

BC Early Learning Framework

Summary of Feedback – July 2007

The Ministry of Education is leading the development of an Early Learning Framework for children birth to age five. A draft of the Early Learning Framework was posted on the Ministry of Education's website from May 1, 2007 to June 1, 2007 to provide an opportunity for public feedback. The Ministry is currently revising the framework based on the input received from British Columbians. A revised version of the Early Learning Framework will be available online in the Fall 2007.

Participants:

The Ministry of Education received approximately 180 online and written submissions from a variety of stakeholders, including early childhood educators, parents/caregivers, teachers, child care centres, community agencies, Aboriginal organizations, academics, researchers, professors teaching early childhood educators, post-secondary institutions, school administrators, school district staff, education partners, health authorities, and other government ministries.

General Feedback:

Overall, the majority of responses were very supportive of the Early Learning Framework. Many people and organizations provided positive feedback and helpful recommendations.

The Ministry of Education is committed to revising the Early Learning Framework to reflect themes that emerged from the majority of responses:

Clarification:

- Further clarify the purpose of the document.
- Change the focus for the intended audience mainly to service providers.
- For parents, make reference in the framework to family friendly resources that are currently available to support children's early learning.
- Clarify that the framework is for children aged 0-5 not only 3-5 years.

Areas to Strengthen

- Further emphasize the role of parents in their children's lives.
- Further develop the concept, meaning and purpose of the image of the child.
- Place a greater emphasis on the importance of play in learning.
- Broaden the description of family cultures and structures, and strengthen language about children with special needs.
- Revise the visual depiction of the Early Learning Framework using input from an artist.
- Refine the *Questions to Consider* and perhaps divide them into questions for 0-3 years and 3-school entry.

Additions:

- Incorporate greater Aboriginal perspectives into the document; consider sidebars with particular emphasis on Aboriginal children.
- Include the spiritual development of children.