



New Brunswick Early Learning Centre Designation

What is the New Brunswick Early Learning Centre Designation?

The New Brunswick Early Learning Centre or New Brunswick Early Learning Home is a designation that will be given to licensed early learning and child care facilities that offer services to preschool children aged five and under through a voluntary application process.

The designated New Brunswick Early Learning Centres and Early Learning Homes will commit to work in collaboration with government to offer equitable and affordable access to higher quality early learning and child care services by removing barriers linked to family income, children's ability and needs, language, and minority settings. This will be accompanied by an on-going operational funding for preschool services and improved parent subsidies. Early learning and child care facilities will need to meet specific eligibility criteria in order to be designated. They must:

1. be in compliance with legislations and program policy of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development on their licensing
2. offer preschool services for preschool children aged five and under – infant care is not required but preferred
3. choose and implement one of the curriculum frameworks: the New Brunswick Curriculum Framework for Early Learning and Child Care ~ English or Curriculum éducatif des services de garde francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick. Centres are only permitted to deliver services in the language of the curriculum framework chosen and ensure that their staff is trained in that curriculum framework.

Designated centres will be required to meet the following quality criteria as outlined in the Early Learning and Child Care Action Plan:

- Commit to implementing the low-fee policy through a subsidized fee grid, with particular attention to low and middle income families.
- Agree to operate within the Market Fee Threshold policy
- Work with the department to investigate ways to provide more infant and toddler spaces
- Improve their capacity to serve all children including those with disabilities and diverse needs through the implementation of inclusive policy and practices;
- Create annual quality improvement plans and assessments
- Centres will actively participate in communities of practice and engage in on-going professional learning, while homes engage in an approved network model.
- Work with government on data sharing to inform public policy.



In return, government will provide on-going operational funding through an operating grant.

Who will benefit from the designation?

Children will benefit from overall improved quality services, including inclusive practices for children with additional needs and social inclusion of cultural minority groups.

Parents will benefit from a low-fee policy that will make child care more affordable and accessible.

The New Brunswick Early Learning Centres will benefit from greater support for educators in delivering higher quality programming.

Why is this being done?

The New Brunswick Early Learning Centres program focuses on the four goals of the Action Plan, which are to improve quality, accessibility, affordability and inclusion.

An essential part of this Action Plan is the establishment of a New Brunswick Early Learning Centre designation for early learning and child care facilities across the province with an overall goal of designating all eligible centres and homes over time.

For more information contact:

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