



## **Who we are and how we got here**

In October 2009, the Child Care Committee (established 1982) and the Prenatal-6 Subcommittee (established 1998) merged to create the Child & Family Collaborative (C&FC).

The Child & Family Collaborative was established by and for the community of professionals in York Region who provide early child development (including child care) services to children aged prenatal to twelve. We are committed to principles of prevention and education, C&FC creates proactive opportunities for professional development, life-long learning, research, early intervention and investment in the early years.

## **What we do**

- ✓ We provide leadership to professionals in the early child development community to support families and parents with children prenatal to twelve years old in York Region.
- ✓ We provide an infrastructure and mechanisms for bringing individuals, groups and organizations together to support a strong, inclusive and resilient early child development system in York Region.
- ✓ We develop capacity in the broader community to provide quality environments for all children and their families within a system that is responsive to diversity in York Region.
- ✓ We advocate for quality early child development and child care opportunities for all children and their families in York Region.
- ✓ We liaise with and provide advice to funders and policy-makers within the Ministries of Children and Youth Services (MCYS), Community and Social Services (MCSS), Education (EDU), Health and Long-term Care (MHLTC), and Health Promotion (MHP),
- ✓ We collaborate with regional, municipal and provincial governments and school boards.

We create opportunities for:

- ✓ Professional development
- ✓ Life-long learning
- ✓ Research
- ✓ Early identification and intervention
- ✓ Investment in the early years

A community collaborative focusing on the care, development and education of our future leaders.



## How we do this

We have established subcommittees committed to principles of prevention, intervention and education.

- ✓ **Communication Subcommittee**
  - To perform key operational functions of the Child & Family Collaborative as they pertain to coordinating and/or communicating the activities of the C&FC to the community at large
- ✓ **Early ID Network**
  - To support a comprehensive system that promotes awareness and early risk identification and support for healthy child development for families during the prenatal period and up to when the child is 6 years old. The network fosters systems supporting timely referrals to appropriate intervention services. This includes promotion of the provincial 18 month well baby visit including relevant physician education.
- ✓ **Early Learning and Care Subcommittee**
  - To support and move forward on system integration through hub development to ensure that families and Children in York Region will be ready and eager to achieve success in school by the time they start Grade one.
- ✓ **Family Literacy**
  - To provide leadership to professionals in the early development and child care community to expand the concept of family literacy to include all members of the diverse families in York Region.
- ✓ **Joy of Childhood Conference Subcommittee**
  - To promote the professional image and growth of the child care/early years community of York Region by: planning and hosting the Joy of Childhood Conference, promoting awareness of various resources and services available in the community, and encouraging quality programming through a variety of workshops at the Joy of Childhood Conference.
- ✓ **Prenatal - Six Professional Development Subcommittee**
  - To provide professional development and networking opportunities for early years professionals within York Region with a minimum of one professional development opportunity focusing specifically on Accessibility (Inclusion Practices).
- ✓ **Quality and Accessibility (& Raising the Bar)**
  - To promote positive environments and experiences that support and nurture all children and their families. To provide professionals involved in the care and education of young children with resources and information that enhance quality and support inclusion.
- ✓ **School Age Professional Development Subcommittee**
  - To serve as a clearing forum for issues, advocacy and planning in school age programs throughout York Region in a non partisan environment.

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## How you can get involved and make a difference

We invite you to join one of our subcommittees. We are constantly seeking new members willing to share their skills, knowledge, experience and enthusiasm.

In addition to subcommittees, task groups may be established from time to time to focus on a particular purpose and achieve a short-term goal. This is a great way to be involved with a task that you are passionate about and where you may be able to impact outcomes.

## How to find out more: [www.cfcollaborative.ca](http://www.cfcollaborative.ca)

Our web site is a common access point for information, professional development announcements, job postings, and interesting articles. Our website has on-line registration and RSS feeds. We encourage early years professionals to stay connected through Facebook and Twitter.

## Linkages

C&FC maintains linkages to other planning tables and networks that share intersecting points of interest. Specific linkages include:

- ✓ **The York Region Best Start Network:**
  - To ensure C&FC policy and program direction is in alignment with *Best Start Network* guidelines;
  - To act as an advisory to the local *Best Start Network*.
- ✓ **The Forum on Children Youth and Families (YRPF):**
  - To ensure C&FC policy and programs decisions are complementary to the efforts of the broader community of child, youth and family support providers in York Region;
  - To ensure C&FC advocacy positions are in alignment with those of the YRPF.
- ✓ **Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario, York Branch (AECEO):**
  - To align with and support the vision and goals of AECEO, York Branch.
- ✓ **Supervisor's Association:**
  - To align with and support the vision and goals of the Supervisor's Association.
- ✓ **Enhanced Funding:**
  - To assist and support the objectives of the *Enhanced Funding* program.
- ✓ **Triple P Implementation Committee:**
  - To align with and support the vision and goals of the *Triple P* Implementation Committee.

Sector linkages can be found on our website at [www.cfcollaborative.ca](http://www.cfcollaborative.ca)

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