



# Parents as Partners: What does quality look like to families?





**An ECEs role is  
important in helping  
families see, feel  
and trust the quality  
in your program.**

**Here is how we can  
help families  
identify quality...**



**Warm welcomes and consistent routines.**

**How you speak and listen to parents. Sharing observations and build relationships rooted in respect and trust.**

**They recognize it in how their child thrives in your program.**

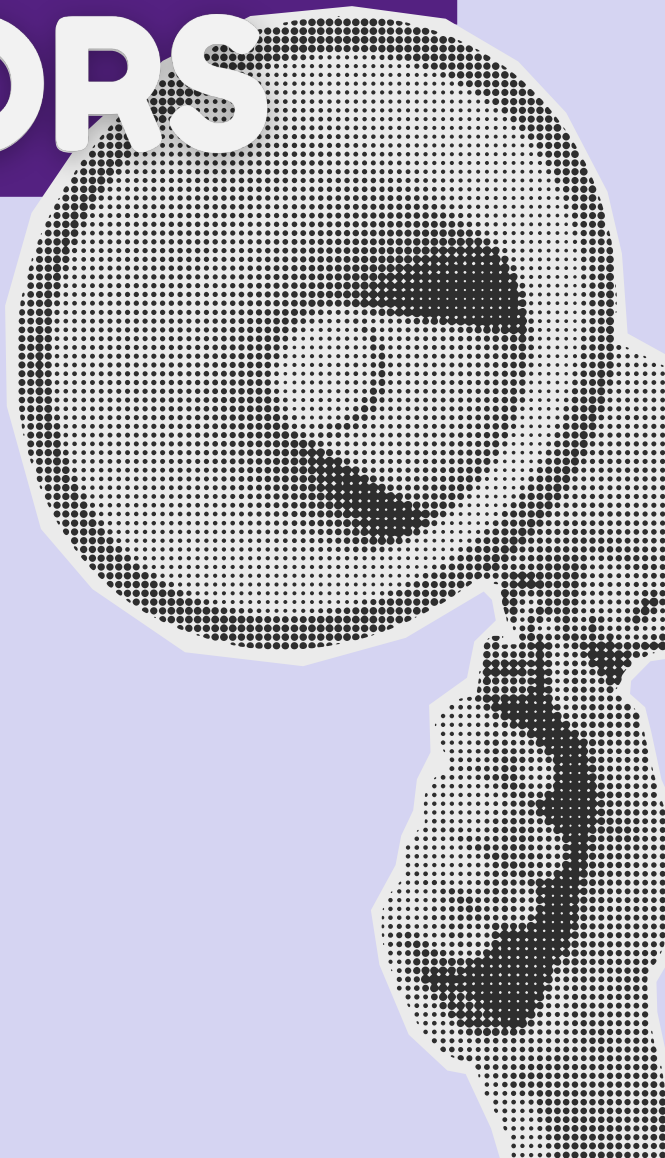
**Through the ways you explain the “why” behind your learning stories, family events and the play that unfolds.**

**Quality care becomes much more meaningful when families can see themselves reflected in your program.**



**LET'S TALK ABOUT:**

**WHY FUNDING  
MATTERS FOR  
FAMILIES AND  
EDUCATORS**

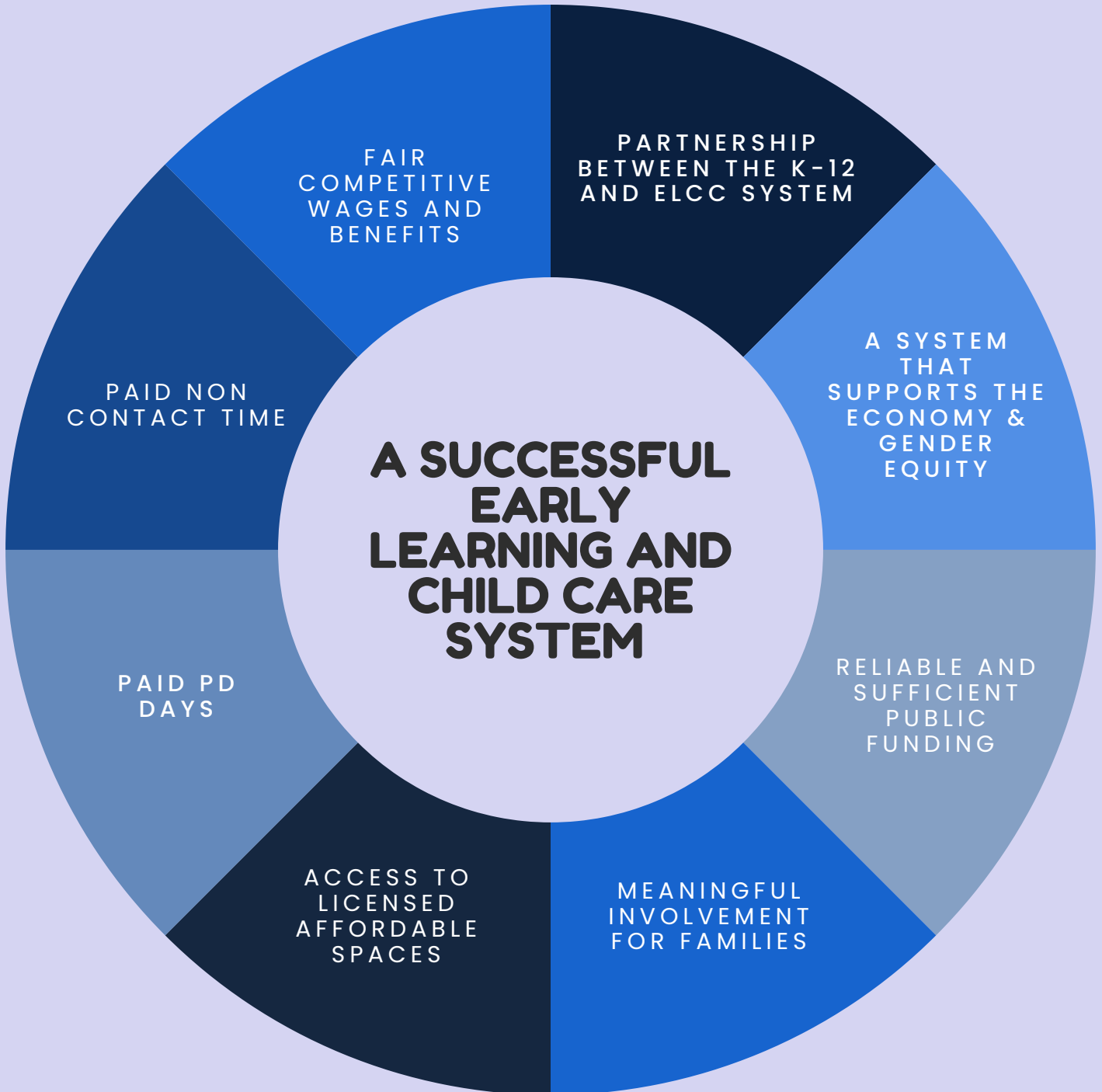




**HIGH QUALITY HAPPENS  
WITH ENOUGH FUNDING,  
ON-GOING PROFESSIONAL  
LEARNING AND SUPPORT.**

**THE WORKFORCE IS  
FUNDAMENTAL TO  
DELIVERING HIGH QUALITY  
CHILD CARE.**





# Team Reflection Questions

- How do you learn what matters most to the families in your program?
- What does your program do to build trust with your families? What does a strong educator-family relationship look like in your program?
- How do you get families to understand the “why” behind play and your daily routines?
- How do you make your professional development visible to families? Is it intentional or suggested in the way you share?
- Do you think your program has gaps in what you believe quality is and how it is actually experienced by the families?

# Play with Purpose

## *Exploring the Impact of Quality*

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### **Through a Parent's Eye**

- Divide into small groups
  - Each group takes a parent profile (first time parent, newcomer, shift worker, single parent)
  - Through role play, walk through a typical drop off, pick up, feedback conversation or communication moment as that parent
  - Discuss: What they might notice or need from you. What would quality look or feel like in that moment?
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### **Photo Reflection**

- Have a set of pictures from your program
  - Discuss: if this was the only picture a parent saw, what would it tell them about our program? What would you want them to know that they might not see in the picture?
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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.

## *Making Quality Visible to Families*

### **Infants**

Capture moments where infants are showing joy, comfort, being curious or connection.

Narrate the photo using family-friendly language and create a display for all families to see.

### **Toddlers**

Use images of daily routines, foods, activities, spaces and invite the toddlers to sort them into what they like or don't like.

### **Preschoolers & School Ageds**

Have children draw their favourite part of the day, a person they trust, or something that helps them feel better. Have them describe their picture, document it for families to see.

Through dramatic play, ask children to report what they love about their program or what their families should know about what happens in the program. Record their responses in a video and share the videos with the children and families.

Have children create comic strips or journals about their days in child care, ask them questions like, what made today great, who helped make it great and what would you change.

Have a scavenger hunt where children look for "clues" of quality. Ask them questions like: a place you feel safe, someone who helps them, something they learned. Take pictures of the children in those areas and have them document and share their findings.

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