

Network of Support

A collaborative approach to supporting child care programs in Peel Region.

Overview

The Network of Support includes a group of professionals who offer different supports to licensed child care providers:

- Peel Region Early Years Specialists (EYS)
- Child Development Resource Connection Peel (CDRCP) Quality Initiatives (QI) Mentors
- Peel Inclusion Resource Services (PIRS) Resource Consultants (RC)

This document explains their roles. You can find more information in the [Service Provider Handbook](#).

Purpose

The Network of Support document outlines the roles and responsibilities of the EYSs, QI mentors, and RCs as they support child care programs. It identifies who you can connect with for specific topics, issues, or needs. It also includes information on what you can expect when the Network of Support professionals work together with you to enhance inclusive, high-quality child care. This is a resource for all child care program staff, and you should post it in a place that all staff can access.

Network of Support professionals

Early Years Specialists (EYS)

Roles and responsibilities

EYSs are your primary contact for information and support at Peel Region. Through program visits, in-person or virtual meetings, and virtual drop-in sessions, the EYSs help you to manage financial and contractual reporting requirements. They also help you work through and understand regional guidelines.

Scope of work

EYS support focuses on:

- Authentic participation
 - Accountability, compliance

- Regional guidelines and requirements
 - Policies and procedures
- Program viability
- Funding
 - Understanding and implementing regional funding guidelines
- Staffing
 - Dynamics
 - Engagement
 - Recruitment and retention
- Professional learning
 - Promote community professional learning opportunities

Quality Initiatives (QI) Mentor

Roles and responsibilities

QI mentors help you authentically participate in quality initiatives. They help to develop and mobilize goals, build the capacity of early years professionals through coaching, modeling, sharing of ideas and strategies, facilitating or directing to professional learning, and providing resources. Through classroom visits, QI mentors assess and support quality programming and the implementation of *How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years*.

Scope of work

QI mentor support focuses on:

- Authentic participation
 - Quality enhancement initiative
- Quality programming
 - Nurturing relationships
 - Effective practices
 - Pedagogy into practice
 - Enhancing leadership capacity
- Diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) and how programming and classroom environments reflect it
- Mentorship
- Professional Learning
 - Promote community professional learning opportunities
 - Provide professional learning opportunities

Resource Consultant (RC)

Roles and responsibilities

RCs consult with programs, virtually or in person. They focus on building the capacity of educators to adopt and implement inclusive practices. During discussions,

meetings, and child-specific and brief consultation services, RCs brainstorm with educators, share information and resources, and coach and model how to implement strategies. RCs share information that incorporates universal design for learning concepts, supports all children to participate, and helps educators meet the unique needs of children.

Scope of work

RCs focus on:

- Authentic participation in PIRS
 - Access
 - Inclusion
 - Participation
 - Belonging
- Child-specific needs
 - Early identification
 - Child development
 - Extra support needs (cognitive, physical, social, emotional, communication needs, behaviour)
 - General concerns
 - Behaviour
- General classroom
 - Universal design for learning
 - Group dynamics
 - Behaviour
- Professional Learning
 - Redirect to community professional learning opportunities
 - Provide professional learning opportunities

Collaboration

Sometimes two or even all three Network of Support professionals will work together on a shared goal. Before an EYS, QI mentor, or RC reaches out to another Network of Support professional, they will speak with the appropriate child care contact to talk about the purpose and benefit of collaborating with another Network of Support professional.

Scope of collaborative work

Together, EYSs, QI mentors, and RCs will support you by:

- Redirecting you to another Network of Support professional when a topic, issue, or need is out of scope
- Engaging in collaborative meetings
- Completing a joint visit

Topics for Network of Support collaboration are:

- Environment
- Transitions
- Developmentally appropriate practices
- Behaviour
- Communication – educator focused

Following the discussion, you will receive documentation from the Network of Support Professionals. This will include the goal, suggested strategies, resources, and any recommended next steps.

Relevant Resources

[Service Provider Handbook](#), [PIRS Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#)

For further information please contact:

Peel Region: EarlyYearsSystemDivision@peelregion.ca

CDRCP: quality@cdrpc.com

PIRS: PIRS@peelregion.ca