



2010: EL 5

MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Secretary-Treasurers and Supervisory Officers of School
Authorities
Principals of Elementary Schools
Principals of First Nation Elementary Schools

FROM: Grant Clarke
Assistant Deputy Minister
Learning and Curriculum Division

Jim Grieve
Assistant Deputy Minister
Early Learning Division

DATE: April 13, 2010

SUBJECT: **Release of the *Full-Day Early Learning-Kindergarten Program (Draft version)***

The Ministry is committed to providing a full day of learning to four- and five-year-olds as part of the province's plan to build a stronger school system and a well-educated workforce. Implementation of the *Full-Day Early Learning-Kindergarten Program (Draft version)* in selected school sites will begin in September 2010. The program will be expanded in phases and the goal is to implement it in every school by 2015-16. The finalized document for the *Full-Day Early Learning-Kindergarten Program* will be released in June 2011.

The development of the draft *Full-Day Early Learning-Kindergarten Program* document involved building on *The Kindergarten Program (Revised) 2006* and considering an analysis of the *Early Learning for Every Child Today* (ELECT) program and other frameworks as well as the advice in Dr. Pascal's report, *Every Child Every Opportunity*. The draft program document was completed using the Ministry's standard approach to curriculum development and the consultation process was expanded to include the Early Childhood Education (ECE) community. An integrated extended day program that is complementary to the instructional day program is also in development. The extensive consultation process included teachers, early childhood educators, principals, program staff, faculties of education, colleges, teacher affiliates, the College of Early Childhood Educators, Association of Early Childhood Educators, and other ministries such as the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

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The French-language version of the draft program document, *Programme d'apprentissage de la maternelle et du jardin d'enfants*, differs from the English-language version in the same ways as it did for *The Kindergarten Program (Revised) 2006*. For example, it has seven learning areas instead of six (Social Studies is added in the French version) and additional expectations that deal with the Franco-Ontarian culture.

The *Full-Day Early Learning-Kindergarten Program (Draft version)* document is ready for release to school boards, schools and other education stakeholders. To facilitate implementation, a copy of the learning expectations portion of the draft program document will be posted on the Ministry website on April 13, 2010. This will be updated with the introductory portion of the draft document in the weeks following, which will provide a broader context for the document, greater descriptions of play-based learning and the roles of the teacher-early childhood educator team. Print copies of the complete draft document will be distributed to school boards and selected school sites shortly thereafter.

Initial implementation training sessions are scheduled to begin in late April 2010 and will include web-based components; regional face-to-face two-day components of this training are scheduled for May and June 2010. The initial training sessions will be followed by summer institute opportunities, to be held regionally, for school board teams. Boards are encouraged to provide opportunities for professional development for teachers and early childhood educators in year one program sites early in September.

If you have any questions about the draft program document, please contact the appropriate Regional Office for information. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Ministry's curriculum initiatives.



Grant Clarke



Jim Grieve

cc: R. Théberge, ADM, FLALRD
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