

Toronto District School Board

Policy P.059 CUR

Title: **EARLY YEARS**
Adopted: December 15, 2004
Revised:

1.0 OBJECTIVE

To provide a framework to guide ongoing and future early years initiatives and activities

2.0 DEFINITIONS

Early Years The years from birth to eight years of age

3.0 RESPONSIBILITY

Associate Director

4.0 POLICY

- 4.1. The early years shall be recognized as being of critical importance in providing a foundation for attaining the mission and values of the Board.
- 4.2. There shall be a full range of early years programs which provide the optimum foundation for, and have ongoing positive impact on, the social, emotional, cognitive and physical development of all children, both in school and in life beyond school.
- 4.3. Exemplary play-based programs that provide early literacy and numeracy opportunities, and that are responsive to individual needs and consistent with the Board's curricula, shall be provided for young children and families.
- 4.4. The important role of parents shall be recognized and supported through parenting programs and other opportunities to build links between home and school.
- 4.5. Research and assessment data shall be used to identify strengths and needs, and to promote innovative policy and practice in early years programs.
- 4.6. Early years programs shall be provided that are inclusive, bias-free and reflective of a diverse community.
- 4.7. Schools shall be viewed as community hubs to improve accessibility and coordination of service delivery for families and young children.

- 4.8. As children enter school, consistency and continuity shall be promoted by strengthening partnerships among school, childcare and parenting programs, and other community supports.
- 4.9. Strong collaboration among schools, families and community shall be built through effective outreach, sharing of resources and joint participation.
- 4.10. Partnerships shall be pursued with all levels of government and community organizations to develop policies and ensure sustainable funding in order to facilitate parental choice of, and ensure access to, a full range of early years programs.

5.0 SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES

The Director is authorized to issue operational procedures to implement this policy.

6.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Policy P.022 SCS: Child Care in Schools

Policy P.035 BUS: Nutrition Foundation

Operational Procedure PR.576 SCS: Parenting and Family Literacy Centres Distribution

Operational Procedure PR.512 SCH: Early and Ongoing Identification

Operational Procedure PR.662 FAC: Space Accommodation for Child Care Facilities in Schools