

**Ministry of Education
Early Years Implementation
Branch**

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**Ministère de l'Éducation
Direction de la mise en œuvre
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MEMORANDUM TO: Agencies, Consolidated Municipal Service Managers/District Social Services Administration Boards, District School Boards and First Nations with Family Support Program Funding

FROM: Julia Danos
Acting Director
Early Years Implementation Branch

DATE: November 19, 2015

SUBJECT: **Update – Ministry of Education Website and Family Support Programs**

Dear Family Support Program Partners,

We are informing you of upcoming changes to the Ministry of Education (EDU) website to provide parents and caregivers with a single online resource to find information about Family Support Programs funded by the ministry.

By January 1, 2016, the Ministry of Education's website will include a Family Support Program landing page with information about the four programs we fund:

- Better Beginnings, Better Futures
- Child Care Resource Centres
- Ontario Early Years Centres
- Parenting and Family Literacy Centres

Specific information about main sites for these programs will be available on the website. This will include: site name, site address, site contact information (phone and email) and site/organization website(s), if available, to connect the public to relevant local family support programs. At this time, we will not be posting satellite locations on the new EDU website. After the initial website launch, the ministry will explore opportunities to include additional information and interactive resources for parents and caregivers.

We know that parents and caregivers rely on internet resources for information about programs and services; this change allows us to consolidate information about family support programs for the public, in one location.

In addition, it also supports Ontario's goal to be accessible by 2025. The Ontario Public Service (OPS) is leading by example by becoming the first organization to meet all the legislative requirements in the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)*. As of January 1, 2016, all OPS Internet sites, web content and applications will meet the requirements of the AODA regarding accessibility.

Over the coming weeks, the Early Years Division may contact your organization to confirm the site-specific information (noted above) to be posted on the website, which is expected to be live mid-December 2015. The ongoing process for organizations to inform the ministry about updates to family support programs that will be posted on the website will be communicated in the coming months.

This new webpage will replace the Ontario Early Years Centre website/calendar portals and Parenting and Family Literacy Centre website that are currently housed on the Ministry of Education's website. These websites will be closed once the new site has been activated and the public will be automatically redirected to the new site if they use existing web links for these sites.

If you have any questions or concerns about this change, please contact your regional Child Care Advisor or Early Years Education Officer for more information.

Kind Regards,

Original signed by

Julia Danos
Acting Director
Early Years Implementation Branch

Copy:

Shannon Fuller, A/Director, Early Years Policy and Program Branch, Early Years Division

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