



Memorandum

Date: October 20, 2021
To: Board of Education
From: Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO
Prepared by: Jamie Robinson, Acting Assistant Superintendent

Information Item: Child Care Spaces in Central Okanagan Public Schools

1.0 ISSUE STATEMENT

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of the early years and the shared responsibilities in ensuring a safe and optimal transition from home to school for our earliest learners (Board Policy 701 - Early Years Partnerships – attached as 'Appendix A').

2.0 RELEVANT BOARD MOTION/DIRECTION

Coordinating Committee Decision – February 16, 2021

A report on current and proposed Child care spaces in Central Okanagan Public Schools facilities will be brought forward to a future Board Meeting.

3.0 BACKGROUND

As a School District, we are invested in collaborating with the community and lead an Early Years Partnerships Committee to connect Early Years partners together in dialogue in order to support a seamless transition from early learning programs and child care settings into kindergarten and the public school system.

The School District has long standing partnerships with child care providers and the partnerships that enhance and support all facets of early learning development (social, emotional, physical, creative and intellectual development). The School District, therefore, collaborates with community partners to offer various programs at school sites throughout the Central Okanagan. Through our partnerships with local preschools and child care providers, as well as, through the direct service of our StrongStart Centres, we know that the Central Okanagan is in need of part-time and full-time quality, affordable, accessible child care spaces, and qualified Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) to staff these programs.

4.0 INFORMATION STATEMENT

Central Okanagan Public Schools partner with third party providers to offer both school-aged out of school care (children 5-12) and early learning child care (children 0-5) to families.

School-aged care is offered at the following nineteen school sites:

Family of Schools	School	Provider
Lake Country	Peter Greer Elementary	Blossom Montessori
	Oyama Traditional	Okanagan Boys and Girls Club
Rutland	Ellison Elementary	The Clubhouse
	Rutland Elementary	Rutland Community
	Quigley Elementary	YMCA
	South Rutland Elementary	Okanagan Boys and Girls Club
	Springvalley Elementary	Okanagan Boys and Girls Club
	Black Mountain Elementary	YMCA
	Pearson Road Elementary	YMCA
Central	Bankhead Elementary	City of Kelowna
	Casorso Elementary	The Clubhouse
	Raymer Elementary	The Clubhouse
	A.S. Matheson Elementary	Okanagan Boys and Girls Club
	North Glenmore Elementary	Okanagan Boys and Girls Club
	Chief Tomat Elementary	Okanagan Boys and Girls Club
Westside	George Pringle Elementary	Okanagan Boys and Girls Club
	George Pringle Elementary	YMCA
	Hudson Road Elementary	Okanagan Boys and Girls Club
	Mar Jok Elementary	City of West Kelowna
	Rose Valley Elementary	YMCA

Early Learning Care is offered at the following thirteen school sites:

Family of Schools	School	Provider
Lake Country	Peter Greer Elementary	Blossom Montessori Preschool
	Aspen Grove Site	Little Owl Academy
Rutland	Ellison Elementary	Clubhouse Preschool/The Farm
	Quigley Elementary	Ki-Low-Na Friendship
	Quigley Elementary	Parent Participation Preschool
	South Rutland Elementary	Metis Community Services (Aboriginal Headstart)
Central	Raymer Elementary	Luna Park Preschool
	North Glenmore Elementary	Okanagan Boys and Girls Club – Little Gators Preschool
	A.S. Matheson Elementary	Okanagan Boys and Girls Club Preschool
	Kelowna Secondary	YMCA
Westside	George Pringle Elementary	Le Petit Hibou Preschool
	Helen Gorman Elementary	Okanagan Boys and Girls Club Preschool
	Peachland Elementary	Okanagan Boys and Girls Club Preschool
	Chief Tomat Elementary	Okanagan Boys and Girls Club Preschool

In total, Central Okanagan Public Schools, in partnership with third party providers, are currently providing over 400 early learning child care spaces and over 600 school age child care spaces to families.

Early Learning Care			School Age	TOTAL
Infant Toddler	Group 3-5	Preschool		
36	72	234	659	1001

In addition, the Board of Education provided a letter of support for the Community Childcare Needs Assessment to be conducted across all four municipalities. Staff have worked with the Childcare Council to analyze the results of this assessment and to assist with developing an inventory of potential child care space in areas of need. District staff reviewed this analysis and assessed where new spaces would have the greatest impact and where school capacity pressures could potentially impair the ability to offer child care programming. In partnership with third party providers, grant applications were then submitted.

The School District has received \$21 million dollars in capital cost funding to build an additional 601 child care spaces (for both school aged care and early learning care) at the following seven schools:

Family of Schools	School	Provider
Lake Country	George Elliot Secondary	YMCA
Rutland	Black Mountain Elementary	YMCA
	Ellison Elementary	The Clubhouse
Mission	Okanagan Mission Secondary	YMCA
	Anne McClymont Elementary	Okanagan Boys and Girls Club
Central	North Glenmore Elementary	Okanagan Boys and Girls Club
Westside	Hudson Road Elementary	Okanagan Boys and Girls Club

5.0 SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS/CEO COMMENTS

The Provincial Government and the Ministry of Education have announced that child care will become the responsibility of the Ministry of Education and School Districts. Central Okanagan Public Schools have a long history of supporting and collaborating with our early learning partners and a number of child care providers. As the new mandate becomes clearer, District staff will continue to assess how to support these important services. Early Learning and Child Care Programs are critical strategies that promote equity in our society. The demand for early learning and child care spaces has never been greater. The District is pleased to support 7 new child care spaces.

6.0 APPENDIX

A. Board Policy 701 – Early Years Partnerships



“Together We Learn”

Section Seven: Community Partnerships

701 – EARLY YEARS PARTNERSHIPS

Introduction

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of the early years and the shared responsibilities in ensuring a safe and optimal transition from home to school for our earliest learners.

The Board of Education believes that certain opportunities which provide for partnerships between the community and schools are beneficial to student success. Partnerships which enhance the preschool years and support all facets of early learning development (social, emotional, physical, creative and intellectual development) are important to the Board.

The Board defines Early Years as 0-8 years of age in accordance with the National Association for Education of Young Children's (NAEYC) definition of early childhood.

Policy

The Board has established an Early Years Partnership Committee which includes trustees, parents, teachers, principals/vice-principals, district staff, child advocacy agencies, and health and childcare providers. The committee's mandate is to promote and coordinate the ongoing expansion of early childhood opportunities (including daycare, preschool, StrongStart, and out of school care), in adherence with Board of Education policies and procedures.

1. Guiding Principles

The Board of Education believes in the importance of:

1.1 Accessibility of early childhood care and learning for families

Early Years Partnerships will:

- promote low-cost space to operators for program operation
- ensure that fair and discreet processes are in place to enable the attendance of preschoolers from low-income families through subsidy provided by the early childhood care operator at a rate established by the Board of Education
- monitor available space within schools for early childhood opportunities

1.2 Well-supported transitions from home to school

Early Years Partnerships will:

- support the Early Years Centre models so that community services can be connected to all families, recognizing the distinct needs of Aboriginal families as well as families from culturally diverse backgrounds



Section Seven: Community Partnerships

“Together We Learn”

- promote the integration of district and community based events/activities/programs to help ensure supported, safe, seamless transitioning from home to school
- promote parent and community involvement in the establishment and operation of the early childhood opportunities in the Central Okanagan School District.

1.3 **Early Years programs that support the health and development of the whole child**

Early Years Partnerships will:

- promote research-based models and philosophies to meet diverse needs of children, family and community
- support the Central Okanagan School District’s *Early Learning and Development Framework for 3-5 Year Olds* (based on the B.C. Primary Program)
- support *The B.C. Early Learning Framework* (co-published by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Children and Family Development and issued by the Early Learning Advisory Group)
- support and promote ongoing professional learning opportunities for parents as partners, childcare providers, early childhood educators and primary teachers (K-2)
- seek opportunities to support families through liaisons with multiple community service providers (recreation, health, dental, mental health, Aboriginal services etc.)

Date Agreed: September 28, 2005

Date Amended: November 25, 2015

Related Document: Early Learning and Development Framework for
3-5 Year Olds; BC Early Learning Framework