

Early Years

Presented by Margaret Warcup
to the DPAC
School District 82
June 26th 2017

- In February 2013 the BC Government released the EARLY YEARS STRATEGY that set out a one government approach to Early Years.
- The goals were accesibilitiy, affordability and quality.
- The one government approach is to ensure Ministries and community organizations are acting in a co-ordinated and effective manner.

To ACHIEVE THIS :

In February 2014 there was the establishment of the Provincial Office of the Early Years hosted in the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

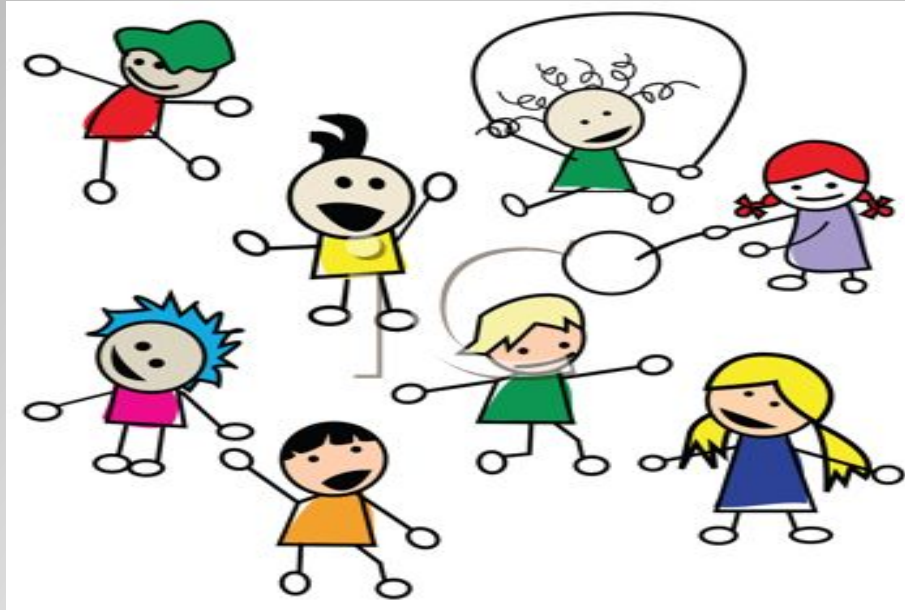
This office started with 14 EARLY YEARS CENTRE'S in BC started in March of 2014.

Kitimat was successful in our RFP in 2015.

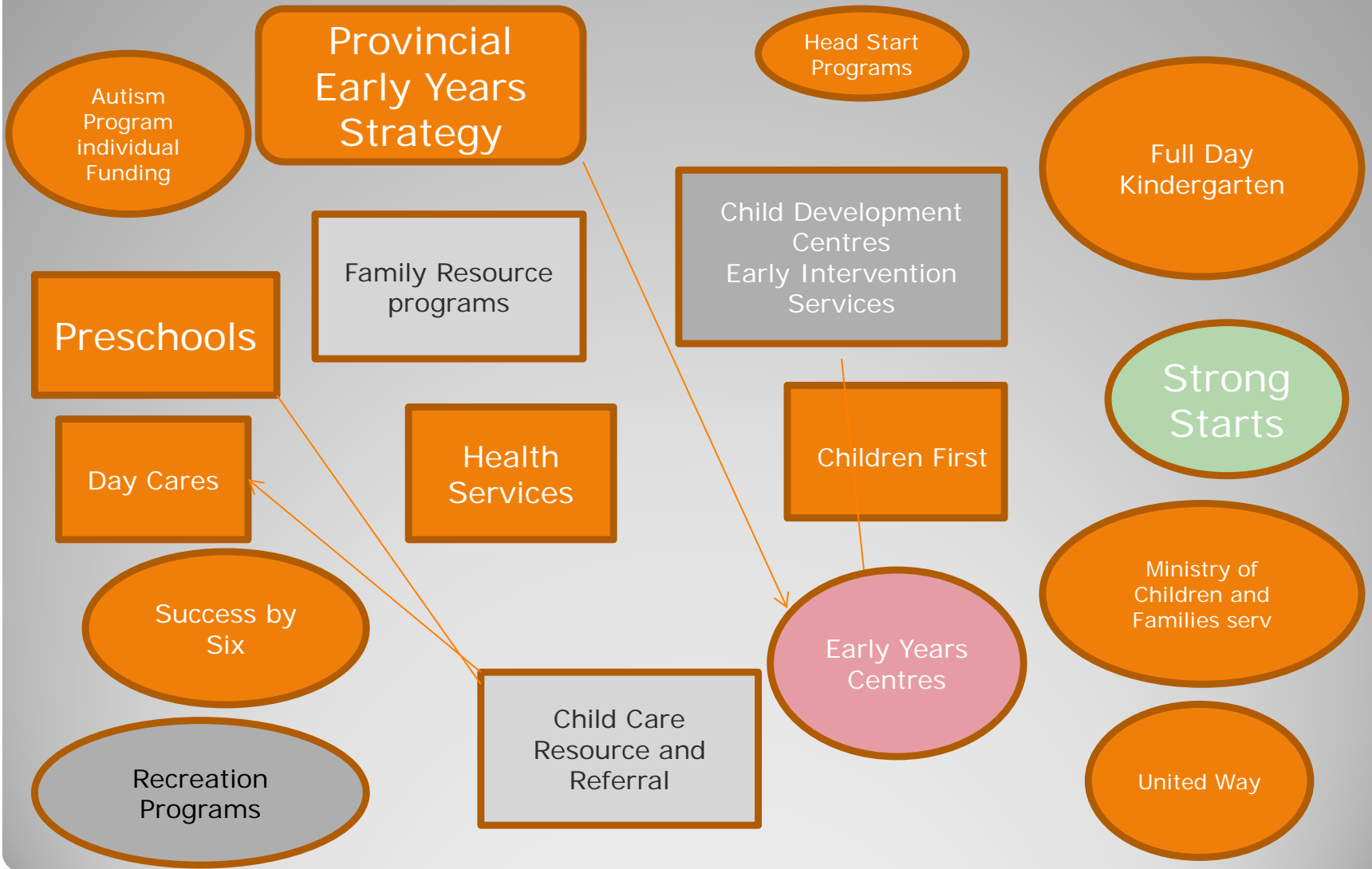
Early Years Centres are about communities working together to ensure families have access to services that promote their health, well being and development of children aged 0-6 years of age.

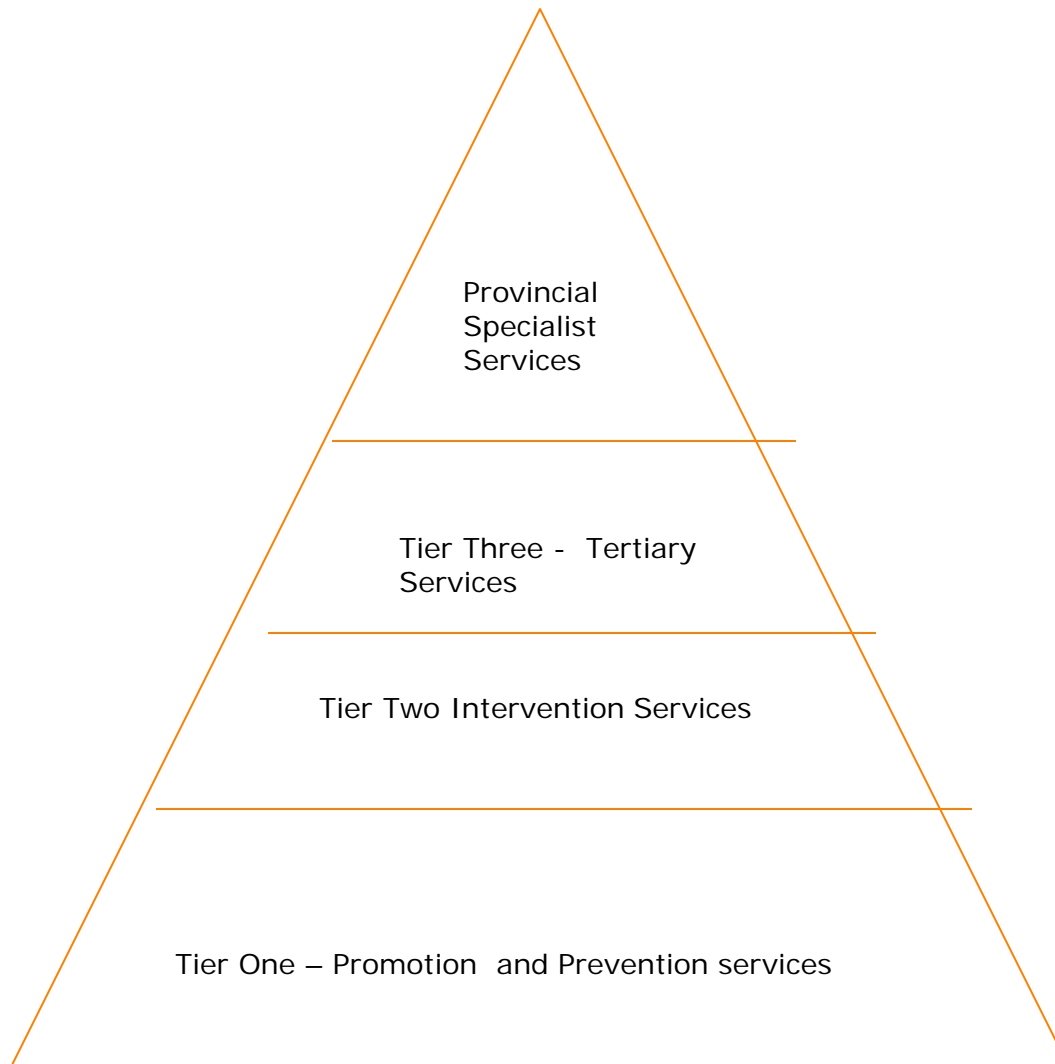
Early Years Centres build on what already exists in communities.

What is an Early Years Centre ?



**WHY is this happening ?
There are many Services**





Integration of Services

In Canada Ontario was the first Province to move to having Early Years Centres.

In other countries- Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, many States in the US have moved to integrating early years services using a number of different service models.

A bit of background.

Early Years Think
Tank October 14th to
16th 2015

14 individuals from
around the province
met to discuss early
years planning.


The question was
where can we evolve
to continue to have
supports for all
children to be healthy
and develop to their
full potential.

The Think Tank was about Planning


The Purpose of the Think Tank was twofold:

- To explore the purpose of local early years planning in BC
- To explore models of what early years planning could look like.

The Think Tank came to an agreement that we need to take with us the best lessons learned and the practices to help inform the build of a new house.

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We want to
have a more
coherent
system

A blue circle with a thin black border and a subtle drop shadow, containing text.

We want to have
Provincial
leadership and at
the same time we
want respect of
individual
community
needs.

This is not about cutting funding in Early Years.

It is about exploring what is working and what can be done for improvements in the outcomes we want for all children to succeed.

At the Ministry level in Victoria we have
Maureen Dochendorf

At our District level we have Agnes
Casgrain.

We are hosting in October 2017 a regional
forum to explore how we can improve
Kindergarten transitions.

**What are potential roles
for Education?**

We have the

Ministry of Education

Ministry of Health and

Ministry of Children and
Family Development

Our Province

Most documents reviewed talk about integration and collaboration of services provided in our Province.

In the Service Plan for MCFD 2015/2016 -2017/18 goal two of the service plan is:

PRIOR TO THIS CURRENT ELECTION THESE WERE
THE SERVICE GOALS.

- Fund the creation of up to 1000 new licensed child care spaces to improve child care availability.
- Create an online Child Care Registry to assist parents in identifying and registering for available licensed child care in their communities.
- In consultation with sector partners, develop entry level competencies and an educational institutional curriculum guide for Early Childhood Educators in BC.

Standardize and improve ministry services

Objective 2:1 **Implement the EARLY YEARS STRATEGY to better support families with young children.**

The Provincial Office of the Early Years monitors the implementation of the Early Years Strategy, which is focussed on the goals of improved accessibility, affordability, quality and coordination.

They will:

- Expand the network of Early Years Centres
- Build awareness of and provide information on the BC Early Childhood Tax Benefit.
- Re-design web based information related to Early Years Programs and Services

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Objective 2.3 : MCFD is Improve consistency and accessibility of Services for Children and Youth with Special Needs (CSYN)

Strategies include

- Define and ensure consistency of CYSN services
- Form a cross ministerial working group with Health and Education to review the effectiveness and coordination of the provision of autism services for children and youth in BC.

Conclusions in this report affirmed what the needed directions to be taken.

1. CHANGE IS DESIRED.
2. Build on strengths
3. Greater Provincial leadership
4. Ensure First Nations, Metis and Aboriginal Partnerships.
5. Streamline and improve funding practices.

After the planning session a Provincial consultation was completed by Tessa Graham

WHAT CAN WE BE THINKING ABOUT?

We have had many years of community tables and planning with many good results but are they effective?

How can we develop a comprehensive system for all children?

We have systems of services that can be difficult to navigate. What would help this?

We need to address:

Our EDI data- the Provincial Early Development Index is showing us areas where our children are not school ready.

In our area in particular social emotional development is of concern.

Our education goals and data show other areas including literacy, numeracy.

**THESE ARE ALL PART OF THE GOALS IDENTIFIED
IN OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN.**



What do we need to ask and think about in Education ?

Locally- Regionally

How do we establish community plans?

Provincially

What Provincial policy and leadership is needed ?

NOW

- Provincial Leadership is still evolving.
- Need to keep working on our local planning processes and services.
- We need to look to the future and implement changes.

HOW ?

Support and be involved with local tables.

Continue to be informed.

Advocate for Early Years Services.

It is a key question that many are asking- where should the responsibility for early years services fall?

- Who will take the lead? Education, MCFD, Health or a New Early Years Act and Ministry of Early Years.

Interesting to Note

The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC have for a number of years put forth governance of Early Care and Learning should Ministry of Education be responsible for planning, developing, delivering and governing an integrated system of early care and learning from birth up.

- Support that EDUCATION is an integral part of EARLY YEARS SERVICES and the goal of the Ministries and services working together is accomplished.

**My BELIEF
and I welcome we discuss this.**

How can we plan in cooperation, collaboratively and promote integration of services?

How can we achieve improved outcomes for all children?

Our role is to be aware of what is happening, participate in the dialogues, in the planning and be informed on what are the needs we need to address with services so children can achieve their fullest potentials.

What questions do you have.?