



Submission to: Ministry of Education, Early Years Division

Response to: Regulatory Registry Consultation Document Regarding the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 and the Education Act

Submitted by: Niagara Child Care Sector

April 1, 2016

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The Niagara Child Care Sector (NCCS) seeks to support a community in which all children have access to developmentally appropriate care and education. As part of its mission, the NCCS seeks to inform policymakers and influence policy formulation at the municipal, regional, provincial, and federal levels; and advocate for a higher standard of care and education for young children. With this lens the NCCS sought to facilitate feedback from licensed child care providers in Niagara on the proposed regulations under the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 (CCEYA) and the Education Act.

The feedback provided in this report deals with three key areas; B. Licensing Clarity, E. Licensing Standards, and G. Before- and after-school programs for children age 6-12 years (BASP 6-12): Extended Day and Third Party Programs. Under each of the three areas, feedback has been provided for each of the proposed regulations under the CCEYA and the Education Act as outlined in the Ministry of Education's Regulatory Registry Consultation Document Regarding the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 and the Education Act.

Because of the number of proposed regulations outlined in areas A through H of the MEDU document, it was felt necessary to prioritize the feedback to the top three areas identified by licensed child care providers through a survey. The survey was available online from February 25th until March 3rd, with a total of 42 licensed child care providers who responded. On March 9, the Niagara Child Care Sector hosted a webinar where approximately 30 representatives from licensed child care providers across the Niagara region participated. During the webinar participants were presented with a brief overview of the proposed regulatory changes. Feedback as to whether participants agreed with the changes was gathered through an electronic voting process. Participants were given the opportunity to provide feedback/comments both verbally and/or by instant messaging.

Some licensed child care centres were unable to participate in the webinar; therefore the webinar was recorded and made available. As well, those unable to participate were given the opportunity to provide their feedback via email, which has been included in this report.

## **B. Licensing Clarity**

### **B1. Authorized Recreation and Skill Building Programs**

Do you agree with the proposed regulation?

Response	Count
Agree	8
Do not agree	4
Total	12

Comments: No comments were provided.

### **B2. Exempt circumstances**

Do you agree with the proposed regulation?

Response	Count
Agree	5
Do not agree	1
Total	6

Comments: No comments were provided.

## **E. Licensing Standards**

Section Comments:

- We feel the reduced ratio at the beginning of the day and at the end of the day will pose a great deal of problems as staff will be required to work overtime to meet these demands. It's very difficult to find French qualified staff that are willing to work short split hours and not to mention the financial cost on the childcare centre of hiring additional staff for the same amount of children. Our toddler room is only licensed for ten which means that two spots will be vacant as it is a question of hiring an extra staff for only two extra children, again, making this very costly to maintain. Our centre is not equipped with a diaper area in the preschool room, therefore all children that are two, and now considered preschool (which are rarely toilet trained at this age) must be changed in an area that meets Health and Safety and also Ministry requirements. With all of the proposed changes, not to mention still trying to comprehend the requirements of the program statement, getting ready for our Ministry inspection, Summer Camp planning and continuing to operate day to day, we feel that these policy changes are a lot to complete with no transition time to get them properly written out and explained to the staff. We fear that our licence inspection may be jeopardized. (Email response)*

## E1. Home Child Care

Do you agree with the proposed regulation?

Response	Count
Agree	12
Do not agree	0
Total	12

Comments:

- Clarification on the proposed change on the removal of the 25 maximum.

## E2. Age Groupings, Ratios, Maximum Group Size, Qualifications, and Family Groupings (CCCs) - Infant

Do you agree with the proposed regulation?

Response	Count
Agree	8
Do not agree	4
Total	12

Comments:

- *I think that this change will result in centres with infant programs to close.*
- *This makes a huge impact. Concerns with this change.*
- *What is concerning is how present programs will accommodate rest time for children that need.*

## E2. Age Groupings, Ratios, Maximum Group Size, Qualifications, and Family Groupings (CCCs) - Toddler

Do you agree with the proposed regulation?

Response	Count
Agree	7
Do not agree	6
Total	13

Comments:

- *For sleep time, can 12 months sleep on cots or would they need cribs?*
- *The 1:4 ratio is a concern with the developmental variance of the proposed age range.*
- *For section E2 the proposed changes to the ages of the toddler group, having 12 month olds in with children up to 2 years of age is a large gap in developmental areas. Some 12 month olds are not walking yet and are still on 2 naps. With the changes to preschoolers being 2 years of age again this would have an impact on the children and their development as they could end up in a room with 4 years olds. With the reduced ratio time changing to 1 hour it would require more staffing this would also be the case with the toddler group not being able to have reduced ratios at all. This could affect the budget of a centre. (Email response)*

**E2. Age Groupings, Ratios, Maximum Group Size, Qualifications, and Family Groupings (CCCs)  
- Preschool**

Do you agree with the proposed legislation?

Response	Count
Agree	8
Do not agree	9
Total	17

Comments:

- *This preschool age group is also concerning, especially when we talk about child development. Age 2 to 4 is a huge gap.*
- *We would need to be sure to separate based on developmental needs.*
- *This would be a very young group. It makes me wonder about the quality of care with so many young children together.*
- *Preschool Age: 2 is very young to be in preschool. Can't imagine putting a 2 year old with a child who is 5 years old. That would need two age groups. Very large gap in development.*
- (Other educators also agree with the above comments)

**E2. Age Groupings, Ratios, Maximum Group Size, Qualifications, and Family Groupings (CCCs)  
- Kindergarten**

Do you agree with the proposed regulation?

Response	Count
Agree	12
Do not agree	4
Total	16

Comments:

- *1 to 10 is more manageable for our program.*

**E2. Age Groupings, Ratios, Maximum Group Size, Qualifications, and Family Groupings (CCCs)  
- Primary/Junior school age**

Do you agree with the proposed regulation?

Response	Count
Agree	19
Do not agree	0
Total	19

Comments: No comments were provided.

**E2. Age Groupings, Ratios, Maximum Group Size, Qualifications, and Family Groupings (CCCs)  
- Family Grouping**

Do you agree with the proposed regulation?

Response	Count
Agree	8
Do not agree	6
Total	14

Comments:

- *I truly believe that this family grouping will help smaller centres in small communities that are struggling to keep up with the licencing ratios and trying to find 2 or 3 qualified staff for few children.*

**E2. Age Groupings, Ratios, Maximum Group Size, Qualifications, and Family Groupings (CCCs)  
- At no given time may exceed the maximum capacity set out in the licensed**

Do you agree with the proposed regulation?

Response	Count
Agree	13
Do not agree	1
Total	14

Comments: No comments.

E2. Proposed Ratio Changes (General Comments):

- *Concern for the infant program since mat leave is 0-12 months – and the implication of this change*
- *Quality that everyone has being working towards in the program and how that quality will be maintained with the mixture of young children 2 to 5 years of age, toddlers that are and are not walking*

**E2(ii). Mixed age groupings: Infant, Toddler, Preschool Groups (Proposed changes to age mixing in infant, toddler and preschool groups)**

Do you agree with the proposed regulation?

Response	Count
Agree	14
Do not agree	4
Total	18

Comments:

- *The thought of 10 month olds in a toddler group of 12 is crazy!*
- *E2(ii)- infant and toddler ratios- this will greatly impact all centres that have an infant room, by making a 12 month old a toddler. The majority of parents get a year off work for leave; however, for the ones that do not, it could be difficult for them to find a centre that accepts infants. A lot of infant programs will have to close down or change to toddler rooms. Developmentally, I do not feel that 12 month old children are capable or safe in an environment with 2yr olds. There is a huge gap between a one year old and a two year old developmentally. Some infants are not walking or taking 1 nap a day by 12 months and will not be adaptable in a toddler setting. As our profession moves forward in getting the acknowledgment we deserve, I fell this would take away from the great care we give to infants just entering the daycare atmosphere. (Email response)*

**E2(ii). Mixed age groupings: Infant, Toddler, Preschool (Allow for a director to approve mixed age grouping in more than 1 room in all age categories)**

Do you agree with the proposed regulation?

Response	Count
Agree	11
Do not agree	4
Total	15

Comments: No comments were provided.

**E2(ii). Mixed age groupings: Kindergarten rooms**

Do you agree with the proposed regulation?

Response	Count
Agree	14
Do not agree	0
Total	14

Comments: No comments were provided.

**E2(iii). Reduced Ratios (Staffing allowances for reduced ratios during busy transition periods of the day including arrival & departure times, and during rest periods)**

Do you agree with the proposed regulation?

Response	Count
Agree	13
Do not agree	4
Total	17

Comments:

- *Though I understand the changes to reduced ratios for arrival and departure time, this is going to impact budget and staffing. How is the Ministry going to provide support in this regard?*
- *This will be difficult in staffing over the day.*
- *I agree*
- *I agree with the proposed regulation, however, I'm finding it hard to be able to picture how we will be replacing staff during lunches etc.*
- *As well as the extra cost to have more staff on site.*

**E2(iii). Reduced Ratios (no change to the regulation of the prohibition of reduced ratio during all outdoor time; it is being moved from policy to regulation)**

Do you agree with the proposed regulation?

Response	Count
Agree	15
Do not agree	0
Total	15

Comments:

- *E2(iii)- this would greatly reduce the busyness and confusion at the end of the day. Staff would be more able to talk with parents and build a relationship with them. (Email response)*

**E2(iv). Age Grouping Changes – Impacts to Other Regulations (proposed new age grouping in relation to play activity space, sleep areas, equipment and furnishings, and active and outdoor play)**

Do you agree with the proposed regulation?

Response	Count
Agree	14
Do not agree	1
Total	15

Comments: No comments were provided.

**E2(iv). Age Grouping Changes – Impacts to Other Regulations - Play Activity Space (Remove requirement to separate infants not able to walk from other children during active indoor and outdoor play)**

Do you agree with the proposed regulation?

Response	Count
Agree	8
Do not agree	4
Total	12

Comments: No comments were provided.

**E2(iv). Age Grouping Changes – Impacts to Other Regulations - Play Activity Rooms (For proposed Family Grouping)**

Do you agree with the proposed regulation?

Response	Count
Agree	16
Do not agree	2
Total	18

Comments:

- *This is difficult for staff and children. When having an infant program, it is difficult to keep walkers away from crawlers.*



**E2(iv). Age Grouping Changes – Impacts to Other Regulations - Play Activity Rooms (Update Schedule 1)**

Do you agree with the proposed legislation?

Response	Count
Agree	13
Do not agree	3
Total	16

Comments: No comments were provided.

**E2(iv). Age Grouping Changes – Impacts to Other Regulations - Sleep Areas**

Do you agree with the proposed legislation?

Response	Count
Agree	2
Do not agree	16
Total	18

Comments:

- *How can you plan for some having two naps a day in a one room class?*
- *I agree with (the above comment), it's hard to imagine children napping while others are playing in the same room.*
- *Having to separate the sleep rooms, will have huge implications on each centre. Most toddler rooms do not have access to a separate sleep area. That would make each centre have to modify their rooms?*
- *Finding space is a problem for sleep area.*
- *Regarding having to add a toddler sleep room may be very difficult, from a number of factors.*

**E2(iv). Age Grouping Changes – Impacts to Other Regulations - Sleep Areas (All programs would have cribs or cots available)**

Do you agree with the proposed legislation?

Response	Count
Agree	9
Do not agree	3
Total	12

Comments:

- *I'm thinking just about getting children of 12 months on to cots to begin with. Therefore one staff would be busy helping a few children sleep and the other would be trying to plan for the other 5-6 in the room.*

**E2(iv). Grouping Changes – Impacts to Other Regulations - Diaper changing**

Do you agree with the proposed legislation?

Response	Count
Agree	15
Do not agree	0
Total	15

Comments:

- Clarification to the proposed change – Does this mean that each preschool group of 8 has to have their own diapering area and sink area? Or are they allowed to share?

**E3. Licensee responsible (proposing to update the regulatory requirements around the responsibility of licensees)**

Do you agree with the proposed regulation?

Response	Count
Agree	12
Do not agree	0
Total	12

Comments: No comments were provided.

**E4. Sleep Supervision and Infant Sleep Position (add a new requirement, licensees to have a sleep policy in place)**

Do you agree with the proposed legislation?

Response	Count
Agree	16
Do not agree	1
Total	17

Comments: No comments were provided.

**E4. Sleep Supervision and Infant Sleep Position (add new requirements specific to sleep supervision/monitoring or infant sleep position.)**

Do you agree with the proposed legislation?

Response	Count
Agree	11
Do not agree	5
Total	16

Comments: No comments were provided.

**E5. Sleep Furnishings (Home Child Care) - (proposing to allow for more flexibility in home child care locations (licensed) with respect to requiring a cot/bed for each child)**

Do you agree with the proposed legislation?

Response	Count
Agree	8
Do not agree	0
Total	8

Comments: No comments were provided.

**E6. Posting of Allergies**

Do you agree with the proposed legislation?

Response	Count
Agree	17
Do not agree	0
Total	17

Comments: No comments were provided.

**E7. Children with Medical Conditions - (Require every licensee to have a policy to support children with medical needs that includes the development of an individual plan for each child with a medical need such as anaphylaxis, asthma, seizures, diabetes, etc.)**

Do you agree with the proposed legislation?

Response	Count
Agree	14
Do not agree	5
Total	19

Comments: No comments were provided.

**E7. Children with Medical Conditions - (The individual plan would also need to contain a statement about supports that will be made available to the child and a statement regarding any instructions about any precautions, etc)**

Do you agree with the proposed legislation?

Response	Count
Agree	17
Do not agree	2
Total	19

Comments: No comments were provided.

**E7. Children with Medical Conditions - (The policy would need to set out a communication plan, Training would be required on procedures, and Individual plans for children with medical conditions would need to be kept as part of a child’s record)**

Do you agree with the proposed legislation?

Response	Count
Agree	20
Do not agree	1
Total	21

Comments: No comments were provided.

**E8. Immunization Requirements**

Do you agree with the proposed legislation?

Response	Count
Agree	15
Do not agree	5
Total	20

Comments:

- *That may a cost to parents. Just wondering if parents would have to pay to have the form signed off by one of the listed accepted individuals... to not have their child immunized.*
- *A standardized form would be great!*
- *What about for children who have delayed immunization schedule for health reasons?*

### **E9. First Aid Certification**

Do you agree with the proposed legislation?

Response	Count
Agree	15
Do not agree	3
Total	18

Comments: No comments were provided.

### **E10. Emergency Management Plans and Procedures**

Do you agree with the proposed legislation?

Response	Count
Agree	19
Do not agree	1
Total	20

Comments: No comments were provided.

### **E11. Prohibited Practices**

Do you agree with the proposed legislation?

Response	Count
Agree	20
Do not agree	0
Total	20

Comments:

- *Food should be added to basic needs that can't be deprived.*
- (Others agree)

### **E12. Bodies of Water (Home Child Care)**

Do you agree with the proposed legislation?

Response	Count
Agree	13
Do not agree	0
Total	13

Comments: No comments were provided.

**E13. Serious Occurrences - (Update current definition in regulation of what constitutes a “serious occurrence” to include only incidents related to; any death of a child, allegation of abuse and/or neglect of a child, a life threatening injury or illness)**

Do you agree with the proposed legislation?

Response	Count
Agree	18
Do not agree	1
Total	19

Comments: No comments.

**E13 Serious Occurrences - (Add a clarification regarding a 24 hour window to report a serious occurrence, and add requirement in regulation that Licensees conduct an annual analysis of all serious occurrences)**

Do you agree with the proposed legislation?

Response	Count
Agree	17
Do not agree	2
Total	19

Comments:

- *I would love for them to specify what an injury is. Most of the time, we think we have a serious occurrence and then come to find out that it isn't. Perhaps more clarification would be great.*
- (Others agree)

**E14. Playground Safety and Related Requirements**

Do you agree with the proposed legislation?

Response	Count
Agree	16
Do not agree	1
Total	17

Comments: No comments were provided.

## **G. BASP 6-12 Extended Day and Third Party Programs**

### **G1. Multiple Modes of Service Delivery - Eligible Providers**

Do you agree with the proposed legislation?

Response	Count
Agree	11
Do not agree	2
Total	13

Comments:

- *It would be very important to highlight that there should be every effort made to ensure that there is no duplication of services that are already being offered by licensed childcare.*
- (Others agree)
- *This is fine as long as specific parameters and criteria are developed and in place to avoid duplication of service and destabilizing existing child care.*
- (Other agree)

### **G1. Multiple Modes of Service Delivery - Off-Site Programs for 6-12 year olds (off-school property)**

Do you agree with the proposed legislation?

Response	Count
Agree	10
Do not agree	3
Total	13

Comments: No comments were provided.

### **G2. Assessing and Reporting Demand and Viability - Assessing Demand**

Do you agree with the proposed legislation?

Response	Count
Agree	13
Do not agree	0
Total	13

Comments: No comments were provided.

## G2. Assessing and Reporting Demand and Viability - Exemptions

Do you agree with the proposed legislation?

Response	Count
Agree	13
Do not agree	1
Total	14

Comments: No comments were provided.

## G2. Assessing and Reporting Demand and Viability - Reporting and Affirmation

Do you agree with the proposed legislation?

Response	Count
Agree	9
Do not agree	0
Total	9

Comments: No comments were provided.

## G2. Assessing and Reporting Demand and Viability - Fee Calculation

Do you agree with the proposed legislation?

Response	Count
Agree	11
Do not agree	0
Total	11

Comments:

- *I would be interested in learning more about what a cost recovery would look like. It may be more than what we are paying now.*

## G3. Programming Requirements - Staff Qualifications

Do you agree with the proposed legislation?

Response	Count
Agree	13
Do not agree	0
Total	13

Comments: No comments were provided.



### G3. Programming Requirements - Ratio and Group Size

Do you agree with the proposed legislation?

Response	Count
Agree	15
Do not agree	0
Total	15

Comments: No comments were provided.

### G3. Programming Requirements - Health and Safety

Response	Count
Agree	15
Do not agree	0
Total	15

Comments: No comments were provided.

The Niagara Child Care Sector is dedicated to assisting child care providers, child care centres, home child care providers and all educators working in the Early Learning field to improve outcomes for children who they care for and to contribute to the well-being of the families they work with every day.

Submitted on behalf of Niagara Child Care Sector Executive

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