

## Early Childhood Education

104.2, 104.7, 105.5, 108.13, 109.23, 110.6, 114.16, 115.3, 115.7, 115.8, 115.10, 116.5, 119.13, 121.1, 121.5, 121.11, 123.8, 123.11, 123.12, 123.13, 124.5, 124.11, 124.12, 124.13, 124.13, 124.15, 125.4, 129.5, 129.6, 129.7, 129.9, 129.11, 129.12, 129.13, 130.1, 131.3, 131.10, 132.6, 132.9, 132.12, 132.14, 132.21, 133.4, 134.19, 136.1, 136.7, 137.10, 140.11, 141.17, 141.23, 141.25, 141.26, 141.33, 141.37, 141.39, 141.41, 141.44, 150.4, 150.10

A number of presentations focused on early childhood education and the importance of early intervention to remediate problems and concerns faced by young learners as they enter the formal school system. It was noted that the environment in which many children are raised has changed over time.

*Children today are very different with a diversity of ability. The upbringing of children has a long lasting impact. Parents generally spend less time with their children and although high quality childcare is available to some – there is not enough. When children aren't exposed at an early age to crayons pencils and scissors there can be delays in neurological pathways.*

Julie Zoney, Maple Ridge

Many presenters spoke to the importance of the early years to a child's development and future success in the public school system and in life.

*Wonder should permeate the early years. Learning should be play based and should address the five goals of the primary program: aesthetic and artistic development, emotional and social development, intellectual development, physical development and well being, and development of social responsibility – the whole child.*

Carol Johns, Cranbrook

*With somewhere around 70% of mothers currently in the workforce and a chronic shortage of quality child care spaces, the logical conclusion seems to be the merge early childhood education more closely with the public education system. Even with all our knowledge of the value of early childhood care, education and intervention, teachers are finding an increasing number of children who do not possess the skills for kindergarten readiness.*

Lynne Reside, Written submission

Others referred to opportunity and access.

*There must be an equal opportunity and access for all students. Holistic education forms the basis to allow children to develop at their own rate and use their own learning styles. We need to appreciate children for being themselves – it is important to celebrate diversity.*  
Carol Tahsuda, Fort St. John

Some spoke very clearly about the importance of recognizing young children in their own right as people in our society.

*It is our belief that children are children first. They are people, individuals, with hopes, dreams, abilities, passions, intellect, and a right to chart their own course in life. They are powerful, active, competent members of our society.*  
The Rocky Mountain Primary Teachers' Association, Written submission.

Early childhood education is of great importance to the public education system, to the success of each individual child and to our society. Many presenters suggested a closer relationship, and even an integration of early childhood education programs with the formal public education system.

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Lynne Reside, Written submission

