

Early Years Centres Goals:

Enhance integration and coordination of early years services for children (0-6 years) and their families
Support linkages with local early years services and planning tables.

Community Proposals will need to include:

- Community and host agency profile
- Community need
- Proposal overview
- Community Support
- Organizational capacity

Draft Criteria:

- Improved integration & coordination
- Improved access, quality and/or affordability of services
- Alignment with community planning

Feedback on the Draft Criteria for the Early Years Centres:

1. How does it look?

The BC Association of Family Resource Programs (FRP-BC) believes the BC Early Years Strategy and the proposed Early Years Centres have the potential of resulting in one of the finest provincial early child development initiatives in Canada. Unlike most provincial proposals that focus on the importance of early learning, the BC plan incorporates early learning along with child care and family support as the three essential factors for healthy child development and school readiness.

2. What is missing?

The goals are laudable but appear more as a wish list than essential to creating an integrated system of ECD supports. Words like “enhance” and “support” are not encouraging when one reviews other provincial plans whose goals are to “ensure improved service delivery”. We believe the goals should have stronger language such as:

- An integration and coordination of community-based early years services for children(0-6) and their families in BC
- Partnerships and coordination within and between early learning, childcare services, family support services and planning tables

Although the criteria includes an overview of the expectations, It was our understanding the Early Years Centres would have a branding of supports and services wherever the location. There should be a clear definition of that branding and how it might vary in geographical locations.

3. Suggestions?

FRP-BC strongly suggests that Early Years Centres are selected from the more than 140 agencies in BC that currently deliver ECD services in BC. We believe the selection process should be limited to agencies who already have a community presence and could meet the goals with improvements rather than formation. We also suggest that reference to **Family Support**, be included in the language used, alongside early learning and child care when identifying an Early Years Centre.

The FRP-BC membership represents over 90% of all family serving agencies in BC. The attached **Membership List** and **Regional Maps**, demonstrates a comprehensive representation of these agencies. In 2014 FRP-BC will implement the collection of data as shown in the attached **Agency Program Data Report**.