



**ASSOCIATION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS
NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR**

Position Statement

ECEs in Kindergarten Classrooms

It is the position of AECENL that there is a role for ECEs in kindergarten classrooms.

We support the initiatives of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to implement full-day kindergarten with a play-based curriculum. These are significant changes to the *status quo* and will be to the benefit of young children.

Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) have specialized knowledge in approaches that support children's development in all domains through a play based curriculum. They are skilled in preparing environments that promote the natural way that children learn and could work as part of the team with a kindergarten teacher using observation and reflection on children's progress in relation to the outcomes of the curriculum. ECEs historically work closely with parents of children in order to understand children holistically and within the context of their families.

AECENL strongly advises that kindergarten children and the goals of the full-day kindergarten program would be greatly enhanced through the combination of the complimentary knowledge and skills of kindergarten teachers and early childhood educators.

To achieve this, a significant increase in the number of early childhood educators will be required. (See positions papers *Qualified Workforce* and *Recruitment and Retention*.)

March 15th 2016