

Nova Scotia Early Years Centres

Summer Institute on Early Childhood Development

Toronto, Ontario

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Early Years Centre Core Services

A no fee, play based Early Learning Program for 4 year olds

Family supports and resources

Regulated child care responsive to the needs of families and communities



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Evaluation

Funded by the Margaret and Wallace McCain Family Foundation. Evaluation contract awarded to Dr. Sara Kirk of Dalhousie University.

Participatory evaluation over four years involving all 8 sites. Guided by a program logic model and evaluation framework.

Conducting the Evaluation

Process and outcome evaluation

Data collection each year

Levels/Sources:

Children

Parents/families

EYC staff and team

Partners

Provincial system

Outcome evaluation

Focused on program impacts/ outcomes - What has been achieved as a result of the EYCs?

Data sources:

- Early Development Instrument (EDI)

- Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale, third edition (ECERS-3)

- Administrative data (attendance, participation)

- Family survey and focus groups

- EYC team survey and story sharing focus group

- Interviews with partners

Indicators of Change

Guides, tracks and assesses progress towards integration of programs and services

Completed by site management teams

Benchmarks

Community Co-

Example of Indicators of Change

Leadership & Accountability, 1.4 allocation of financial resources

Operate grade primary, early learning program, child care and family supports with separate budgets and financial resources.	Review budgets and discuss resource allocation.	Contribute partner program resources to joint activities. Jointly seek out additional resources to support expanded activities.	Expand contribution of partner program resources to joint activities.	Manage and administer a pooled funding envelop, space and program resources for the common program for children 0-8 years within a defined catchment area.
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Example of Indicators of Change

Early Learning Environment, 5.3 Curriculum Framework

Maintain separate curriculum philosophy, goals, and objectives that are consistent within each of the partner programs.	Review each other's program philosophy, goals, objectives, policies and guidelines. Identify commonalities and differences.	Develop & implement shared philosophy, goals, and objectives as part of joint activities that promote children's early development.	Expand influence of shared philosophy, goals, and objectives to change practices to promote children's early development in partner programs.	Consolidate and implement program philosophy, goals, and objectives that support children's early development as part of common 0-8 program.
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Key accomplishments

Building trust and relationships

Strengthening partnerships and community linkages

Building awareness and understanding, linking families

"... the tremendous positive response we've gotten from other service providers around sharing the space, being part of the program, promoting the program and the engagement to work at something together."

Key enablers

School and school board
commitment

History of collaboration,
willingness, commitment
and shared vision

Flexibility

"I think as we meet and as we get to know each other better, and get to know what people are doing, it's amazing to see what people want to do, and how much they want to give,

Key challenges

Linking to regulated
childcare

Lack of clarity

System barriers

"...people sort of hadn't really clear information around what exactly was the role of the Early Years Centre. As soon as you hear the word centre, you start thinking about childcare."

Supports required

Continued engagement, coordination and collaboration

Continue opportunities for professional development, networking and sharing

Build awareness and understanding and advocacy

Templates and guidance from provincial system

Continued flexibility, shared leadership and time

System level – policy, partnerships

Explore the meaning of integration

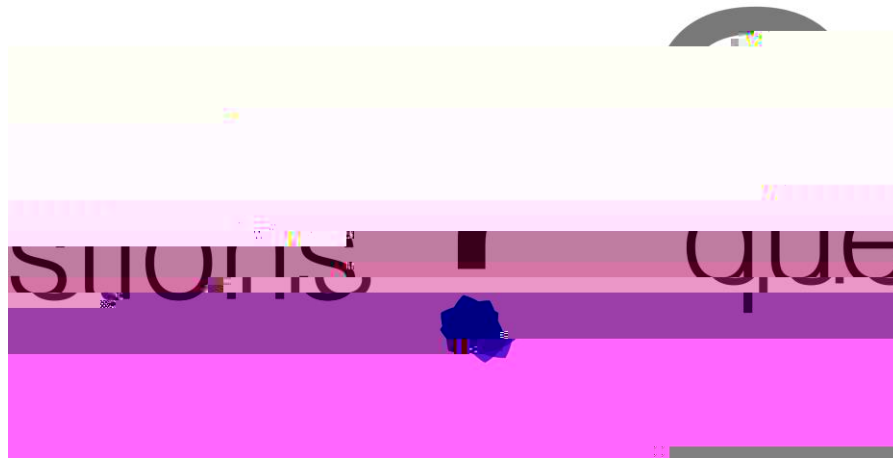
Building Research Capacity

Opportunity to build research into the evaluation

Research Advisory Committee has been struck, across institutions in NS

Range of expertise, including: child and youth development, applied health research, nursing, education, etc

Value collaboration and stakeholder input



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