



April 23, 2008
Letter to the editor
Re: Options studied for kindergarten

When it comes to the early learning care and education of young children, qualified professionals come in more than one form.

Elementary school teachers instruct classes in a school environment and are required to complete a university degree and one year of teacher training to be certified by the Ontario College of Teachers.

Early Childhood Educators are currently required to complete a minimum two-year college diploma, though many practicing ECEs have additional specialized post-secondary education. ECE professionals are required to undergo intense study of early childhood development, including the implementation of developmentally appropriate curriculum for infants to school age, with a focus on involving parents through active communication as part of their education and training.

The provincial government has legislated the Ontario College of ECEs, like the College of Teachers, a self-regulated body liken to the Ontario College of Teachers, which will hold ECEs accountable to prescribed standards of practice - and accountability to the public.

ECEs have an exceptionally important role to play in full-day early learning. Their qualifications, and the specialized skills they offer young children, must not be discounted as we move forward. Ontario must seize the opportunity to support families and young children with a diverse workforce and learning environment that best meets the needs of families and young children through an all-day early learning environment.

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