



Support **CHILD CARE** in Toronto

Help **protect**
high quality **programs**
and keep fees
affordable for
Toronto **families.**



Call **311**

FACTS:

- Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK) is a priority of the Province and a positive initiative for children and families.
- Investing in high-quality early learning and care has both social and economic benefits. It allows parents to work and seek educational opportunities while their children benefit from an early childhood development program.
- Successful implementation of FDK requires supports for child care and the transformation of the child care sector to ensure that it remains stable, sustainable and affordable for families.
- The City conducted an in-depth site by site analysis to determine the impact of FDK on child care and the capital and operating requirements to maintain the licensed child care sector.
- If no resources are made available, licensed spaces in the child care system could decrease by 23% or 7,284 spaces, as a result of 4 and 5 year-olds moving to FDK and the lack of funding to maintain and transform child care facilities.
- Child care operators have plans to protect against the impact of FDK but rely on public funding and support. The majority of child care in Toronto is provided by non-profit organizations that rely on public funding.
- About 80% of funds allocated to funding child care in Toronto are provided by the Government of Ontario.
- By September 2012, 49% of 4 and 5 year-olds will have access to FDK. The absence of children in this age group within the child care system may force the closure of child care operations and increase fees for younger children.

Toronto City Council supports a strong system of early childhood education and care that includes Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK) and quality child care for younger children. Council encourages the Province of Ontario to provide the tools and resources needed to maintain high-quality licensed child care.

The Province has provided some funding to address the impacts of FDK on child care but it is not enough to sustain the child care system. Without adequate funding, Toronto could lose 7,284 licensed child care spaces at a time when more than 20,000 children are waiting for a space.

Council has requested that the Government of Ontario provide:

- \$27.4 million in one-time capital funding to assist child care providers in renovating space vacated by those attending FDK to accommodate younger children. To date, the Province has provided \$1.1 million over three years.
- \$27 million in fee subsidies for younger children and transitional funding to stabilize the child care system and to ensure that it remains stable, sustainable and affordable for families. To date, the Province has provided \$4 million.

Toronto City Council acknowledges the funding pressures impacting all governments and encourages the Province to work with the City to develop a transition plan for Toronto's child care system and to explore options for addressing funding requirements.

What Can You Do?

Call your MPP or Councillor to help ensure that Toronto's child care is adequately funded in the upcoming Provincial budget.

For more information on the status of child care in Toronto, visit:

toronto.ca/supportchildcare