



Quality Child Care Niagara ANNUAL COMMUNITY REPORT 2019

Celebrating 20 years of Quality in Niagara





"I like how we are able to reflect on our daily responsibilities and how we impact children. Gives us a chance to see what we can do better next time."

Grandview Community Daycare

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

Giving Thanks to the Funder of Quality Child Care Niagara

The Early Childhood Community Development Centre (ECCDC) extends gratitude to Niagara Region Children's Services for 16 years of continued commitment and financial investment in Quality Child Care Niagara (QCCN). We are honoured to support Niagara's early learning and child care professionals and agencies.



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

Quality Child Care Niagara (QCCN) continues to recognize the importance of shaping children's early learning experiences by aligning with the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* and Ontario's Frameworks (*Early Learning for Every Child Today*, *Think Feel Act*, *How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years*). Connections can be seen through the use of the QCCN tools, resources and the two (2) day Reflective Practice Institute Training. The Quality Child Care Niagara Advisory Committee, Program Consultants, and Community Mentor Consultants gather collaboratively to assess current needs, identify and share goals, then take and adjust actions accordingly, to ensure alignment across sectors with Ontario's Ministry of Education.

“ I will always be mindful that as educators we are there to be advocates for all children and that will be something I incorporate. ”

Quality Child Care Niagara Team

Sincere gratitude to the Quality Child Care Niagara Team for their ongoing collaborative support and commitment to Quality Child Care Niagara.

2019 Quality Child Care Niagara Advisory Members

The QCCN Advisory Committee comprised of community partners from sixteen (16) agencies met five (5) times in 2019 to discuss the impact of QCCN on Niagara's early learning and child care community.

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

Quality Child Care Niagara Staff Members

- Priyanka Tan, Quality Child Care Niagara Coordinator, Early Childhood Community Development Centre
- Katie-Lynn Parkinson, Quality Child Care Niagara Program Consultant, Early Childhood Community Development Centre
- Natalie Lane (on leave), Quality Child Care Niagara Program Consultant, Early Childhood Community Development Centre

Quality Child Care Niagara Community Mentor Consultants

- Jane Gouck, QCCN Community Mentor Consultant
- Debbie Hamilton, QCCN Community Mentor Consultant, Niagara Children's Centre
- Katherine Martin, QCCN Community Mentor Consultant, A Child's World Family Child Care Services of Niagara
- Helene Randle, QCCN Community Mentor Consultant, Rosalind Blauer Centre for Child Care
- Candice Penny, QCCN Community Mentor Consultant, Niagara Nursery School & Child Care Centre

“ Having community agencies come and speak during the QCCN Reflective Practice Institute was valuable. It is nice to know we have a lot of support for children. ”



"It reminds us daily to think outside the box and ask those curious questions."

Smithville Christian Preschool

Quality Child Care Niagara Happenings in 2019

- The **QCCN Portfolio of Tools** was developed to encompass the entirety of Quality Child Care Niagara (QCCN) Tools and Resources as a one stop shop document.
- **Thirty-seven (37)** educators have requested and received a refresher in the DISC Preschool Screen (DPS) and Environmental Rating Scales which were delivered by the QCCN Program Consultants at the ECCDC and their own centre.
- The full **QCCN Reflective Practice Institute** has been incorporated into Niagara College's Early Childhood Education Program course curriculum.
- **One hundred and eighty-four (184)** support visits were completed in 2019 by the QCCN Program Consultants.
- QCCN was pleased to welcome Candice Penny, Executive Director of Niagara Nursery School & Child Care Centre, as the newest **QCCN Community Mentor Consultant**.
- QCCN is transitioning from the Parent Survey template to **Strategies to Develop Family Engagement for Educators** to foster the supportive approach when communicating with families and promoting continuous quality improvement within each program.

“ The knowledge I learned in the QCCN Reflective Practice Institute supports me in my future work with children and families because I now have an understanding of how to create a relationship with a family, not just the child, and a thorough understanding upon why it is so important to be working as a team for the child's development/best interest. ”

Quality Child Care Niagara Annual Support Visits

- 184 support visits were completed this year by the QCCN Program Consultants
- 751 staff were consulted during the support visits

Quality Child Care Niagara (QCCN) Program Consultants visit Niagara’s licensed child care programs annually using a supportive and asset based approach that is unique and customized to each program. Centres continue to find unique and innovative ways to organize and utilize QCCN tools and resources in a variety of ways including: enhancing the environment by reflecting on the materials that are available in the program; adding more natural materials; they also continue to investigate new and creative ways to engage with families; and showcase the learning in the room through multiple types of documentation. During the support visits, educators shared how the QCCN Reflective Practice Institute model empowers them as professionals who are proud and committed to Quality Child Care Niagara.

Leading quality and excellence in early learning and child care beyond QCCN, educators refer and request ECCDC’s services to gain an additional levels of support including Family Engagement Strategies; Curriculum Design; Observation & Documentation; Indoor Room Arrangement; Reflective Practice Tools; Outdoor Learning Environments; Resource Library and Membership; and Bulk Purchasing.

“ What I found most valuable was how passionate they were talking about the practice and providing a good size amount of knowledge we could retain. ”



Tots-N-Tikes



Beyond Montessori School



ACW – Woodlawn



YMCA Child Care - Gracefield

Quality Child Care Niagara Tools and Resources

A family engagement strategy booklet was created through a Quality Child Care Niagara Advisory Committee discussion to have a consistent message and dialogue. Strategies in the booklet include how to share sensitive news, family engagement reflections and how to design a family engagement survey. These approaches build relationships with families by encouraging collaboration and conversation in and out of the classroom.

The Portfolio of Tools was developed to provide centres with a holistic and visual description of all QCCN tools and resources available. While connecting to the greater Niagara early learning community, input was provided as to the frequency of which the tools are being implemented; and tools, resources and supports that are available to compliment QCCN to support programs. The Portfolio of Tools can be incorporated into orientation with staff and families, staff meetings, parent involvement meetings and posted on family information boards to highlight the alignment of the QCCN tools.

Quality Child Care Niagara Webpage and Statistics for 2019

Quality Child Care Niagara tools and resources are available on the QCCN website found on www.eccdc.org in order to provide educators with the most up to date documents in an accessible way. We continue to strive for innovative ways in engaging the Niagara community through various avenues including the QCCN website.

- **1,382** visits to the QCCN Program Forms which holds the updated QCCN documents.
- The **QCCN Portfolio of Tools** is available on the QCCN website for educators to access the document electronically.

“ The things I have the most value for during this session were the tools for observing children in a child care setting, learning about all the QCCN resources to help support children (DPS, Behaviour C.A.R.E checklist and use of program profile). I learned and gained a lot of knowledge and information during this session, that I’ll be able to apply to my placements and in the field after graduation this year. ”

Quality Child Care Niagara Reflective Practice Institute Training for 2019

- 160 educators representing 29 agencies attended the QCCN Two-Day Reflective Practice Institutes
- 88% of educators and students noted the QCCN Tools are impactful in their early learning practice.
- 87% of educators and students noted the knowledge and skills gained through the QCCN Reflective Practice Institute was impactful in their daily practice.

An Overview of the 2019 Quality Child Care Niagara Reflective Institutes

Quality Child Care Niagara Reflective Practice Institutes were delivered with the support and collaboration of the QCCN Community Mentor Consultants and QCCN Program Consultants. We continue to foster the reflective practice model and ensure educators have the support and confidence to implement the QCCN tools and resources into their daily practice.

It has been three years since the roll out of the Quality Child Care Niagara Reflective Practice Institutes model and thus far 1,399 educators have participated in the training. With the strong dedication and commitment by the educators, we continue to strive for quality within Niagara's early learning and child care programs.

“ I find the history part [of QCCN] valuable so we have an understanding of where this all started. ”



Centres who participated in 2019 QCCN Reflective Practice Institutes continued

- ABC Daycare Centre
- ACW – First Friends
- ACW – John Brant
- ACW – Twenty Valley
- Beyond Montessori School
- Boys and Girls Club of Niagara – Fort Erie Child Care Centre
- Boys and Girls Club of Niagara – Niagara Falls Child Care Centre 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
- Boys and Girls Club of Niagara – St. Joseph Child Care Centre
- Boys and Girls Club of Niagara – St. Gabriel Lalemant Child Care Centre
- Boyuan Children’s Home
- Brilliant Futures Montessori
- Community Living St. Catharines Children’s Services
- Fort Erie Co-operative Nursery School
- Fort Erie Native Cultural Centre Aboriginal Headstart & Kindergarten Program
- Greendale Before and After School Care
- Kidzdome Preschool
- Kidzdome Preschool Nelles
- La Boîte à soleil – Fitch
- La Boîte à soleil – LaMarsh
- La Boîte à soleil – Nouvel Horizon
- La Boîte à soleil – Saint Joseph
- Nelephant Montessori School
- Niagara Nursery School & Child Care Centre
- Notre Dame Elementary Before & After School Program
- Parents Peace of Mind – East
- Pathways Academy and Early Learning Centre
- Pine Grove Child Care
- Quaker Before and After School Care
- Rosalind Blauer Centre for Child Care
- St. Thomas Day Care
- The Chestnut Tree Preschool – Lincoln
- The Day Care Centre
- Thorold Community Child Care Services
- Toks Christian Daycare
- Top of the Ridge Day Care
- Valleyway Day Care Centre

“ The presenters were very interesting and engaging with the materials they were teaching. All of the people there seemed to have a great respect for the field and for the new ECE’s coming into the field. I felt welcome and respected in the sessions. ”

Centres who participated in 2019 QCCN Reflective Practice Institutes

- Way To Grow Daycare – Arlington
- Way To Grow Daycare – Pelham
- Way To Grow Daycare – Smithville
- Way to Grow Daycare – St. Catharines
- Way To Grow Daycare – St. Davids
- Wee Care Day Care
- Welland Parent Child Care Centre
- YMCA Child Care - Kate S. Durdan/Loretto
- YMCA Child Care – Grapeview
- YMCA Child Care – Our Lady of Fatima-Grimsby
- YMCA Child Care – Parnall
- YMCA Child Care – St. John
- YMCA Child Care – St. Peters
- YMCA Child Care – Walker Family Centre

“ QCCN Reflective Practice Institute model is very supportive to the children, families and educators in Niagara. ”

"The thing that I found the most valuable about the QCCN training was having time during the session to have discussions with professionals from QCCN in a more one on one setting."

YMCA Child Care - Walker Family Centre

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

Programs were nominated through family engagement strategies, overall environment, observation and documentation, alignment with *How Does Learning Happen?*, program planning, the consistent implementation of the QCCN tools and resources, and the completion of all the QCCN components.

The four programs that were selected for this year’s QCCN Exceptional Program Award were **Welland Regional Child Care Centre**, **Great Lakes Christian Preschool**, **Top of the Ridge Day Care**, and **La Boîte à soleil- Nouvel Horizon**.

The recipient for the 2019 Quality Child Care Niagara Exceptional Program Award was **Top of the Ridge Day Care** who reflected Quality Child Care Niagara’s values. The dedication and accountability in completing all Quality Child Care Niagara Annual Support Visit components; the intentionality in weaving the Four Foundations into planning and documentation; the creation of an inviting environments by implementing various photo documentations; responsiveness to the children’s interests and development through engagement; providing opportunities for inclusivity in their natural playground; educators’ commitment documenting individual reports for further discussions with families; incorporating children’s ideas, questions, and discussions into their reflective practice; and building respectful and positive relationships with families, children, and educators.



Top of the Ridge Day Care



La Boîte à soleil- Nouvel Horizon



Welland Regional Child Care Centre



Great Lakes Christian Preschool

Growing Quality Child Care Niagara Community Outreach

Alignment with Niagara College

- **6 sessions** with a total of **120 students** were trained in the DISC Preschool School and Environmental Rating Scale.
- **126 students** attended the QCCN Reflective Practice Institutes.
- **85% of students felt confident in applying the learnings from QCCN Reflective Practice Institute** into practice in the early learning and child care field.

The Early Childhood Education Program at Niagara College has incorporated the full Quality Child Care Niagara Reflective Practice Institutes in their course curriculum. Students that attended the sessions in 2019 have completed the full QCCN Reflective Practice Institutes.

“Overall, I am very glad that this training is provided as part of our program and I think that it is an amazing way to get us ready for the workplace.”

Niagara Children’s Centre

Through the ongoing partnership with Niagara Children’s Centre, the Speech and Language Developmental Checklist has continued being implemented as an annual component of Quality Child Care Niagara. Niagara Children’s Centre staff continue to facilitate the Speech and Language and Emergent Literacy components during the Quality Child Care Niagara Reflective Practice Institutes.

Pathstone Mental Health

The Behaviour Consultants from Pathstone Mental Health and the QCCN Program Consultants continue to collaborate and support educators in the implementation of the Children’s Actions, Relationships, and Emotions (C.A.R.E.) Behavioural Checklist. Pathstone Mental Health Team has developed a new session, Behaviour Awareness and Self-Regulation, which was hosted at the ECCDC on April 25 and November 7 2019. The session included conversation around identifying the functions of behaviour, the importance of self-regulation, and develop strategies to help promote success.

Inclusive Child Care Supports Committee and Resource Consultants

Resource Consultants were invited to attend the four-part training series through consultation with the Inclusive Child Care Supports Committee. The four-part training comprised of 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 Team was designed by ECCDC and QCCN Staff along with the collaboration from representatives of local agencies in the Inclusive Child Care Support Committee.

“Lots of collaboration with different Resource Consultants from different organizations gave great insight into the use of information.”

The Quality Child Care Niagara Team participated in Early Childhood Resource Teacher Network of Ontario (ECRTNO) 2019 Provincial Conference "Together: We Can Do Great Things!" on November 8, 2019 which was attended by Resource Consultants and Niagara Region Children's Services Director. The overview of QCCN was comprised of the history, tools and resources, supports and services, reflective questions, and community collaboration. To demonstrate the uniqueness and strength of Niagara's commitment to QCCN, the workshop was delivered by Niagara Region Children's Services, Quality Child Care Niagara Team, and a panel of community partners who represented Early Childhood Community Development Centre (ECCDC), Pathstone Mental Health, Niagara Children's Centre, Rosalind Blauer Centre for Child Care, Resource Consultants, Community Mentor Consultants, and QCCN Advisory Committee.

Hanen Training

The Hanen Training Module Sharing Sensitive News approach has been integrated in the Strategies to Develop Family Engagement document to support educators by providing further insight when communicating with families through effective and meaningful interactions. In addition, concepts from the Hanen Training were incorporated into the Quality Child Care Niagara Reflective Practice Institutes.

School Age Programs

Educators in the school age programs have demonstrated various ways of implementing the QCCN Tools and Resources in alignment with the program. During the support visits with school age

programs, the QCCN Program Consultants and the educators often shared ideas and strategies to support the uniqueness of shared space, family engagement, inclusive environment and materials through QCCN Tools and Resources.

“ Thank you so much for being so helpful.
Making the transition into my supervisor
role that much easier! ”

“ Thank you for taking time out of your
busy day to make sure that we are on
track. I appreciate all the help and advice
that you are providing me with. I am glad
that you get to see our centre. ”



"I will be more reflective and really think that the decisions made daily are there to benefit the children."

Quaker Before and After School Care

Quality Child Care Niagara Reflective Practice Feedback and Testimonials

What did you find most valuable about the QCCN Reflective Practice Institute?

- "Use different strategies, tools and methods to cope and teach children in different ways."
- "The reminders to be reflective when working with children and youth."
- "It brought to my attention the reasons why we do the documentation and screenings."
- "I like how we are able to reflect on our daily responsibilities and how we impact children. Gives us a chance to see what we can do better next time."
- "I learned a lot about Resource Consultants, Behavioural Consultants, and how the QCCN was first founded."
- "Lets us have a holistic understanding of the implementation of the entire early childhood education."
- "I enjoyed the practicality of the various worksheets., for example the CARE Behavior Checklist, and learning how to actually fill them out because this is information we will actually need to know."
- "What I found most valuable about the QCCN training was the paperwork we got and how we are to use/fill out those sheets. Going through the step by step was very helpful."
- I found the Emergent Literacy portion very interesting and valuable because of the ways to incorporate language and literacy into the classroom in fun ways."
- "I enjoyed the experience overall and the information is extremely valuable as I take it into my practice. I'm thankful that we are able to receive this training through the college and for the coordinators for giving us their time."
- "I know where to reach out for additional support outside of my agency."
- "I found the Curriculum Planning and Observation and Documentation very valuable. In the past 3 semesters that I have been doing, I've been exposed to many RECE's types of documentation on many children. At first I didn't know why they were doing it (maybe just to report to the parents) but gradually I've come to understanding that it's both to the benefit of the educator and the child's development."
- "I found the "care giver interaction scale" to be very beneficial and I also appreciated getting a better understanding on higher order thinking prompts."
- "The knowledge gained from the QCCN training that will help support me in my future work with children and families is I learned the importance of observing children and how it helps us gain an insight on how the child thinks, learn and make sense of their world. I also learned about some tools to use when observing children. I also enjoyed getting to see and learn about the different tools to help children to improve cutting with scissors, before this session I had never seen helper scissors to help assist and teach children to cut. Overall I think the session was very informative and I gained and took home a lot of knowledge from this session."
- "I found the personal stories about being in the field helped to connect what we were learning and how to apply it in the future."

Quality Child Care Niagara Reflective Practice Feedback and Testimonials continued

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

- "It supported me by setting up the classroom according to the children's needs, interests, etc."
- "It would help me be more intentional and present in my practice."
- "It will make me more aware of the way I educate and observe children."
- "It has given me a lot of great ideas to take back to the classroom and has made me grow as an educator."
- "Help me to be more mindful of how an environment can change because of my attitude."
- "I would like to share the 9 QCCN Values in which they are very helpful to me."
- "It will help me feel more confident in bridging a child's learning between home and classroom"
- "I am more aware of what services are out there to help children and their families to have a quality experience and what strategies i can use to give my best."
- "It will support me by being able to answer questions families have and be able to distribute information I've learned and knowledge to support the children as well as the family."
- "I just want to say that this program [QCCN Reflective Practice Institute] is a best way to learn how we can give better quality of care and support to children as well as to their families."
- "The knowledge that I learned from QCCN are a foundation to me. I would apply that to my work in the future."

2019 QCCN Financial Report





"It is effective to bridge theory and practice by having us think of how concepts taught can be used in our jobs."

Maple Crest Early School

