

EXPLORING THE PEI EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE SYSTEM

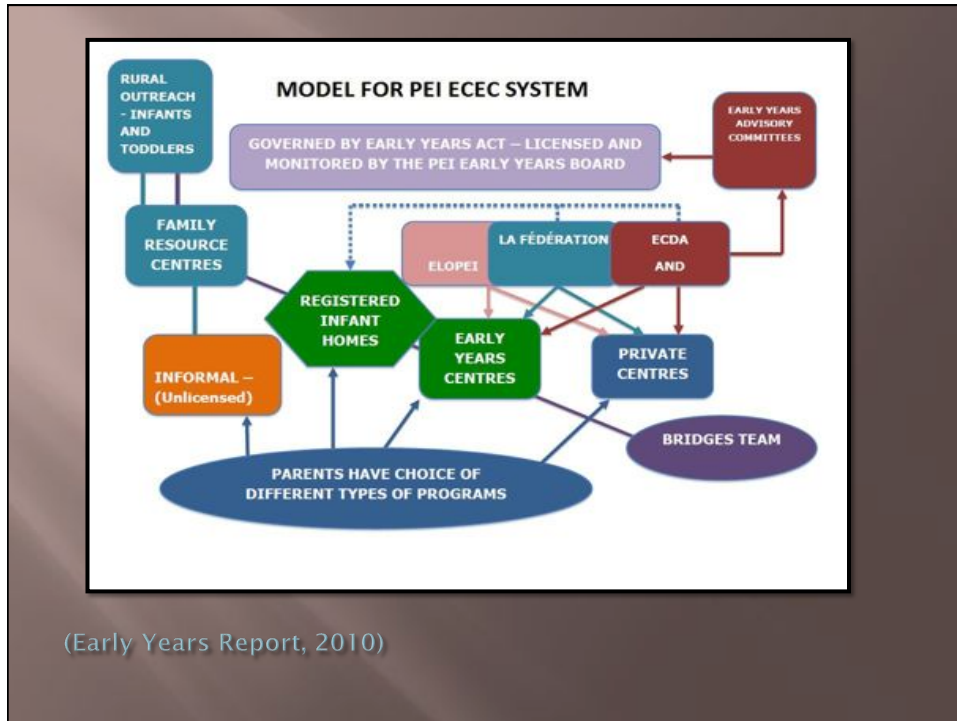
*PEI's journey from private preschool to a public system of early
childhood education*

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Early Childhood Development



Context 2009-2010

- ▣ Highest % of regulated spaces per capita in Canada
- ▣ Highest % of working mothers with young children
- ▣ No comparable data on cost per enrolled child
- ▣ Lowest investment per regulated space
- ▣ Kindergarten transition
- ▣ *The Early Years Report- Early Learning in PEI: An Investment in the Island's Future* (Flanagan, 2010)



PEI Vision for Children

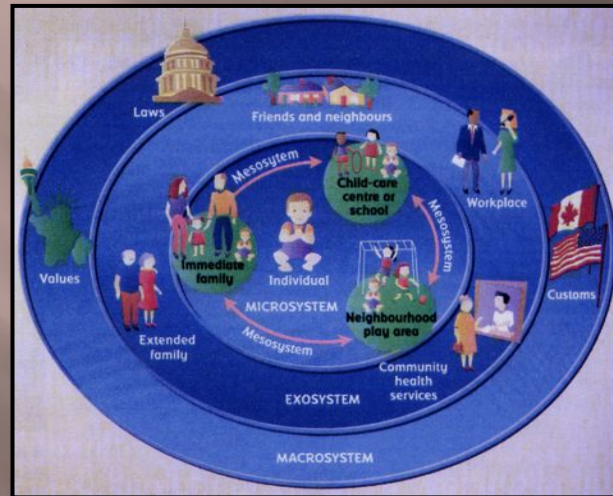
Children in PEI are healthy and happy, curious and creative, playful and joyous.

They are loved and respected, and are safe and secure in their families, homes and communities.

Children are our collective responsibility. They are valued for who they are today, and as the future parents and leaders of tomorrow.

(Early Years Report, 2010)

Circle of Influence



Bronfenbrenner's Circle of Influence (Berk & Shanker, 2006, p 28)

An Ecological Early Learning and Child Care System

Relationships are key !
Individuals and systems are influenced by broader community and society .

Systemically....

- ☐ Children
 - influenced by families and their early childhood educators
- ☐ Early Childhood Educators
 - influenced by children, by families, and by policies and practices in Early Years Centers
- ☐ Parents and families
 - influenced by their children, by the educators, and by the policies and practices of the Early Years Centers

SECURING THE FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN

PEI Preschool Excellence Initiative

For children the initiative will:

- ❑ provide high quality early learning opportunities
- ❑ stimulate and support the development of the whole child
- ❑ enhance a love of learning
- ❑ provide for play-based activities
- ❑ ensure trained staff
- ❑ be inclusive of all children.

For parents the initiative will:

- ▣ give them a voice through the creation of Parents' Advisory Committees
- ▣ regulate parent fees
- ▣ provide new and expanded infant care
- ▣ maintain access to licensed ECEC programs across the province
- ▣ ensure quality early learning opportunities for their children.

Early childhood educators will see:

- ▣ increased wages
- ▣ training and professional development support
- ▣ a curriculum framework
- ▣ new opportunities for employment.

For operators the initiative will:

- ▣ have a range of business and program options
- ▣ ensure long term quality and sustainability
- ▣ address human resource issues and concerns
- ▣ provide training and professional development.

Current Status

- ▣ Early Years Centers
- ▣ Infant Homes
- ▣ Early Learning Framework
- ▣ Training- workplace / directors
- ▣ Early Learning and Child Care Directory
- ▣ Evaluation / Implementation Report
- ▣ Early Learning and Child Care Act (Regs / Directives)
- ▣ Policy Development
- ▣ Early Years Advisory Committee

Thank You !

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/eecd/earlychildhood>

