



# Centres of Excellence in Preschool Education

## What is a Centre of Excellence in Preschool Education?

A Centre of Excellence in Preschool Education is a designated New Brunswick Early Learning Centre that offers services to preschool children aged five and under and will become a centre of excellence in preschool education. There will be one centre of excellence for each school district. These centres of excellence will work in close partnership with the universities, colleges, school districts and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to foster innovative, best practices for learning environments, teaching practices for all pre-school ages, outdoor play environments, inclusion and diversity, and cultural identity.

These centres of excellence will become demonstration sites for innovative early learning practices. The centres will offer seminars, workshops and support communities of practice for all early childhood educators working with preschool children aged five and under. The centres of excellence will also be opened to the public to create an increased awareness of high quality early learning and child care.

## How will the centres of excellence in each district be selected?

The centres of excellence in preschool education will be selected through an expression of interest. This process will begin in early 2018 with the target of implementation for April 2018.

Licensed centers interested in becoming a centre of excellence must meet the following criteria:

- Become a designated New Brunswick Early Learning Centre
- Be not-for-profit or be willing to become not-for-profit
- Collaborate with post-secondary institutions, school districts and government
- Be willing to open their facility as a professional learning site and open to the public
- Commit to participate in advanced early learning practices training
- Have trained personnel surpassing the provincial requirements
- Offer infant/toddler (0-24 months), and preschool (2-5 years) spaces.

## Who will benefit?

Centres of excellence in preschool education will offer free, flexible, and comprehensive learning environments for educators within their school district territory. Educators will be able to participate in training sessions on child development and interventions to be promoted through workshops, mentoring and learning communities.



Children and parents will be able to visit the centres of excellence to discover play facilities, activities and quality interventions adapted to the child's age of development.

### **Why is it being done?**

During the New Brunswick Child Care Review Task Force, educators “were very interested in learning more about learning environments, child development and child guidance.”

Centres of excellence will share best practices that will help improve the quality of early learning and child care services. The centres of excellence will expand training opportunities for all educators in the province of New Brunswick regarding the *Curriculum éducatif des services de garde francophones Nouveau-Brunswick* and the New Brunswick Curriculum Framework for Early Learning and Child Care ~ English.

In addition, the centres of excellence meet the criteria of knowledge and innovation required under the Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework.

### **For Information**

1 888 762 8600

