



YORK REGION'S 2024 TO 2027 CHILD CARE AND EARLY YEARS SERVICE SYSTEM PLAN

Presented to
Committee of the Whole

Presented by
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Social Services

Presented on
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Presentation Objectives





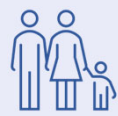
Children's Services Key Facts

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION IN 2023



8,233

CHILDREN RECEIVING CHILD CARE FEE SUBSIDY



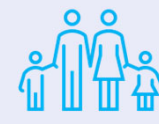
33,000

CANADA WIDE EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE SPACES IN YORK REGION



4,728

CHILDREN RECEIVED EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES



13,037

CHILDREN VISITED AN EARLYON PROGRAM



1,949

CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN RECREATION PROGRAMS

\$408.1M

TOTAL BUDGET

Children's Services budget is 94% provincial, 6% tax levy

160,790

TOTAL CHILDREN AGED 0-12 YEARS

Some municipalities have experienced rapid growth rates for children 0-4 years (e.g., East Gwillimbury)

550

LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTRES

Funding to licensed child care centres to make child care more affordable

1 in 9

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Children with a need related to or caused by a developmental disability or a behavioural, emotional, physical, mental or other disability



Key Accomplishments of the 2020 to 2023 Childrens Services Plan

✓ **Priority One - Data** Updated **64** Early Years Community Profiles to support more efficient and effective service planning

✓ **Priority Two - Planning** Opened emergency child care centres for essential healthcare and other frontline workers, to care for **131** children at the height of the pandemic

✓ **Priority Three - Knowledge** Provided **552** virtual and in-person professional development sessions for nearly **30,000** participants over four years

✓ **Priority Four - Responsive** **1,539** children receiving subsidies to participate in **3,565** local recreation programs in 2022 and 2023

✓ **Priority Five - Inclusion** Nearly **100** staff video visits with families of children with special needs in the first week of the 2020 shut-down

York Region Children's Services





Developing The New Plan – Community Engagement

Analysis of 2020-2023 Service Plan

- Child Care Operators
- Children's Services Staff
- School Boards
- York Region Staff
- Community Partners



Engagement and System Planning

- Homelessness Service Providers Table
- Human Services Planning Board
- Newcomer Inclusion Table
- Local Municipal Leaders Table
- Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Diversity and Inclusion Staff Committee
- Others



Finalizing Priorities and Actions

- Senior Management Team
- Committee of the Whole
- Regional Council



Consultations: What We Heard

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STRENGTHS

- High quality data
- Professional development and capacity building
- Support for children with special needs
- Implementation of Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care system

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WEAKNESS

- Data to inform program planning
- System navigation
- Access to services
- Increased level of needs particularly for children with special needs

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OPPORTUNITIES

- Access and inclusion
- Coordinated service delivery
- Neighbourhood level data to target funding
- Technology to increase efficiencies
- Professional development days

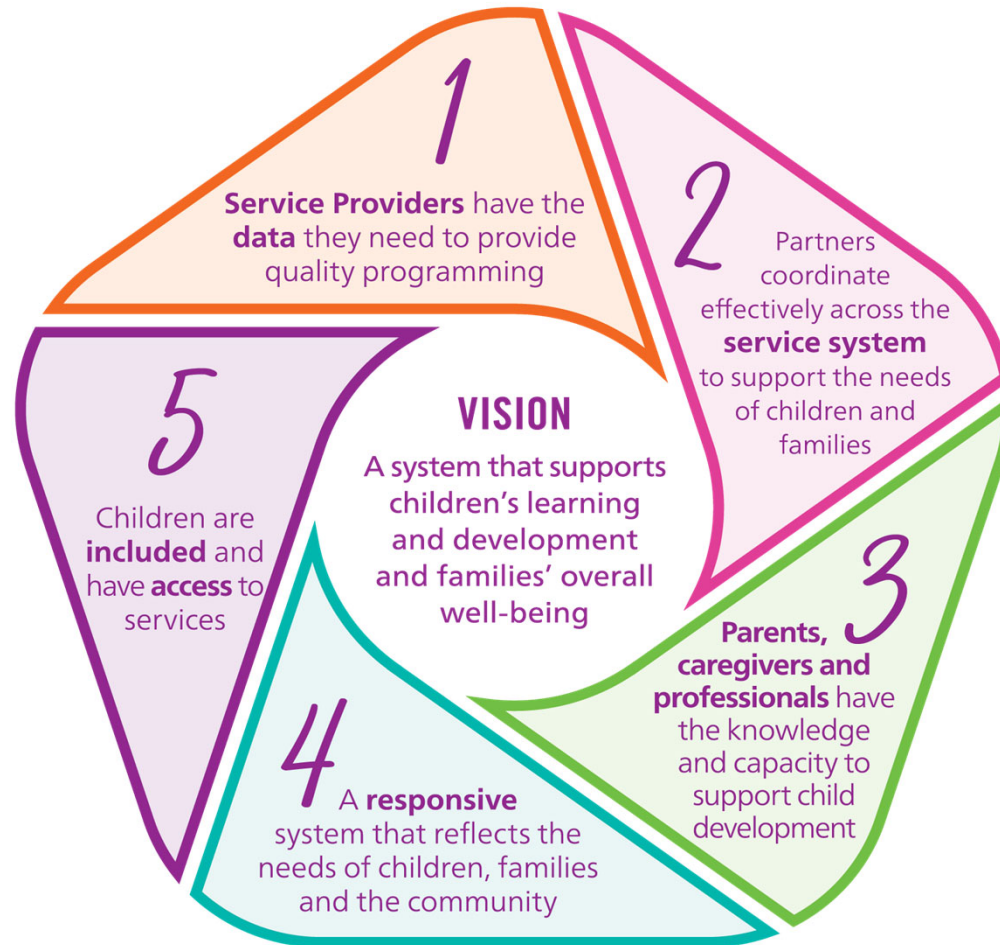
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THREATS

- Recruitment and retention
- Lack of adequate funding to support increased demand and complexity
- System capacity
- Language barriers



Five Priority Areas That Guide Our Work





2024-2027 Priority Areas

Priority Area 1: **DATA**

Service Providers have data they need to provide quality programming

Why is this important?

Making decisions based on data means we understand our population and impact our programs and services have in helping us achieve our system goals.



Occupational Therapy Equipment Room in Oak Ridges



2024-2027 Priority Areas

Priority Area 2: **PLANNING**

Partners coordinate effectively across the service system to support needs of children and families

Why is it important?

When we have a system that works collaboratively to plan services, everyone is better informed, partnerships grow and services are more integrated to better support children and families.



Playroom in Richmond Hill



2024-2027 Priority Areas

Priority Area 3: **KNOWLEDGE**

Parents, caregivers and professionals have knowledge and capacity to support child development

Why is it important?

When parents, caregivers and child care professionals have the skills, knowledge and resources to support our youngest population, we build children's future success in school, the workplace and their communities.



Walking Through the Four Seasons Indigenous education program



2024-2027 Priority Areas

Priority Area 4: **RESPONSIVE**

A responsive system that reflects the needs of children, families and the community

Why is it important?

For children and families to reach their best outcomes, services must reflect and support their needs, and give parents options that work for their family.





2024-2027 Priority Areas

Priority Area 5: **INCLUSION**

Children are included and have access to services

Why is it important?

When parents and professionals know about services available in their communities and when our system offers more choice, we make it easier for families to access and benefit from services.

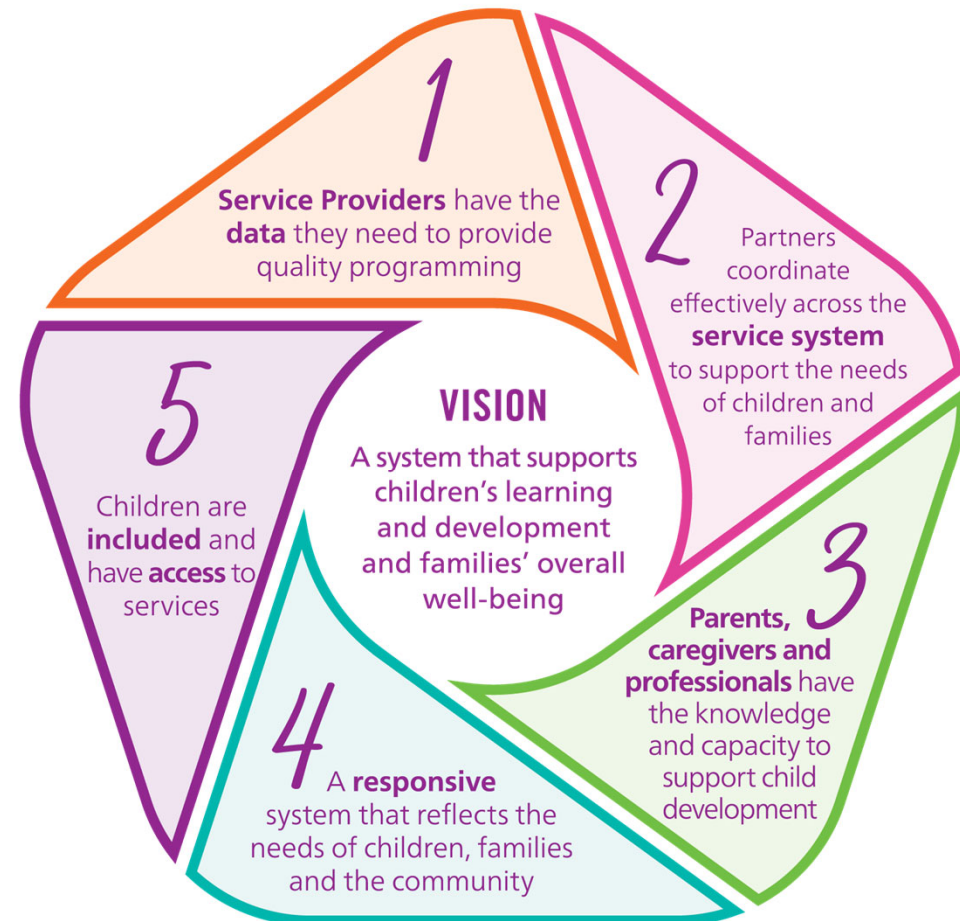


Parent-Child Program at Stouffville facility



Summary

1. Many successes were achieved in delivering the Region's 2020-2023 Plan and we are excited about this next plan
2. Increased inclusion of all children is a provincial priority and aligns with the Region's commitment to inclusive communities
3. Children's Services will continue to guide the sector while delivering key programs to children and families
4. 2024 to 2027 Plan is outcomes-based and action oriented to support the vision



Recommendations

It is recommended:

1. Council approve the 2024 to 2027 Child Care and Early Years Service System Plan

Thank You

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