

Purpose

The Early Years Continuum Project (EYCP) will work with rural and urban locations in Edmonton and Northern Alberta to identify and strengthen broad-based early learning and care continuums for families with young children. The project will help to identify barriers and challenges which currently exist, as well as opportunities and strategies to build a stronger continuum of support for families with children prenatal through to school age.

Goals

Families and children have access to a comprehensive range of early learning and care services in their communities.

Children have opportunities to build a strong foundation of learning and development prior to beginning school.

What is the Early Years Continuum Project?

On behalf of the early childhood sector, Success By 6® received grant funding from the Early Learning Branch of Alberta Education for the Early Years Continuum Project. The three year project will work with 3 or 4 rural and urban locations in Edmonton and Northern Alberta to identify and strengthen early learning and care continuums for families with young children. Each location will be distinctly different in their demographic makeup and service levels.

The project will focus on building the strengths of existing community services. Families and service providers will work together to identify gaps in early learning and care services, and to find solutions. The experiences of each site will be documented for the benefit of other communities in the Province of Alberta.



Where did it come from?

The Early Years Continuum Project is a result of the work of Aligning Early Learning and Care Services (AELCS) in Edmonton. AELCS came together in 2006 to develop stronger connections among the early childhood service sector and to look at potential ways to maximize available resources for children and families. For more information on this initiative go to www.successby6edmonton.info

Why do we need it?

Parents have identified the need for programs and services to be accessible, during the times of day when they can get to them, and appropriate to their needs and those of their children. The Early Years Continuum Project will work with service providers and families to align programs and services to create sustainable improvements for the benefit of families with young children.

Ready access to programs and services is important because there is a strong relationship between the positive development of physical, social, emotional, language and communication skills that children develop in their early years, and their readiness to participate fully in formal learning when they enter grade one.

Q & A

How can I get involved in this project?

Once the locations are identified they will be listed on the Success By 6 website, successby6edmonton.info. If your area has been selected and you wish to be involved, please contact the Early Years Continuum Project Manager for more information.

Where are the locations?

Project locations are in the process of being determined. It is important that each site model and demonstrate different challenges and opportunities so that communities across Alberta may benefit from the experiences.

How long does the project last?

The Early Years Continuum Project began on April 1, 2010 and will conclude on March 31, 2013.

What happens when the project ends?

In each location, the goal will be to identify opportunities to enhance service levels that are sustainable. The project findings may inform future recommendations for the development of an early learning and care framework for Alberta.

How can I sign up for early learning and care programs?

For information on programs and services in your community, call 211. If 211 is not yet available in your area, call (780) 482-4636.



Success By 6® is a community initiative managed by United Way of the Alberta Capital Region.



Funding for this project provided by the Early Learning Branch of Alberta Education

Government of Alberta ■

For more information about this initiative contact

Karin Debenham
Manager, Early Years Continuum Project
15132 Stony Plain Road
Edmonton, Alberta T5P 3Y3
780.990.1000
kdebenham@myunitedway.ca

www.successby6edmonton.info



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