



MCYS EARLY YEARS PROGRAMS

OPHS CHILD HEALTH STANDARD AND PROTOCOLS ROLL-OUT

Marlene Stein

Manager, Early Years Programs

Ministry of Children and Youth Services

November 18, 2008



Early Years Programs

Early years programs are a suite of programs designed to help **give children the best possible start** in life and **help parents balance demands of work and family.**

They include:

- Healthy Babies Healthy Children
- Pre & Post Natal Nurse Practitioner
- Blind- Low Vision
- Infant Hearing
- Infant Development
- Early Literacy Specialists
- Preschool Speech and Language
- Ontario Early Years Centres
- Enhanced 18 Month Well-Baby Visit
- Health Promotion Resource Centres
- Student Nutrition Program



Early Years Programs (EYPs)

- EYPs are as evidence based as possible.
- Each has its unique history and place in the service system, but each is delivered to enable children to achieve their optimal development.
- EYPs recognise the importance of parental involvement in their child's development, but
- also the importance of Early Learning in supporting children to be ready for school
- All EYPs are delivered in the context of the MCYS Strategic Framework.



Context for EYPs:
Strategic Goals for the MCYS Strategic Framework

EVERY CHILD AND YOUTH HAS A VOICE

**EVERY CHILD AND YOUTH RECEIVES
PERSONALIZED SERVICES**

**EVERYONE INVOLVED IN SERVICE DELIVERY
CONTRIBUTES TOWARD ACHIEVING COMMON OUTCOMES**

EVERY CHILD AND YOUTH IS RESILIENT

**EVERY YOUNG PERSON GRADUATES FROM
SECONDARY SCHOOL**



Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC)

- HBHC is a prevention, early identification and intervention program available to all families with children from the prenatal period until age six, who are identified at risk.

It provides:

- Universal screening for pregnant women and every new baby and mother;
- Home visiting for families identified as at risk;
- Case management;
- Early identification.

2007 activities:

- Provided prenatal screening to 27,300 pregnant women. Six percent more women received prenatal screening in 2007 compared to 2006;
- Screened 124,000 live births to identify risk factors;
- Public Health Nurses contacted 120,000 consenting families shortly after they left the hospital with their newborns; and
- Public health nurses visited 47,500 consenting families shortly after they left the hospital with their newborns.



Prenatal and Postnatal Nurse Practitioners (PPNP)

- PPNP is a small program delivered in eight underserved communities.
- It offers primary care to pregnant women, their infants and children under the age of six.

2007 activities:

- Clinics had an average of 1,200 client visits per year, 950 of which were for clients without a family physician;
- They each served an average 215 new clients and their families;
- This program reduces the barriers for these vulnerable families to access health care; and



Blind-Low Vision (BLV)

- BLV was implemented in the Fall of 2007.
- It provides the critical early intervention and parent education services to assist and support families of children born blind or with low vision to help them to achieve healthy development.

2007-08 activities:

- Served 367 children and their families.



Infant Hearing Program (IHP)

- IHP identifies babies born deaf or hard of hearing and provides services to these children and their families to support language and early literacy development so they are ready to learn when they start school.

IHP provides:

- universal newborn hearing screening in hospitals and community settings,
- audiology assessment and habilitation,
- monitoring for those babies born at risk of early childhood hearing loss,
- services to support language development in infants and preschool children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

2007-08 activities:

- The program screened 121,770 newborns which is 93% of all live births in Ontario; 72 babies were identified with permanent hearing loss; and
- 630 children and their families received services to support language development.



Infant Development Program (IDP)

- IDP serves children with developmental disabilities or those at risk for a developmental delay, from birth until age five.
- There are 49 IDP's across Ontario sponsored by a range of lead agencies including hospitals, health units, and children's treatment centres.

IDP services include:

- Screening and assessment of children who are identified with or are at risk of developmental delays;
- Home visiting and early intervention for children who are disabled or delayed in one or more of the full range of developmental domains (gross and fine motor, social and emotional, adaptive functioning, language and cognitive);
- Community wide planning with other service providers;
- Consultation with other early years supports and service providers including HBHC; and
- Transitional planning for children moving to child care and school settings.

2007-08 activities:

- Served 12,274 children and their families.



Preschool Speech and Language (PSL)

- PSL is an integrated system of services delivered across the province.
- Children with speech and language disorders are identified as early as possible through targeted and universal strategies.
- The program provides these children with services to enable them to develop communication and early literacy skills so they are ready to learn when they start school.

PSL services include:

- Early identification of children with speech and language disorders and delays.
- Simplified access through one toll-free number and direct parent referral.
- Assessment of children for speech and language disorders.
- A range of age- and disorder-appropriate interventions
- Parent and caregiver education
- Transitional planning for children entering school.
- Linkages to other EYPs

2007-08 activities:

- Assessed 21,538 new children.
- Provided active service to 53,338 children.



Ontario Early Years Centres (OEYCs)

- OEYCs offer programs in literacy, numeracy, health and nutrition
- They offer parenting workshops and seminars, and linkages to a wide range of other early years services.
- Staff promote children's readiness to learn and healthy child development through formal and informal drop-in programs and services.
- They operate in partnership with many community programs and resources including EYPs - PSL, IHP, BLV, HBHC.

2007-08 activities:

- Service was provided in 1,252 locations, including 356 schools, 198 recreation and community centres, 130 multi-service or health centres, 166 faith based facilities, 70 child care centres and 69 libraries.
- OEYCs provided services to almost 260,000 children and almost 221,000 parents and caregivers.
- OEYCs welcomed almost 2 million visits by children and more than 1.5 million visits by parents and caregivers.



18Month Enhanced Well-Baby Visit

- This program is working toward having a standardized developmental review and evaluation for children at 18 months of age completed by the primary health care provider in collaboration with parents.
- The enhanced visit is currently being piloted in the Best Start Demonstration communities, with Family Health Teams (FHT) in North York and Haliburton, as part of a Ministry of Health and Long-term Care (MOHLTC) funded initiative with the University of Toronto Department of Family and Community Medicine and the Centre for Effective Practice, and with the Niagara and Stratford FHTs.
- Learning and best practices from the evaluation of these models continues to inform on-going planning for the enhanced visit across the province.



Student Nutrition Program (SNP)

- SNP supports community organizations in delivering nutritious meals and snacks to children and youth in elementary and secondary schools and community agencies across Ontario.
- MCYS provides up to 15% of the cost of the program and the community raises the remainder.
- \$9.4 million in new ongoing funding plus \$3.9 million in one-time funding was announced in 2008 budget to establish breakfast and morning meal programs in high needs communities.
- In 2008 MCYS revised the Nutrition Guidelines for this program to bring them in line with the new Canada Food Guide.
- A total of 389,795 children and youth were served during the 2006-07 school year.



Early Literacy Specialists (ELS)

- The ELS strengthen, support and promote effective early literacy and language development for young children and their parents.
- Early Literacy Specialists operate primarily through the Ontario Early Years Centres to provide training and support to promote early language and literacy with early years professionals and parents. They form linkages with other community-based early years programs such as Healthy Babies Healthy Children, Preschool Speech and Language, child care centres and libraries.

2006-07 activities:

- Provided early literacy training services to 44,930 community participants.
- Served 17,490 early years professionals in their local communities.
- Established 1,830 linkages and protocols with other members of the early years' system.



Health Promotion Resource Centres

- MCYS has responsibility for Best Start maternal Newborn Resource Centre and Curriculum and School Based Health Resource Centre (OPHEA)
- As with all the resource centres their mandate is to increase the capacity of health promoters at the community level to provide effective health promotion programs.
- They provide consultations, training, information and resources for health care providers and community professionals from across the province, including public health units, non-governmental organizations, community health centres, Ontario Early Years Centres, hospitals and First Nations.
- These 2 centres deliver their services within the context of MCYS programs.



Contact Information

Marlene Stein S-LP(C), Reg.CASLPO

Manager

Early Years Programs Unit

Early Learning and Child Development Branch

Ministry of Children and Youth Services

56 Wellesley St. West 15th Fl.

Toronto, ON M5S 2S3

Tel: 416-327-4869

Fax: 416- 327-0570

Email: marlene.stein@ontario.ca