



# The Early Learning Program

Halton District School Board

Year One Parent Orientation

Web version

May 2010



# Goals of the Session

Participants will become aware of:

- What the Early Learning Program (ELP) entails.
- How the Board is preparing for the ELP.
- What to expect in September.

# Session Agenda

- ✓ Why focus on Early Learning?
- ✓ Current Program vs. Early Learning Program
- ✓ Next Steps
- ✓ Questions





Focus on  
Early Learning

# Why focus on Early Learning?

*“Through full-day early learning, we will be helping more children earlier, giving them the strongest possible start so they can achieve success later in school and in life... We’re giving more children the opportunity to live up to their full potential.”*

Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Education, 2009

# Why focus on Early Learning?



Early Learning does not equal:

- School
- Academics
- Rigors of a classroom environment typical of older grades

(Dr. Charles Pascal, Every Child Every Opportunity, 2010 )

# Why focus on Early Learning?

*“The goal is not to push academic work or learning expectations onto younger children but to identify and enhance the connections between expectations and experiences that extend from the Early Learning Program into the primary grades.”*

(Dr. Charles Pascal, Every Child Every Opportunity, 2010)



# Current Program vs. Early Learning Program

# Current Program vs. ELP

## *Current*

- Majority of schools
- Students half time, full day
- Optional attendance
- Mixed age grouping
- Adult student ratio of 1:20

## *ELP*

- 11 sites
- Full-time, every day
- Optional attendance
- Mixed age grouping
- Ratio of 2:26

Continued...

# Year One Sites

- Escarpment View
- PL Robertson
- King's Road
- Mohawk Gardens
- Tom Thomson
- Abbey Lane
- James Hill
- Oakwood
- Palermo
- WH Morden



# Current Program vs. ELP

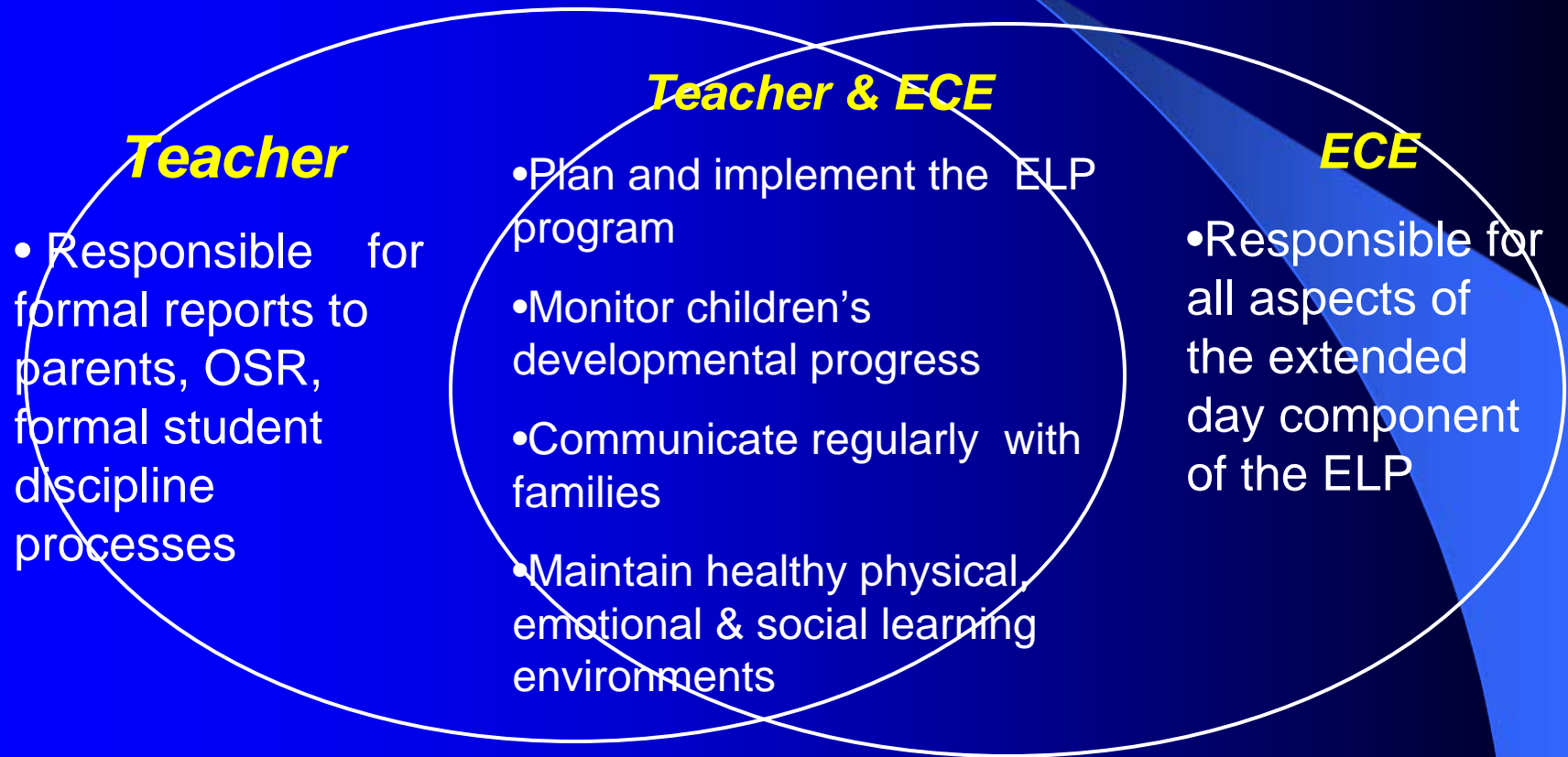
## *Current*

- Teacher provides program
- K Program, 2006
- Before and after school care by outside agencies

## *ELP*

- Teacher and ECE provide program
- K and Extended Day programs, draft 2010
- Care provided by Boards, *if possible*

# Staffing: ECEs & Teachers



**Evolving Roles ⇒ “Duty to Co-operate”**

# ELP: Core Program

- Reflects what research indicates the 4-5 year old learner needs:
  - A. in order to learn (learning environment)*
  - B. to learn (in personal, emotional, social, physical and academic areas)*



# ELP: Core Program

Program goals:

- Provide an integrated day of learning...
- Provide a play-based learning environment
- Help children make a smoother transition to grade One
- Improve children's prospects for success  
(Ministry of Education K Program, 2010 draft)



# ELP: Core Program

Some of the components  
of the day



- **Entry** – small group or individual activity
- **Welcome** – large group
- **Learning centres** (building, reading, writing, drama/puppet, science at the water table etc.) - small group or individual
- **Outdoor time...indoor gym**
- **Nutrition breaks**
- **Quiet time**
- **Dismissal**

# Extended Day

The following sites will be offering the Extended Day Program (before and after school care) for 2010/11

- Mohawk Gardens
- Palermo
- Escarpment View
- PL Robertson





Next Steps

# Next Steps

- Optional attendance lottery
- Extended day registration and handbooks
- Spring K parent orientations
- September gradual entry for ELP
- Transportation
- Year two sites
- Communication: web site, Bulletins





# Questions

Posted separately with answers on the Board's  
web site