



The next 10,000 child care spaces

Affordable full-day child care in B.C.'s
public schools – it just makes sense!

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TO ASK YOUR SCHOOL TRUSTEES TO MAKE HIGH QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE AVAILABLE
AT NEIGHBOURHOOD SCHOOLS ACROSS B.C.

The Problem

Families across B.C. can't get their kids into affordable child care spaces close to home. B.C.'s government has made significant strides in delivering more affordable and accessible child care spaces, yet for too many families high fees and long child care waitlists remain a major barrier.

Even with recent investments by the B.C. government, the number of available licensed spaces in B.C. only provides space for 1 in 5 children.

The Solution

While families struggle to find child care, and the B.C. government works to expand the current system, a better solution has been left mostly unexplored: the direct provision of early learning and care in existing elementary school facilities by school districts.

Thousands of potential cost-effective spaces for before- and after-school care exist in public schools close to every family. Opening these spaces would significantly increase available child care, while delivering a very high quality, value-added system of early childhood education.

How it Works

Before the school day: Children arrive at their local school for before-school care and are greeted by an early childhood educator (ECE).

During the school day: When the bell rings to start the school day, the classroom teacher joins the ECE and students for the school portion of the day. The ECE remains in the classroom, providing care and educational leadership in partnership with the teacher, based on the teacher's educational knowledge and training.

Transitioning to after-school care: The morning ECE concludes their day during the lunch break, and an afternoon ECE continues to provide care and leadership in the classroom, before transitioning to the after-school care program until it's time for children to go home.



How Children & Parents Benefit

Public delivery by school boards ensures high quality programs, close to home, and provides oversight with an existing governance structure. The people caring for our kids receive better wages and working conditions so that they can also take care of their own families. Benefits include:

Neighbourhood spaces and fewer transitions for kids – one drop-off and pick-up location at your neighbourhood school. No more logistical nightmares and long commutes.

Increased learning and customized assistance – with an additional educator in the classroom, kids get extra help and one-on-one attention.

Coordination of learning and care – education-based activities during care times can align with classroom learning to reinforce concepts, skills and knowledge.

Safe and reliable child care – our public school system has the infrastructure and resources to provide safe and reliable service that families can count on.

More resources for kids – school boards can realize administrative efficiencies in facility use, human resources, overhead costs, and capital funding with savings available to enhance education.

More spaces sooner – as school boards provide school-age care in schools, it will free up space in other child care centres for preschool children.

What the Evidence Says

The Okanagan Similkameen school district implemented a Seamless Day Pilot Project in September 2019. The district found the pilot led to more customized care and learning, with increased access to one-on-one assistance. Themes and learning from the school day were integrated through focused, purposeful play and teaching/learning. And the successful program has received very positive feedback from parents and staff.

Did you know?

The seamless day child care model is part of the BC Coalition of Child Care Advocates' \$10/Day Plan to make child care more accessible and affordable. Take action to make it a reality by visiting BuildSeamlessChildcare.ca