

Early Childhood Education

Early childhood education provides Ontario's children with **safe environments to explore, learn, and play.**

When children are nurtured in environments where their social, emotional, cognitive, and physical health is taken into consideration, they thrive in countless ways. They:

01

Have an **80% chance** of graduating high school (vs. a 60% chance for those who don't enroll)¹

02

Have a **12% higher chance** of pursuing higher education

03

Are **less likely** to repeat a grade³

04

Become **higher earners** in the workforce³

Although early childhood educators (ECEs) provide children with the foundation they need to grow into future leaders, they are often undervalued and unsupported with the resources and programming needed to ensure successful outcomes. Currently, Ontario's ECEs face many obstacles in achieving their goals for children within their programs.

43%

of ECEs reported that they have considered leaving the sector since the onset of the pandemic^{4,5}





20%

of ECEs have seen work hours increase, but of those only 9.3% reported an increase in wages⁵

54%

of ECEs reported decreased job satisfaction⁵

13%

of ECEs are actively looking for opportunities outside the sector⁵

36%

of ECEs reported a decrease in planning time⁵

26%

average turnover rate for ECEs in licensed child care settings⁶

ECEs indicated that the **3 most challenging** aspects of their careers are:⁵

60%

Compensation

53%

Physical nature of work

40%

Job responsibilities not related to care for children

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1. The Editorial Team, "Benefits of Early Childhood Education," *Resilient Educator*, April 2022, <https://resilienteducator.com/classroom-resources/can-early-childhood-education-impact-graduation-rates>.
 2. Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach and Lauren Bauer, "The long-term impact of the Head Start program," *Brookings*, August 19, 2016. <https://www.brookings.edu/research/the-long-term-impact-of-the-head-start-program/>
 3. "Early Childhood Education," *National Education Association*, December 2, 2021. <https://www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/action-center/our-issues/early-childhood-education>
 4. Alana Powell, Carolyn Ferns, Shevaun Burrell, "Forgotten On The Frontline," *Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario & the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care*. May 2011.
 5. R.A. Ma latest & Associates Ltd. "Workforce Study For Early Years and Child Care Employees," *Ministry of Education*, December 2017
 6. Akbari, E., & McCuaig, K. (In press) *Early Childhood Education Report*, 2020. Toronto, ON: Atkinson Centre for Society and Child Development OISE/ University of Toronto.