

Wednesday, October 21st 2026
Early Childhood Educator
& Child Care Worker
Appreciation Day
@deceo oebee



Tips for getting your community
ready for Appreciation Day

CARE
COUNTS

WAGES
MATTER



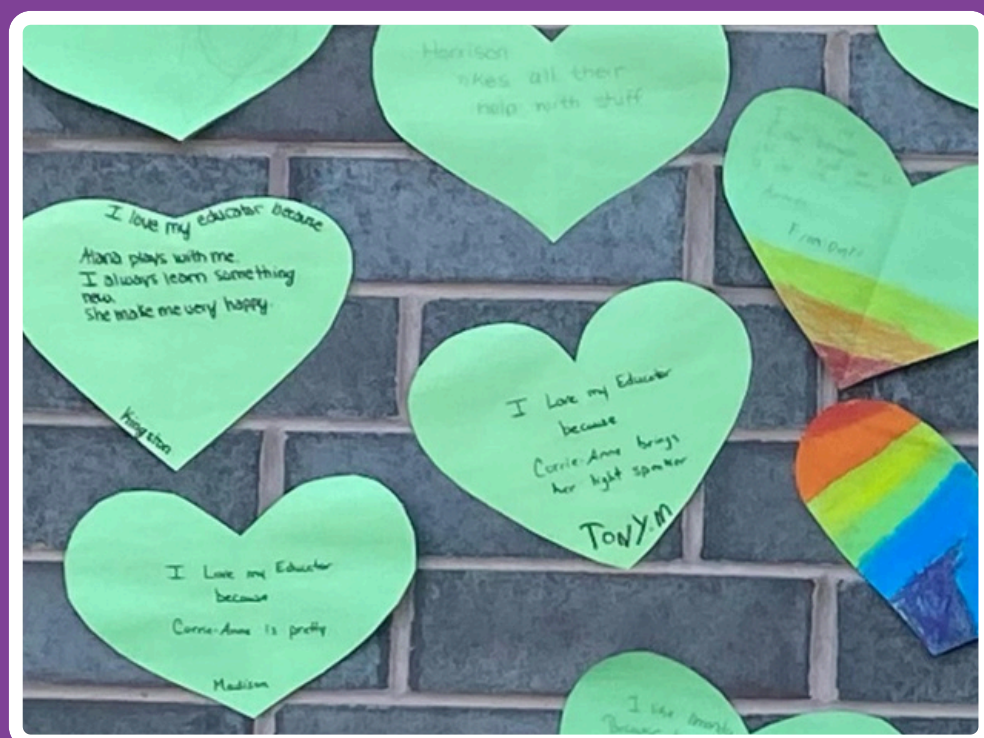
SPREAD THE WORD!

do these before Appreciation Day to make sure your community is ready to **celebrate!**

Share a “mark your calendars!” message with your community

Let families, school staff, and community members know that Appreciation Day is coming up on **October 21st**. You can share this through your email list, group chats, social media, bulletin boards, apps, etc.

Make it visible!



Invite children to decorate your space with visual reminders. Depending on your capacity and their interest, you can let them get creative or use our printable colouring sheets to get started. Check them out now at aeceo.ca!

TIPS FOR FAMILIES

share these with families in your program/class to help them **celebrate their kids' ECEs & Child Care Workers!**

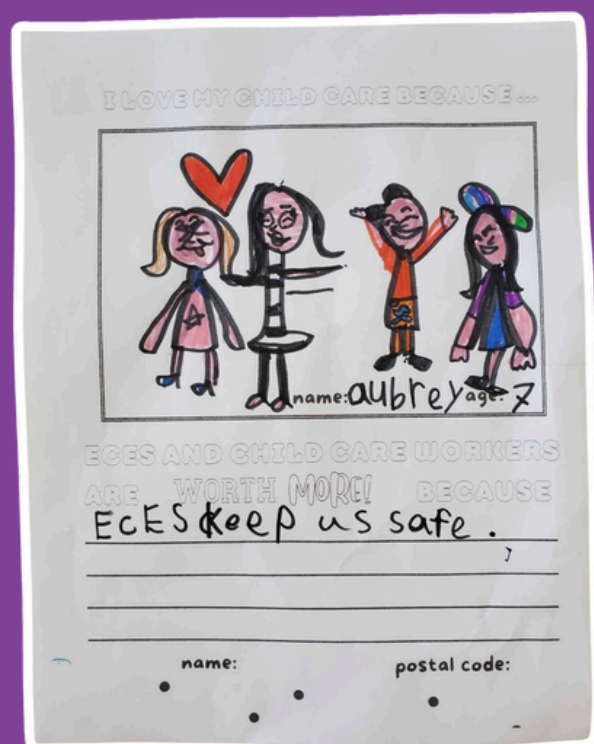


Make Appreciation Day Cards

- Print our card template and make it colourful with markers, crayons, stickers, or add a picture of your child (with their educators if you have it!)
- Make sure you write down your child's name, their school/centre/program, class/group and the date, including the year
- Include a message from the whole family! Share your gratitude and why you all appreciate ECEs and child care workers!



Tips for writing meaningful messages with young children



- Write the message for your child or help them write it themselves
- Talk to your child about their educators individually, showing pictures if available
- Be specific, mentioning activities from your child's day at school/child care: books they read, songs they sing, games they play, mealtimes...



ON APPRECIATION DAY

Make an Appreciation Day mural or “guest” book

Using a bulletin board, a presentation board, or a large sketch book, create a space for families, staff, children and community members to share messages of gratitude and appreciation.



You can leave the mural or book out for a couple of days to give people time to write something, and share the messages with staff at a team meeting, or scan the pages to make them digitally available.



Appreciation Day treats for staff

If your budget allows, treat staff to something yummy! You can kick off ECE and Child Care Worker Appreciation Day with an early morning boost (coffee/tea + muffins, for example), offer a special lunch, or an Appreciation Day dinner.

scan the QR code or go to aeceo.ca to find these tips and resources



APPRECIATION BEYOND OCTOBER 21ST

Treats, gifts, and words of appreciation are very nice, and always welcomed, but what early childhood educators & child care workers *really need* is systemic change that shows long term appreciation in the shape of **professional wages and supportive working conditions.**

What you can do: Get involved with the Care Counts campaign

Through this multi-year advocacy campaign, the AECEO & the OCBCC are bringing together partners and allies across Ontario to call on the provincial government to develop, implement, and fund **a wage grid that reflects the important role ECEs and child care workers play in our communities,** starting at **\$35-\$45/hour for RECEs** and **\$28/hour for non-registered staff.**



Care Counts Rally on October 29th

Join the AECEO, the OCBCC, the OFL, CUPE Ontario, the South Asian Women's Rights Organization (SAWRO), and Parents for Child Care for a lunch time rally on the South Lawn of Queen's Park on Thursday Oct. 29th at 12PM. Not in Toronto or unable to join the rally? Stay tuned for ways you can participate

scan the QR code or go to aeceo.ca to RSVP to the rally & get updates!

