual Support Visit Process Chart** – Was developed to clearly outline the process and timelines of the Annual Support visits and expectations through Niagara Region Children's Services.
- **Parent Feedback Guide** in Alignment with *How Does Learning Happen?* – Was designed to provide centres with a more inclusive document to use for gathering thoughts and suggestions for families related to program quality and services.

“ Gaining a better understanding of Reflective Practice helped me become a better educator. ”

## Centres who participated in 2018 QCCN Reflective Practice Institutes

- ACW Child Care – Forestview
- ACW Child Care – Glenridge Hill
- ACW Child Care – Lookout Ridge
- ACW Child Care – Woodlawn
- ACW Child Care/Early Learning – John Brant
- ACW Child Care/Early Learning – Kids World
- ACW Child Care/Early Learning – Princess Margaret
- ACW Early Learning – Wellington Heights
- ACW Early Learning Cherrywood Acres
- Althorp Montessori School
- Beamsville Early Learning and Child Care Centre
- Boys and Girls Club of Niagara – Prince of Wales Child Care Centre
- Boys and Girls Club of Niagara – St. Catharines Child Care Centre
- Boyuan Children’s Home
- Branscombe Early Learning and Family Centre
- Brilliant Futures Montessori
- Bunting Child Care Program
- Grandview Community Daycare
- Kids Place
- La Boîte à soleil – Administration
- La Boîte à soleil – Dalewood
- La Boîte à soleil – Empress
- La Boîte à soleil – L’Heritage
- La Boîte à soleil – La Marsh
- La Boîte à soleil – Saint Joseph
- Lakeview Before and After School Program
- Lakeview Community Daycare Co-operative
- Mini Retreat Child Care
- Nelephant Montessori School (Casa)
- Niagara Region Children’s Services – Administration
- Niagara Region Children’s Services – Resource Teachers for Children with Special Needs
- Niagara Region Children’s Services – Supply Staff
- Port Colborne Regional Child Care Centre
- Port Colborne Regional Child Care Centre
- Quaker Before and After School Care – Strive
- Rosalind Blauer Centre for Child Care
- Speech Services Niagara
- St. Catharines Regional Child Care
- The Chestnut Tree – Beamsville

“ Overall the training was very informative. It was great to have table facilitators as they helped share the different points of view of all participants. ”

## Centres who participated in 2018 QCCN Reflective Practice Institutes continued

- The Chestnut Tree Preschool – Grimsby
- Tots-N-Tikes
- Under the Rainbow – Wakanioten Child Care
- Valleyway Day Care Centre – Mary Ward
- Way to Grow – Pelham
- Way to Grow – Pelham
- Way to Grow Daycare – Smithville
- Way to Grow Daycare – Smithville
- Way to Grow Daycare – St. David's
- Welland Regional Child Care
- Western Hill Child Care Centre
- YMA Child Care – William Hamilton Merritt
- YMCA – Smithville
- YMCA - St. Alexander
- YMCA Child Care – Assumption
- YMCA Child Care – Carleton
- YMCA Child Care – Crossroads
- YMCA Child Care – Harriet Tubman
- YMCA Child Care – Harriet Tubman
- YMCA Child Care – Jacob Beam
- YMCA Child Care – Orchard Park
- YMCA Child Care – Park
- YMCA Child Care – Port Weller
- YMCA Child Care – Power Glen
- YMCA Child Care – Prince Philip
- YMCA Child Care – Smith
- YMCA Child Care – St. Alexander
- YMCA Child Care – St. Alfred
- YMCA Child Care – St. Charles
- YMCA Child Care – St. Charles
- YMCA Child Care – St. Denis
- YMCA Child Care – St. John
- YMCA Child Care – St. John
- YMCA Child Care – St. Mark
- YMCA Child Care – St. Peter
- YMCA Child Care – St. Vincent De Paul
- YMCA Child Care – St. Vincent De Paul
- YMCA Child Care – Westdale
- YMCA Child Care Durdan Loretto
- YMCA Child Care Gracefield

“ I gained knowledge and skills to support my daily practice and now have more tools to help develop a better-quality environment for the children, resulting in a more successful program. ”



## Quality Child Care Niagara Webpage and Statistics for 2018

Quality Child Care Niagara tools and resources are available on the QCCN website found on [www.eccdc.org](http://www.eccdc.org) in order to provide educators with the most up to date documents in an accessible way:

- There were 3,408 visits to the QCCN landing page
- There were 1,311 visits with the QCCN program forms



## Quality Child Care Niagara Exceptional Program Award Presentation at Niagara's Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence

The Quality Child Care Niagara Exceptional Program Award was presented during Niagara's 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence in November 2018. There were four exceptional programs across Niagara who most visibly reflected QCCN's vision of a consistent approach to excellence in early learning for children and families through the commitment of highly knowledgeable and responsive educators.

The criteria in which the four programs were nominated was through their overall environment, parent engagement strategies, observation and documentation processes, program planning, alignment with *How Does Learning Happen?*, the consistent use of the QCCN tools and resources and the completion of all the QCCN components.

The programs that were selected were: A Child's World Early Learning – Kid's World, Trail Ridge, Montessori School Incorporated, YMCA Child Care Jacob Beam, and Great Lakes Christian Preschool.

The program that was chosen for the 2018 Exceptional Program Award, **Trail Ridge Montessori School** reflected all of Quality Child Care Niagara's values: *Accountability* through completion of all Quality Child Care Niagara Annual Support Visit components; *Commitment* in engaging families and educators in the importance of Quality Child Care Niagara; *Intentionality* behind the implementation their pedagogy and curriculum; *Inclusivity* and meeting the needs of the community; *Reflective* documentation and observation; *Engagement* through ongoing connection with children and families; *Inviting Environment* by building positive family relationships; *Responsive* through supporting children's needs; and *Respectful* of each culture and embracing through family events and projects.



## Growing Quality Child Care Niagara Community Outreach

- Ten presentations were delivered to 244 staff.

A variety of presentations were delivered to the following agencies and networks; A Child's World; Boys and Girls Club of Niagara; La Boîte à soleil; Niagara Region Children's Services; St. David's Cooperative Nursery School; Strive Niagara; Way to Grow; YMCA Child Care; Early Learning and Child Care Supervisor's Network; and Resource Consultant Network.

### Alignment with Niagara College

- Two hundred and twenty-three students were trained in DPS and Environmental Rating Scale.
- Six sessions were delivered.

Niagara College's Early Childhood Education Program implemented a variety of Quality Child Care Niagara components within their course curriculum in 2018. Additionally, in 2019 ECE Students from Niagara College will begin participating in the full QCCN Reflective Practice Institutes.

### Hanen Training

- Thirteen educators were trained in Sharing Sensitive News.

Concepts from the Hanen Training were incorporated into the Quality Child Care Niagara Reflective Practice Institutes.

### Speech Services Niagara

Over the past years, the partnership with Speech Services Niagara continues to remain strong with Quality Child Care Niagara (QCCN). Throughout the QCCN Reflective Practice Institutes, Speech Services Niagara facilitated the Speech and Language Development and Emergent Literary component. To further support the early learning community in promoting early identification, the Speech and Language Developmental Checklist has been implemented as an annual checklist.

### School Age Programs

- Forty-six participants from 11 agencies attended the Three-day School Age Reflective Practice Institutes.

The School Age Reflective Practice Institute was redesigned to meet the unique needs of school age programs and began being offered in Fall 2018.

### Pathstone Mental Health

Through the ongoing partnership with Pathstone Mental Health, the Children's Actions, Relationships, and Emotions (C.A.R.E.) Behavioural Screening Tool continues to be incorporated within QCCN to provide educators with a tool to screen behavioural challenges in children. The Pathstone Mental Health Behaviour Consultants support Niagara's educators in the implementation of the Checklist. The Pathstone team has developed a new training session to enhance the skills of educators when handling behaviours that challenge their daily practice. The new session will be hosted at ECCDC in the Spring of 2019.

### Inclusive Child Care Supports Committee and Resource Consultants

Through consultation with the Inclusive Child Care Supports Committee, a new four-part training series was designed for Resource Consultants and will be delivered in 2019. The training was designed by ECCDC and QCCN Staff, in collaboration with a sub-committee of local Resource Consultants. The new series includes conversations on Planning Considerations Influenced by *How Does Learning Happen?*, Understanding Observation and Documentation Strategies from the Lens of *How Does Learning Happen?*, What Do Reflective Practices Look Like Within an Inclusive Environment?, and Supporting Inclusive Child Care Practices within Early Learning Teams. Throughout the series the Resource Consultants will be engaged in the creation of tip sheets that will be shared with the early learning community. The Resource Consultants will also reflect on the introduction of the new tool called the QCCN Program Inclusion Reflection Tool which will be incorporated within Niagara's early learning programs in 2019, to support inclusive practices.

“ I'm very excited to bring back the information and materials, as it will make my classroom stronger in different aspects of learning. ”

### Referrals to the ECCDC as a Follow-up to QCCN Visits

ECCDC's services and structure align strongly with Quality Child Care Niagara and help to reinforce, strengthen, and support the implementation of QCCN within various levels. The ECCDC has staffing and resources in place to support early learning programs beyond the QCCN Institute and Annual Visits. During Quality Child Care Niagara visits, educators are able to share areas in which they feel they require more support in, beyond Quality Child Care Niagara. In 2018, many referrals were given to the ECCDC team to support programs with the following:

- Curriculum Design
- Observations & Documentation
- Indoor Room Arrangement
- Outdoor Learning Environments
- Family Engagement Strategies
- Reflective Practice Tools
- Resource Library and Membership
- Bulk Purchasing

## Quality Child Care Niagara Reflective Practice Feedback and Testimonials

One hundred and twenty-eight participants provided meaningful and thoughtful feedback in 2018. During each Institute, information is gathered through “AHA jars,” Quality Child Care Niagara Community Mentor Consultant notes, feedback forms, and questions posed to participants and program Supervisors which is used to update information shared on the next day of the Institute and for the following Institute.

- **93.5% noted that the QCCN Tools are impactful** in their early learning practice.
- **87.5% noted the knowledge and skills gained through the QCCN Reflective Practice Institute was impactful** in their daily practice.

### What did you find most valuable about the two-day Quality Child Care Niagara Reflective Practice Institute?

- “It really inspired me to make some changes in the way I approach learning opportunities for my toddler class.”
- “I appreciated having printed copies, as well as visual PowerPoints. I am happy to have copies to take home and study further.”
- “Learning how to do the DPS math confidently.”
- “Videos with practical applications and explanations.”
- “Getting to know other educators, table reflections, and hearing what other centres are doing, along with sharing ideas”.
- “Speech Services information and more knowledge of community resources.”
- “DPS training, refreshing of old material and literacy talks.”

- “Learning different ways to interact with children and activities to promote learning.”
- “Gaining a better understanding of reflective practice to help me become a better educator.”
- “The building blocks of literacy.”
- “Learned how to document what happened through the day; this will help children’s development.”
- “The Caregiver Rating Scale. It’s a great reflection tool.”
- “Learning about the Brigance Readiness Binder and all about different language areas that are connected together.”

### How will the knowledge and skills from the QCCN Reflective Practice Institute support you in your daily practice?

- “I will take more time observing individual children and really focus on how to expand their learning while keeping interest.”
- “It will enhance my way of thinking and always remembering to watch where the children are developmentally.”
- “I will try to remember to step back more and allow certain situations to be learning opportunities.”
- “It will help me become more self aware and thus more able to connect with the children.”
- “Helps better my daily practice with the use of the tools mentioned.”
- “All of the information will be shared and offered to the staff to help guide them and allow opportunities for growth.”
- “QCCN gives me other ways of thinking and documenting my every day experiences as well as the childrens.”
- “Supported me in becoming more open minded during everyday activities.”



## 2018 QCCN Financial Report



