



## ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION: QUESTION 01

1. *What are key elements of early learning & care that child care environments (i.e. Family Child Care, Day care, Out of School Care, Parent Link Centres, Head Start and Preschool programs etc...) are most instrumental in supporting/addressing ?*

### Foundation

- Nutrition
- Accountability (Family involvement)
- Relationships (secure attachment, trust)
- Maintain the integrity of care/learning & supporting the family

### Educated workforce

- Having Educated staff
- Jobs vs. supporting educated professionals – using the strength of the individual caregivers valuing them.
- Childcare environments having an opportunity for professional development set of standards that are believed in.
- Professional wages for staff
- Continuous Professional Development opportunities
- High quality administrative staff

### Affordable, Accessible Quality Child Care Services

- Affordable rates for parents
- Involving community & utilizing the community connections we have as well as building more community connections
- Networking with other resources in community in the best interest of children advocating for families
- Having families come first – knowing your families needs by listening – implementing into programs
- Accountability
- Affordable rates for parents otherwise they'll seek out private care)
- Respect & team work with families providing research & parent info nights



## ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION: QUESTION 02

2. *Do you think early learning and care should be universal and affordable for all children and families?*

- Absolutely
- Yes it should be accessible to all families

*What does that look like for children and families?*

- Possibility of more government/business partnerships to provide service and support
- Childcare should not be a stand alone resource for families (hub model with all services under one roof that supports holistic practice)
- Important to provide inclusive environment for all families of diverse backgrounds
- Accessibility includes cultural needs, location, transportation, cost that communities can invest in
- Children should have opportunity to grow & thrive in an environment that is monitored & appropriate instead of going to private non regulated care that may be all the parents can afford.
- Families should have choices & be empowered with the opportunity for high quality care & personal growth
- Providers have the opportunity to develop a diverse program to impact all children



## ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION: QUESTION 03

*3. What information do we need to make good investments in early childhood development.*

- Linking many different supportive resources and factual information to be able to assess the well being and health of “society - early childhood years”
- Information is gathered by various agencies, schools, communities. This needs to be put together for total evaluation and thereby make assessments of needs and areas of deficiencies
  - Dr Corriveau’s example of China
  - Leduc recreation centre-Child Community hub for various programs



## ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION: QUESTION 04

4. *What outcomes for early child development should be important to us as a province?*

- Brain development that supports minds that are healthy and lead to good critical thinking and social skills of strong future citizens
- Are we making gainful investments by investing in children
  - Social investments & in terms of developing optimal healthy developing children
  - Reducing gap between family & cultural diversity
  - Listening & satisfying the curiosity
  - Social skills – so that we are supporting an environment of healthy well adjusted children into adulthood.
  - Greater links and research reinforcing positive attributes of supporting children’s healthy development when supported in high quality care services and their overall impact on how this positively affects family & community



## ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION: QUESTION 05

*5. How can we close the gap between what we know about early childhood development and what we do in the early learning & care community and our practice? What evidence-based strategies should we use?*

- Sharing information within the field
- Better networking – lets' share our good ideas
- Improved qualifications and training standards
- More role modeling (mentoring) vs lecture style learning (balance of theory and practice strategies to support and mentor the sector)
- Create a database to link centres with similar challenges/environments so they can connect & share/brainstorm ideas
- Link community child care settings so they can share resources
  - Example – centre A has a pool or lending library centre B has outdoor playground A & B could do field trips to each other's centres
  - Engage parents more
  - Engage community more
  - Make EC centres the community hub



## ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION: QUESTION 06

6. *In light of the future impending provincial election what strategies can we employ in our programs/centres or community to communicate the importance of early learning and care more broadly to support enhanced public awareness?*
- Every parent of a newborn child in the province of Alberta should receive a copy of the “Let’s talk” document.
  - Make information accessible – use social media to get our messages out
  - Ensure public health nurse & pediatricians get this information – get the info out there
  - Emphasize the fiscal responsibility to government – there is a persuasive argument.
  - Get beyond the initial reaction (i.e. What does this has to do with me?)
  - What are the tangible benefits to community of investing in ECO
  - This report really helps us point out the relevance we need to think differently – how do we make programs sustainable – getting beyond “pilot” programs
  - Identify what is working well in community – communicate this clearly to decision makers
  - Let front line people do the work they need to do
  - Local decision making is critical – how to get a broader range of stakeholders out to meetings would be an important “next step” to keep momentum building
  - Support the participation of community members who do not have a professional responsibility to be involved (e.g. travel & childcare support for parents to be involved)
  - Can we influence policy around Parental Leave – look at how other jurisdictions have achieved this.
  - Involvement of business is critical- need to expand to include and reflect their involvement
  - Hold community information nights, newsletters, send out brochures. Talk to all stakeholders involved. By modeling this type of quality in our programs.