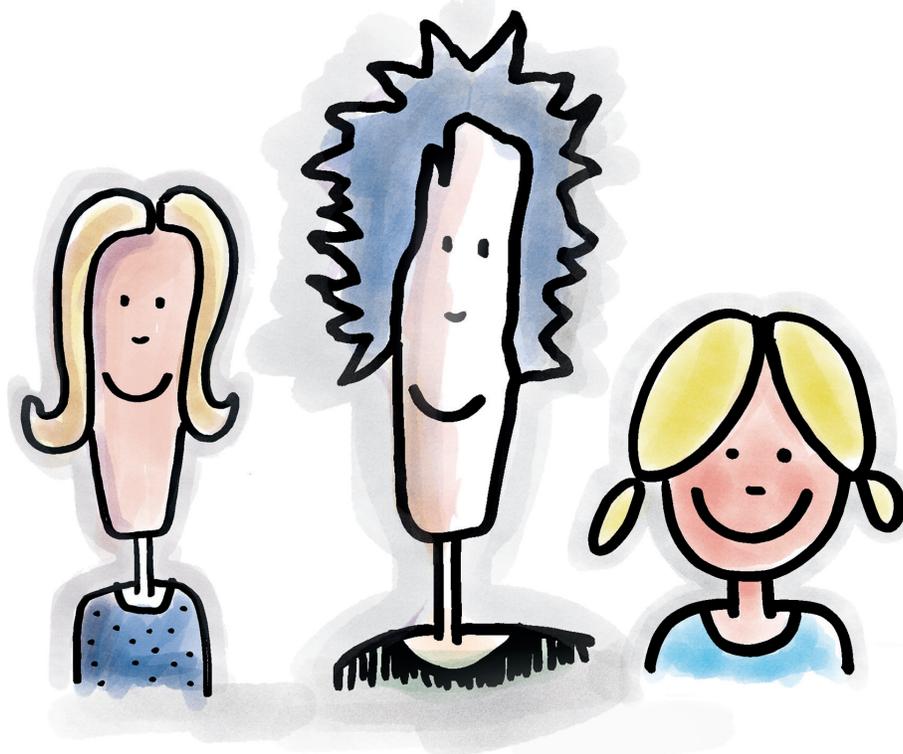


INFORMATION BROCHURE INTENDED MAINLY FOR
CHILDCARE CENTRES, DAY CARE CENTRES AND PARENTS
TAKING PART IN THE MEASURE TO ASSESS AND IMPROVE
EDUCATIONAL QUALITY
(3-5 YEAR OLDS)

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EDUCATIONAL QUALITY IN CHILDCARE ESTABLISHMENTS



EDUCATIONAL QUALITY...

ALL EDUCATIONAL CHILDCARE PROVIDERS RECOGNIZED UNDER THE *EDUCATIONAL CHILDCARE ACT* ARE REQUIRED TO APPLY AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM.

AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM GUIDES CHILDCARE PRACTICES BASED ON THE VALUES, MISSION AND EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY OF THE CHILDCARE ESTABLISHMENT TO SUPPORT THE HARMONIOUS DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN AND FOSTER THEIR EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS.

A QUALITY EDUCATIONAL CHILDCARE ESTABLISHMENT...

- Recognizes children's needs and responds to them in an appropriate way; interacts appropriately with them, taking into consideration their respective level of development and fosters their harmonious development and educational success.
- Intervenes at all times according to the following five basic principles:
 - A partnership between the childcare establishment and parents is essential to the child's harmonious development;
 - Each child is unique;
 - Children are the main actors in their development;
 - Children learn through play;
 - The child's development is a comprehensive, integrated process.
- Applies an educational program based on the following four dimensions of quality:
 - Lay-out of premises and materials^(see note 1) (e.g. appropriate and stimulating materials to play with, adequate indoor and outdoor play areas, etc.);
 - Interactions between educator staff and children (e.g. positive and respectful atmosphere, support for exploration and for conversational initiatives, etc.);
 - Children's lived experience^(see note 1) (e.g. a variety of play periods, effective routine and transition activities, etc.);
 - Interactions between educator staff and parents (e.g. conveying information, cooperation, etc.).

Note 1 - Since 2019, *Accueillir la petite enfance*, the reference document of the Ministère de la Famille, has used the expression "expériences vécues par les enfants" (Children's lived experience) for the dimension "structuration des activités" (Structure of activities) and the expression "l'aménagement des lieux et le matériel" (Lay-out of premises and materials) for the dimension "la structuration et l'aménagement des lieux" (Physical structure and setting).

ENSURING THAT CHILDCARE ESTABLISHMENTS PROVIDE CHILDREN WITH QUALITY EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

The quality of childcare services is a constant concern for the Ministère de la Famille. For this purpose, a measure has been defined for assessing it.

ASSESSING EDUCATIONAL QUALITY



AT ALL CHILDCARE ESTABLISHMENTS IN QUÉBEC FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPROVING IT

WHERE?

- Childcare centres (CPE)
- Subsidized day care centres
- Non-subsidized day care centres

Home childcare providers are not included in the assessment for the time being, because their reality is different from that of the childcare centres (CPE) and day care centres.

WHY?

- To ensure that children receive quality educational services that foster their harmonious development and educational success.
- To ensure that they are complying with the *Educational Childcare Act* (the “Act”). Since December 8, 2017, all educational childcare providers **are required**, under section 5.1 of the Act, to participate in the process to assess and improve the educational quality of childcare.

HOW?

Through measurement instruments designed to assess educational quality, in line with *Accueillir la petite enfance*, the reference document of the Ministère de la Famille.

An educational quality assessment report is given to each childcare establishment and followed up by the Ministère de la Famille.

WHEN?

The process will be gradually rolled out in the childcare network.

The Ministère de la Famille chose the firm Servirplus, through a public request for proposals, to assess educational quality at childcare centres and day care centres with at least two groups of 3-5 year olds (to ensure confidentiality).

This brochure is intended mainly for the childcare centres and day care centres that are being assessed. Details can be found in the following pages.

THIS ASSESSMENT...

- is not a compliance inspection (health and safety rules)
- is not a performance appraisal of the educators
- is not an assessment of the children’s development

IN THE SHORT TERM...

MEASURE TO ASSESS AND IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL QUALITY AT CHILDCARE CENTRES AND DAY CARE CENTRES (GROUPS OF 3-5 YEAR OLDS)



WHO IS ASSESSED?

- Childcare centres and subsidized and non-subsidized day care centres.
- Participation is mandatory, but permit renewal is not contingent on it.

WHAT IS ASSESSED?

- The application of the following four dimensions of the quality of processes, as well as certain elements of structural quality (e.g. management practices, training and experience):
 1. Lay-out of premises and materials ^(see note 2);
 2. Interactions between educator staff and children;
 3. Children's lived experience ^(see note 2);
 4. Interactions between educator staff and parents.

HOW DOES THE ASSESSMENT TAKE PLACE?

- By appointment, a team of three evaluators from Servirplus go to the childcare establishment to assess educational quality using various scientifically-recognized quality measurement instruments, particularly the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) – Pre-K version, to observe interactions with the children, and interviews with the educators and the director. There is also a parent questionnaire.
- At least two groups of 3-5 year olds are observed so that the educators cannot be identified. The result is for the childcare establishment as a whole. A maximum of three groups are observed. For a group to be observed, it must be composed of 50% + 1 of 3-5 year olds.
- The Servirplus evaluators are trained and certified to use the measurement instruments.
- The assessment is done in one day.
- The next assessment is determined based on the permit renewal date (generally every five years) or sooner if the Ministère de la Famille considers it relevant. The assessment is performed several months before the permit renewal date.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE ASSESSMENT?

1. An assessment report will be sent to the director of the childcare establishment. This report provides feedback on each of the dimensions of educational quality assessed. The overall results are presented, i.e. for the childcare establishment as a whole.
2. In order to pass the assessment, a childcare establishment must achieve certain levels for each of the dimensions of quality. Permit renewal is not contingent on passing the assessment.
3. The Ministère de la Famille follows up on the results. If a childcare establishment fails to pass an assessment, it will be required, in particular, to produce an action plan aimed at improving its educational quality and to take part in a follow-up assessment.

Note 2 - Since 2019, *Accueillir la petite enfance*, the reference document of the Ministère de la Famille, has used the expression "expériences vécues par les enfants" (Children's lived experience) for the dimension "structuration des activités" (Structure of activities) and the expression "l'aménagement des lieux et le matériel" (Lay-out of premises and materials) for the dimension "la structuration et l'aménagement des lieux" (Physical structure and setting).

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TYPICAL ASSESSMENT DAY

MORNING

Observation of interactions.

Two hours with each of the groups concerned

Assessment of lay-out of premises and materials.

30 minutes

AFTERNOON

Semi-directed individual interviews, usually conducted during the children's naptime, with each of the educators whose groups were observed in the morning.

About 50 minutes per interview

These interviews concern child observation practices and activity planning (Children's lived experience) as well as various points, such as how the childcare establishment operates, and the educators' training and experience.

Questionnaire to be completed by each of the educators whose groups were observed in the morning and by the director. This questionnaire concerns the interactions of the childcare establishment with the parents.

10 minutes per questionnaire

Semi-directed interview with the director of the childcare establishment concerning various points such as the director's management practices, experience and training.

About 60 minutes

DAY OF THE ASSESSMENT

Questionnaire distributed to parents of 3-5 year olds concerning their interactions with the childcare establishment. They have 14 days questionnaire after the assessment to answer the questionnaire.

10 minutes per questionnaire

ASSESSMENTS ARE MADE BY APPOINTMENT.



THE EDUCATORS

THE EDUCATORS PLAY AN ESSENTIAL AND DECISIVE ROLE IN ACHIEVING OVERALL EDUCATIONAL QUALITY. THE QUALITY OF THEIR INTERACTIONS WITH THE CHILDREN HAS A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE HARMONIOUS DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILDREN.

A NUMBER OF FACTORS MAY GUIDE THEM, SUCH AS THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM IN THEIR COMMUNITY, AND THEIR SKILLS, TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE. THEY GATHER ESSENTIAL INFORMATION TO GUIDE THE CHILDREN IN THEIR ACTIVITIES AND TO MAKE AVAILABLE WHAT THEY NEED TO DEVELOP HARMONIOUSLY THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

- Participation is mandatory because it helps identify the strengths and challenges of the childcare establishment where they work.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE EDUCATORS WHOSE GROUPS WERE SELECTED?

- Complete and return the questionnaire to the evaluator.
- Answer the evaluator's questions.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

This is not a performance appraisal for the educators.

The answers on the questionnaire completed by the educators whose groups were observed, their conversation with the evaluator during the interview and the observation results for the groups of children selected are confidential.

Neither individual results, nor any information allowing the educators to be identified will be sent to the childcare establishment.



THE DIRECTOR

THE DIRECTOR OF THE CHILDCARE ESTABLISHMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR APPLYING THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM.

THE DIRECTOR MUST ENSURE THAT ALL THE STAFF PROPERLY APPLY THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM THAT WAS FILED WITH THE MINISTÈRE.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

- Participation is mandatory because it ensures that an assessment report taking into account all the dimensions of educational quality is obtained. This report helps the director to learn more about the strengths of the childcare establishment with regard to educational quality and to be aware of the points requiring improvement and the challenges of the childcare establishment where he or she works.

WHAT IS THE DIRECTOR'S ROLE?

- Notify all the staff (including the members of the board of directors or the parents' committee) and the parents that the childcare establishment is taking part in an educational quality assessment.
- Be present and available on the day of the assessment in order to answer questions from the team of evaluators and to assist them in their work, as well as to take part in an interview.
- Make sure that the parents receive the questionnaire to be filled out about their interactions with the childcare establishment.
- Promote the educators' participation, in particular by allowing them to answer questions during their interviews (generally during the children's naptime) under optimal conditions: by freeing them up for the interview and providing them, where feasible, with a room away from the group of children.

IMPORTANT

This is not an inspection.

Answers are confidential.

The assessment report is sent to the director and the Ministère de la Famille.



THE PARENTS

PARENTS ARE THEIR CHILD'S FIRST TEACHERS AND ARE IN THE BEST POSITION TO HELP EDUCATORS BY PROVIDING THEM WITH USEFUL INFORMATION AND BEING INTERESTED IN THEIR CHILD'S DAY-TO-DAY ACTIVITIES WHILE IN CHILDCARE.

THE PARENTS' COOPERATION WITH THE EDUCATORS AND ALL THE STAFF OF THE CHILDCARE ESTABLISHMENT IS VERY IMPORTANT SO THAT EVERYONE CAN PROVIDE QUALITY SERVICES TO HELP THE CHILDREN DEVELOP HARMONIOUSLY.

THE PARENTS' VIEWS ARE ESSENTIAL IN ENSURING THAT THE DECISIONS MADE BY THE CHILDCARE ESTABLISHMENT STAFF ARE IN LINE WITH WHAT IS EXPERIENCED BY THE PARENTS.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

- To help their child receive quality educational childcare services.
- To ensure that the childcare establishment adequately applies an educational program for the harmonious development of their child in all aspects.
- To ensure that all dimensions of educational quality are assessed. The interactions of childcare establishments with the parents is essential in achieving such educational quality.
- To give their opinion and help provide a complete picture of the educational quality of the childcare establishment.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE PARENTS?

- Answer the questionnaire by the 14-day deadline. The questionnaire is available online (or as a paper copy, upon request) in either French or English. The web link to the questionnaire will be sent by the director to the parents of the 3-5 year olds.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

The children are not evaluated or questioned during the assessment of the childcare establishment.

Answers are confidential: The childcare establishment does not have access to the individual answers.

For more information about the measure for educational quality assessment and improvement, please visit the [Ministère de la Famille website](#) or call the Ministère at 1 855 336-8568.

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