



# The Heart of High-Quality: The Role of an ECE



**ECES are the essential foundation on which we will develop a high-quality and sustainable system for Manitoba children and families.**





# What makes an **excellent** educator?

**Advocate**      **Co-Learner**  
**Play Partner**      **Relationship Builder**  
**Reflective Practitioner**  
**Caring**      **Observer & Listener**  
**Inclusive & Anti-Bias**      **Collaborator**

# Reflective Questions

- What does being a “quality educator” mean to you?
- How does professional development for educators impact quality?
- How do you create spaces of belonging for all children?
- How do you know when we are providing quality care? describe what it feels like?
- What do you teach children, families and the public about your role as an ECE?
- When have you felt most proud of the work you do?

# Play with Purpose

## *Exploring the Impact of Quality*

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### **Quality Snapshots Challenge**

- Split your group into teams.
  - Each team has to take 3 quick photos around your program that shows what quality looks like in action.
  - share and explain why you took each picture.
  - Document and share with your families.
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### **What hat are you wearing?**

- On strips of paper create a crown with the many different educator roles on them. (Observer, Planner, Comforter, Play Partner, Advocate etc.)
  - Pass out a different hat to each person.
  - Invite everyone to share a recent story or moment from their week where they wore that hat.
  - Deeper reflection: which hat do you wear most often? Which hat might you need to spend more time wearing?
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# 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.

## *Reflecting on care and the role of ECEs*

### **Infants and Toddlers**

Invite the infants and toddlers to choose photos of familiar educators or family members to put in a "my people" book or board. Invite family members to share photos from home.

Create a collaborative art piece/photo wall that shows each child and educator and the quality of child-educator relationship in your program.

### **Preschoolers & School Ageds**

Have children and families respond to the question "what do you think a great ECE does" and post them on a bulletin board. Have educators respond to these answers as a

Give children the prompt "what do educators do that make you feel safe or happy" then document on speech bubbles and share in spaces your team shares.

Print photos from your program and invite the children to write captions about how the educator made them feel in that photo.

Use the word EDUCATOR to create a Acrostic Poem and ask the children to draw one word or a phrase for each letter in the word

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



**LET'S STAY CONNECTED**



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