



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

**Position Paper**

**Quality Child Care**

It is the position of AECENL that only high quality child care is acceptable for children.

Brain development in child's first few years is extremely rapid and the foundation for all future learning and development in the school system and beyond. The experiences young children have in their early years significantly affects their brain development and it is very difficult for deficiencies in early brain development to be remediated in later years.

Many young children are in child care for most of their waking hours and if they are to be successful in school; to be physically healthy; and to be socially and emotionally competent, high quality child care is essential. High quality child care can only be provided by knowledgeable ECE practitioners (see the AECENL Position Paper *Qualified Child Care Workforce, March 2012*).

A high quality child care setting can also provide support to families in their parenting role. Parents want the best for their children and most have doubts or questions about how best to support their children's development. In a high quality setting they can observe how children's behaviour is guided; how their social and emotional development is supported; and the setting that allows the children to develop cognitively in the way that is best suited to their age. In addition, knowledgeable ECE practitioners can answer parents' questions and provide them with child development information.

Children are the future leaders, employers and workforce of communities in Newfoundland and Labrador. High quality child care is the beginning for communities to have an on-going, well-educated population that has effective leaders and the efficient, productive workforce that is required for a community to thrive.

Parents who are in the current workforce are better able to focus on their work if they are confident that their children are in high quality child care. A parent who is concerned about the care their child is receiving is less likely to be able to concentrate fully on the job at hand. High quality child care therefore supports the existing workforce.

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