

Best Start...Best Future

Lambton Children's Planning Network **2012-2013 Report**



Highlights of Achievements

What the Plan Called For:	What Was Accomplished:
Provide emergent literacy education and supports for Early Years Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Offered continuing education on emergent literacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sowing the Seeds for Literacy Conference • Teacher Talk-Let Language Lead the Way to Literacy • ABC and Beyond
Develop a Neighbourhood Coalition to collect information about the needs of families in Southwest Sarnia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Completed asset mapping and identified building strong relationships with families as a priority ✓ Disseminated information through community partnerships (e.g. Mobile Market)
Establish a No Wrong Door system endorsed by early years' providers to guide families to the services they need locally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Received \$25,0000 Innovation Fund Grant from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services ✓ Regular meetings with executive directors from core early years' services guided by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) ✓ Common Family Information Form with consent to share information developed ✓ Community of Practice established to further support service integration among early years' services
Facilitate discussion between urban child care centres to develop efficiencies in staffing & discuss the impact of Child Care Modernization locally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ MOU signed by 12 child care centres ✓ Job fair held and resulted in hiring of 16 call-in staff ✓ Two focus groups held with child care services and partners to discuss moving forward with the Modernization of Child Care resulting in formation of an ad hoc committee
Increase Primary Care Practitioner knowledge of community resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Presentations made to all six Family Health Teams and Community Health Centres in Lambton County
Improve early identification of at-risk children & increase early referrals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Distributed 400 books to families during 18-month well baby visits to promote early literacy ✓ Meeting held with the LKDSB and SCCDSB to strategize developmental screening for every child upon school entry
Facilitate Indigenous Cultural Competency Training for community partners & develop Indigenous Resource Kits to promote awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Training held in partnership with Aamjiwnaang First Nations and Walpole Island First Nations and led to better understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal heritage, culture and traditions by community ✓ Four kits have been developed and training on use of the materials will take place in early 2014
Develop common funding approach for administering Preschool Early Learning Program (PELP) in Sarnia and Lambton County in 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Model presented to the County of Lambton Council, approved and implemented in September 2013

2012-2013 in Numbers

- 160** community partners trained in No Wrong Door System
- 1288** families received Healthy Babies Healthy Children screening
- 99** families received Healthy Babies Healthy Children home visiting services
- 233** infant hearing screenings completed on infants that did not receive at Bluewater Health
- 3910** visits made to the Parent and Professional Resource Centre (PPRC)
- 66** Professional Learning Events offered by the PPRC

- 200** professionals attended *Sowing The Seeds For Literacy* Conference
- 358** new speech referrals received
- 763** children received speech and language services in over 50 community locations, including Best Start Hubs, Ontario Early Years Centres, Full Day Kindergarten Classrooms, and Licensed Childcare Centres
- 1765** calls answered through Best Start Information Line
- 107** women and their families accessed Postpartum Mood Disorder services
- 227** families were seen in mental health CHILD CHECK clinics

Priorities Moving Forward 2014-2015

- Promote early identification of three year olds requiring supports entering Full Day Kindergarten
- Provide cross-sectoral training with a focus on multiple literacies, including numerical and media
- Launch Facebook/Twitter accounts to reach more families and improve messaging on the importance of the early years
- Support child care through the Modernization process
- Submit a community plan for Child Care Modernization to Ministry of Education
- Complete the process evaluation for the No Wrong Door system
- Develop a system wide approach to further support indigenous families
- Increase understanding of indigenous culture and traditions
- Implement Ontario's Early Learning Framework and Best Start Child and Family Centres



Challenges

- All partners of the LCPN face ongoing budget and resource constraints
- Sarnia-Lambton's Child Care funding cut by \$1.5 million a year as a result of a new provincial funding formula
- 23% of children entering school are not ready to learn (*Early Development Instrument - Lambton County 2011*)
- The new Healthy Babies Healthy Children Protocol requires public health to focus on families with highest needs which means a universal home visiting program no longer exists
- In 2012, the County of Lambton implemented a waiting list for families accessing fee subsidy
- Significant increase in school age child care programs with no new funding

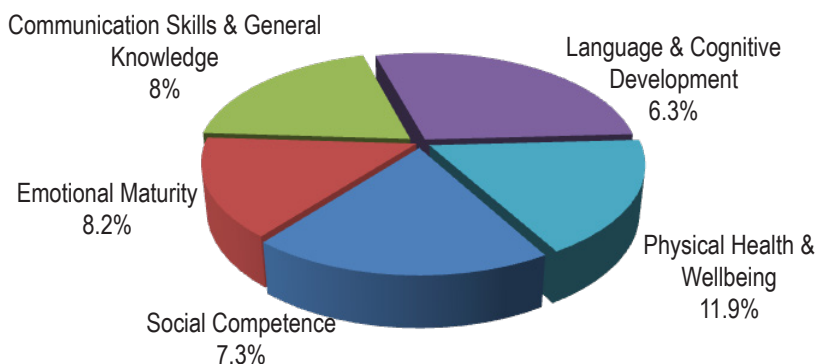


Quality Assurance

The Lambton Children's Planning Network (LCPN) supports the local use of development assessment tools to ensure that young children are receiving the proper services wherever they may be on the developmental spectrum. The LCPN also provides supports and resources to parents, educators and service providers so that a high quality of care for our community's children is maintained.

Early Development Instrument (EDI)

The EDI measures how ready children are to begin learning at school. This chart illustrates the percentage of Lambton children vulnerable in each of the domains in 2011.



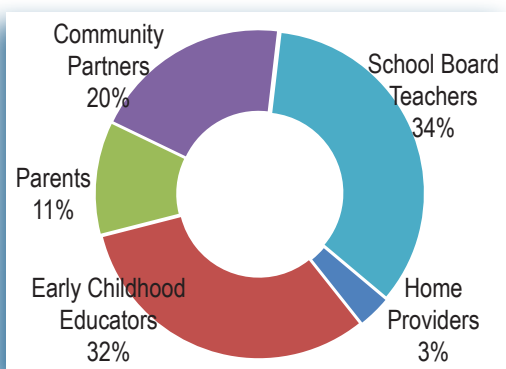
Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ)

Licensed child care centres in Sarnia-Lambton are required to complete an ASQ on all children 30-60 months. As a result, children with identified needs are referred to community supports for follow-up and further assessment, prior to starting school. Outcomes are better the earlier children are identified.

Parent and Professional Resource Centre (PPRC)

The LCPN supports, and the County of Lambton funds, the Parent and Professional Resource Centre (PPRC) operated by Lambton College. In 2012 there were 467 members. Professional Resources that support Ontario's Early Learning Framework are featured. The centre offers laminating, materials, die cuts and professional learning materials that support community professionals and parents.

2012 Membership



About the Lambton Children's Planning Network

The Lambton Children's Planning Network (LCPN) represents Lambton's commitment to working and planning together to support the early learning, health, and wellbeing of each child with the long-term view of enriching the quality and capacity of future generations.

"The Lambton Children's Planning Network is a great example of how community partners can work together to achieve better outcomes for families and children. From a public health perspective, we look forward to this continued collaboration in support of healthy development for children in Lambton County!"

Dr. Sudit Ranade, Medical Officer of Health

"As a Public Health nurse working in a large rural district, I am privileged to partner with Ontario Early Years staff in several locations. The programming that is scheduled in these sites is tailored to the current needs of the community. Parent drop-in locations are effective venues for Public Health education and support of families. Hub co-ordinators and staff work closely with Public Health nurses to determine programs that are age appropriate for the children receiving services. I continue to have high regard for the investment into families that our Hub educators deliver."

Katherine McCallum, R.N. B. ScN.

"We do not know what we would do if this was not available to us. My children seem to enjoy coming here and socializing with their friends. The programs keep them active and socialized which is great!"

Pam Cameron, Parent

"I absolutely love the PPRC and am very thankful that we have this wonderful place where professionals, students and parents can go and learn from each other. The amount of professional development that is available for us is incredible and makes it a lot easier for us to remain current in our profession without having to travel to locations far away."

Lisa Teft, Supervisor, Childcare St. Anne & Y Children's Centre

"Being able to receive Pathways services at our local best start hub has been critical to my son's treatment. Financially and logistically it would have been difficult to get into Pathways once, sometimes twice, a week. The staff at the Best Start Hubs are always so warm and welcoming. Just an added bonus to the fantastic therapy Pathways offers."

Stacey, Parent

"Despite huge reservations, I contacted the PPMD program [at St. Clair Child & Youth Services]. I am grateful for all the support and resources provided through the program and believe I am a better mom now to both my children."

Former Client of the Postpartum Mood Disorder Program (name withheld at author's request)



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