



WHAT IS

QUALITY

CHILD

CARE?





QUALITY CHILD CARE INCLUDES...

Warm,
responsive
educators who
truly respect
each child

A system
built on
equity, not
luck

Closing the
gaps and
supporting an
inclusive
system for all

A public
investment
that brings
long term
benefits to the
community

Fair wages,
adequate
training and
time to plan
and reflect for
ECEs

Programs that
reflect
community,
cultures and
the teachings
of Indigenous
Education

Families who
feel welcome,
informed and
involved

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What is Quality?

Here is what key evidence,
stakeholders and researchers say...



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MCCA's Roadmap to a Quality Early Learning and Child Care System in Manitoba shows quality as child-centered, inclusive and that it prioritizes children's rights, holistic development, and well-being.

Beach, J. (2022, May). Roadmap to a Quality Early Learning and Child Care System in Manitoba. Manitoba Child Care Association. Retrieved from <https://mccahouse.org/sites/default/files/2024-10/Roadmap-to-Manitoba.pdf>



The Quality by Design Project suggests that there are **eight** elements of quality. The elements include ideas, governance, infrastructure, planning and policy development, financing, human resources, physical environment and data, research and evaluation.



Mamàhtawisiwin: The Wonder We Are Born With

sets the stage for an inclusive education system where children and youth can find **success** and **empowerment** through the principles of the **Circle of Courage**

The Spirit of Generosity

Character is cultivated by concern for others so that the child can say, "I have a purpose for my life."

The Spirit of Independence

Free will is cultivated by responsibility so that the child can say, "I have the power to make decisions."



The Spirit of Belonging

The universal longing for human bonds is cultivated by relationships of trust so that the child can say, "I am loved."

The Spirit of Mastery

The inborn thirst for learning is cultivated; by learning to cope with the world, the child can say, "I can succeed."

Figure 2: Circle of Courage*

* The Circle of Courage® is a trademarked title registered to Starr Commonwealth, and is a positive youth development model that is based on the universal principle that to be emotionally healthy all youth need a sense of belonging, mastery, independence and generosity. The copy righted content within this unique model was developed by Starr's 2nd President, Dr. Larry K. Brendtro (PhD), and his colleagues, and it provides the philosophical foundation for Starr Commonwealth's resilience-focused approach to working with children, families, and communities, in addition to the work of Reclaiming Youth International.



The Canadian Child Care Federation shares that high quality early learning and child care promotes children's physical and psychological safety. It also promotes health and their emotional, social, cognitive, ethical and creative development.

Team Reflection Question

My vision of Quality Care is

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Play with Purpose

In one word, what does quality mean to you when it comes to early learning?

Here are some games you can play in a staff meeting or group discussions you have about quality.

Write your word on a sticky note, but don't show it. Take turns giving a quick, one-sentence clue, and have the team guess your word.

Example:

Clue: "Without this, nothing truly grows."

Word: Nurture

Challenge yourself to draw your word on a whiteboard or piece of paper (no letters!). Let the team guess what it is, then reveal the word and explain why you chose it.

Example:

Word: Belonging

You might draw a circle of smiling stick figures holding hands.

Act out your word silently with a gesture or expression. Let others guess before you reveal the word and share why it represents quality to you.

Example:

Word: Joy

You jump up with your arms in the air and a big smile!

Inviting Children's Voices

How can we shift from having only “adult conversations” about something so important to children; to actually including their voices in meaningful ways? Through play, of course. Below are some developmentally appropriate ways to invite children into the conversation. Feel free to adapt to whatever way would meet the needs of your group of children.

Infants

Observe children's reactions to different environments, routines, sensory experiences, caregivers. What soothes them? What excites them?

Is there a pattern?

Toddlers

Use simple, but engaging prompts like:

Show me your favorite place to play, what makes you feel happy here?
Noticing and narrating what children do throughout the day.

Preschoolers & School Ageds

Use the block area to get the children to design their “dream” daycare. How can educators take those dreams and incorporate into programming?

Ask children what makes them feel safe, happy and included.

Invite children to draw pictures about what a great day at your program looks like to them.

Ask children, if they could make one change in your program, what would it be? As educators, is it possible?

Document your quality journey through pictures, learning stories and picture displays.



LET'S STAY CONNECTED



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