



Report To:	Program Planning Committee
From:	Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services and Lori Clark, Children's Programs Supervisor
Date:	March 21, 2018
Re:	Child Care Quality Assurance – Issue Report

Background:

The Child Care Mission of the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board (DSB) is to support social and economic development by investing in and supporting an affordable, accessible and accountable Child Care system benefitting children, their parents, caregivers and the broader community.

High quality Child Care programs provide enriching early learning experiences that promote future well-being. The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB is committed to quality programs for all children. High quality programs respect diversity, equity, and inclusion and should value the language and cultural needs of our communities. Child Care programs should be inclusive of and accessible to children with a range of abilities.

Purpose:

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB provides funding and program support to 9 agencies who delivery 17 Child Care programs and 4 EarlyON centres, with extended, outreach, throughout the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB jurisdiction.

Over the last two years the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB has been assessing program quality in the Child Care programs across our jurisdiction.

Program reviews were done in 2015/16 and again in 2016/17. The Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board [Child Care Quality Assurance Report](#) contains several recommendations that will benefit programs across the district.

There are **several areas of staff development** which require immediate and ongoing attention to ensure the delivery of high quality Child Care programs namely:

- Understanding the stages of child development to ensure age appropriate expectations
- Delivering programs that support language and literacy development
- Promoting and supporting the development of self-regulation skills in children
- Developing pedagogical documentation skills and making documentation a daily habit and ongoing process of inquiry
- Promoting self-help and independence skills in children
- Increasing staff understanding of diversity and community culture
- Improving staff well-being, professionalism and mentoring

The reviews have confirmed that in most cases:

- children were found to be safe
- nutritious snacks and meals were provided to the children
- minimum Ministry of Education guidelines appeared to be met
- children appear to be happy and content
- all programs have an abundance of high quality equipment and furnishings

After each site visit, the programs received a summary of the visit along with recommendations to support continued growth. Follow up visits are needed to ensure programs are supported in their efforts to grow.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB Quality Assurance Program should conduct site visits for all Early ON programs in the coming months and develop responsive capacity building plans to support program and staff growth.

Programs need to be supported in their efforts to be responsive to child and family interests and needs to support development, health and well-being.

Increased partnerships between the Quality Assurance Program and Special Needs Resource program is needed to support an inclusive and responsive environment for all children.

Conclusion

Staff will be consulting with other service system managers to determine best practices and review existing quality assurance programs. A fulsome Quality Assurance Program would include regular site visits, ideally once per month per site and ongoing mentorship and professional learning opportunities.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board Quality Assurance Program should provide consistent and intentional support to the Child Care and EarlyON programs. This support will lead to high quality programs that will enrich early learning and promote future well-being.