



**LITTLE CHILDREN,  
BIG LEARNING**



**#KindergartenWorks**

# ONTARIO'S KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM: A SUCCESS STORY

**Ontario's Kindergarten program, with a certified teacher and a designated early childhood educator (DECE) working together, gives children and their families the start to school that they need.**

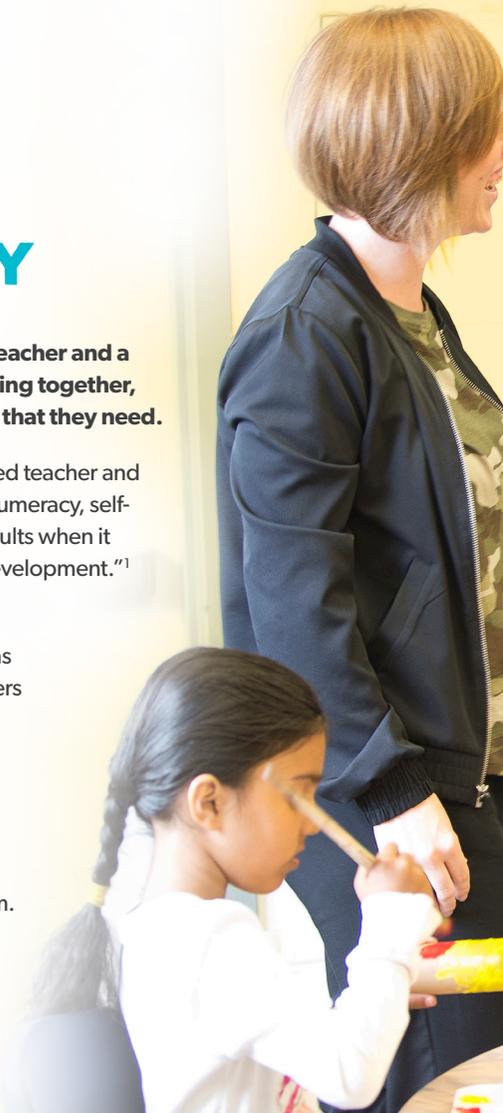
Research shows that the partnership between a certified teacher and a DECE provides lasting benefits in reading, writing, numeracy, self-regulation and social skills and it "has shown major results when it comes to children's social, emotional and cognitive development."<sup>1</sup>

"Ontario's Kindergarten classrooms have a play-and inquiry-based approach to learning...this approach has been strongly recommended by the Council of Ministers of Education (CMEC, 2012) and reflects international research on effective pedagogical practices."<sup>2</sup>

The program was designed by education experts, and it has proven to be a successful learning program, a model for other jurisdictions to follow and a fundamental piece of our world-class education system.

<sup>1</sup> Charles E. Pascal, *Full-day Kindergarten – The Best of What We Imagined is Happening*, *The Conversation*, March 5, 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Gordon Cleveland (2021), *Ontario's Kindergarten Program: A Success Story. How We All Benefit from Good Quality Public Full-Day Kindergarten*, ETFO.



# The teacher and DECE team make Kindergarten work



**The full-time certified teacher and DECE team is essential to the Full-Day Kindergarten program.**

Teachers have knowledge and understanding of the elementary school curriculum from Kindergarten to grade 8, and how the Kindergarten program expectations connect to later elementary grades. Teachers graduate from both university and a faculty of education program and are certified to teach by the Ontario College of Teachers.

Teachers know how to build upon the foundation provided in Kindergarten and are responsible for student learning, long-term planning, effective instruction, formative assessment and have the ultimate responsibility for evaluation and formal reporting to parents.

Designated early childhood educators have knowledge and understanding of the developmental learning needs of young children. DECEs study early childhood development and focus on age-appropriate program planning, thus providing engaging opportunities and experiences for children that contribute to the assessment of their learning. DECEs graduate from community college and/or university and are registered to practice with the College of Early Childhood Educators.

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## KINDERGARTEN WORKS

Ontario's Kindergarten program works. The certified teacher and DECE each bring specialized knowledge and skills to foster the development and growth of every student. Together they build personalized relationships with individual children and focus on each child's safety and well-being.

Evidence shows that Ontario's Kindergarten program contributes to reducing both educational inequalities and "reduces special education needs in young children and improves developmental outcomes, especially for vulnerable children and those with complex needs. The need for intervention is both removed for some children and reduced for others. Front loading interventions during the early years is wise public policy. Educators, parents, policy makers and governments could benefit from these findings."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Philpott, D., Young, G., Maich, K, Penney, S., Butler E. (2019). *The Preemptive Nature of Quality Early Child Education on Special Educational Needs in Children*. St. John's, NL.

# Join us in protecting Kindergarten.

Making the necessary investments in our Kindergarten program, with a full-time certified teacher and DECE team, is critical to ensuring that Ontario's youngest students get their very best start.

**TAKE ACTION AT**

**[BuildingBetterSchools.ca/Kindergarten](https://BuildingBetterSchools.ca/Kindergarten)**



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