

building blocks
for
child care



CHILD CARE IN ONTARIO SCHOOLS

Alignment and Expansion: A Report on the Current State of
Early Learning and Child Care in Ontario Schools

You can access this study at b2c2.ca/schoolboardreport/



Schools are at the heart of Ontario's not-for-profit success story

- The majority of Ontario's child care centres (54%) are in public schools, far ahead of any other province.
- 6 out of 10 of these centres in public schools are before- and-after-school programs exclusively serving children of kindergarten and school age.
- This is not a surprise because schools in Ontario are mandated to provide before- and-after- school child care wherever it is feasible to meet the demand for it.
- But about 4 out of 10 of the child care centres in Ontario schools include younger children as well.



Pascal's Vision

- *Kindergarten, together with a Before and After School Program must be “a single program with a single pedagogical and curriculum approach, planned and delivered by qualified educators using common space and resources.” (Pascal, 2009)*
- *Based on our b2c2 study of school boards, schools and child care, we conclude that child care for younger and for school age children has found a secure home in the schools of Ontario.*
- *Even though child care is not yet accepted as part of the “core mission” of schools, it is welcomed, supported and encouraged in schools across the province.*



The problems

- Space – shared space and new spaces
 - Shared space for before-and-after-school child care programs often create frictions. Effective protocols, engaged principals and much communication are the best cure
- Staffing – especially because of split shifts
 - Directly-operated programs avoid split shifts but others have difficulty recruiting and retaining staff for split morning/afternoon work
- Expansion – the province is ducking its responsibilities
 - Expansion in schools requires sufficient capital money. Currently many projects are stalled for lack of funds



Who needs to do what?

- The Ministry of Education
 - Continued support for ELCC in the schools, including directly-operated before and after school child care
 - A wage grid to establish wage parity
 - A guaranteed future revenue stream – a funding formula
 - Money to support expansion – capital grants
 - School Boards or Service System Managers to handle detailed work of expansion (financing, design, construction management)



Who needs to do what?

- School Boards
 - Procedural manual clarifying relationships with child care and before-and-after-school programs (BASPS) in every school
 - Senior school staff to meet at least annually to review alignment of procedures between child care centres and schools
 - Educational workshops including principals at the beginning of every school year to ensure that protocols and procedures are well understood
 - Meetings at least quarterly between Early Childhood Leads/Supervisors and local service system managers.
 - Offer joint professional development opportunities for school staff and child care staff (together)

