



**Best Start...Best Future**



**Lambton Children's  
Planning Network  
2015-2016 Report**

# Providing Access to Early Years Services

“On average, **19%** of children in Ontario access early year programs and services at Best Start Hubs.” *Dr. Jean Clinton*

In Lambton County, **39%** of our children are accessing programs and services at our Best Start Hubs.



<b>1077</b>	Families received Healthy Babies Healthy Children screening
<b>119</b>	Families received Healthy Babies Healthy Children home visiting services
<b>401</b>	Infant hearing screens completed on infants that did not receive it at Bluewater Health
<b>200</b>	Professionals attended 'Sowing the Seeds for Literacy' Conference
<b>1004</b>	Children received preschool speech & language services
<b>116</b>	Women & children accessed Postpartum Mood Disorder services
<b>519</b>	Children were seen in early mental health CHILD CHECK clinics
<b>771</b>	Unique children enrolled in the Preschool Early Learning Program (PELP) attending an avg. of 12 sessions/month
<b>686</b>	Children attended the KinderSTARt program at LKDSB and SCCDSB schools
<b>33</b>	Agencies involved in the No Wrong Door process for ease of referral
<b>1722</b>	'Likes' on the Best Start Facebook page promoting early years
<b>823</b>	Calls were answered through the Best Start telephone line
<b>380</b>	Professionals attended training with Dr. Clinton on "The Link between Brain Development and Early Childhood Mental Health" and "Adult and Child Relationships & the Capacity of the Child"

# Highlights of Achievements

What the Plan Called For:	What Was Accomplished:
<b>Increase awareness of the No Wrong Door Process (NWD) to the general public and community stakeholders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The No Wrong Door (NWD) process expanded to age 21 and launched to community stakeholders on November 3, 2015</li> <li>✓ 33 community agencies are participating in NWD with 14 signatory agencies using the NWD process in their organization</li> </ul>
<b>Expand the Lambton Children’s Planning Network to further engage youth service providers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ No Wrong Door working group partnership expanded by 7 youth serving agencies to expand service up to age 21</li> <li>✓ Youth Community Hub working group for 16/17 year olds established</li> <li>✓ Community strategy groups for Mental Health and Special Needs formally linked to LCPN</li> </ul>
<b>Continue to increase understanding of indigenous cultures and traditions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Aboriginal Resource Kits are available to be lent out from 4 area Ontario Early Years Centres</li> <li>✓ Training and presentations on the use of the Aboriginal Kits is on-going</li> <li>✓ Networking and sharing has increased</li> </ul>
<b>Continue to develop a system wide approach to further support indigenous families</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Two Aboriginal Focus Groups were held: one on a First Nation &amp; one in the city of Sarnia</li> <li>✓ The Aboriginal Focus Group Report has been completed with 16 recommendations to help improve the system-wide approach and access for indigenous families</li> </ul>
<b>Under Ministry direction, develop a Coordinated Service Planning &amp; Rehabilitation Services Plan under the Special Needs Strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ June 2015, Community Planning Table submitted Lambton’s plan to the Ministry</li> <li>✓ November 2015, the Ministry responded indicating areas of strength in the proposal and areas for clarification</li> <li>✓ Will meet with Ministry representatives Spring 2016 to clarify proposal</li> </ul>
<b>Strengthen the quality of licensed child care programs highlighting key areas as described in “How Does Learning Happen?”</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Quality Assurance Plan developed and rolled out to child care centres</li> <li>✓ Child Care and Early Years Act program statements developed by local Supervisors, supporting pedagogy</li> </ul>
<b>Further support cross sectorial training to increase and build on community capacity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Community Connections June 2015; presentations and discussions focused on familiarizing front line staff with new initiatives in the community; 150 participants identified areas of strengths and needs within the system</li> </ul>





## **Priorities Moving Forward 2016-2017**

- Conduct a local needs assessment and inventory of existing child and family programs and services
- Engage parents and caregivers to inform the planning and delivery of Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres (OEYCFC) programs and services
- Ensure strong connections between community planning tables (Lambton Refugee Sponsor Network, Working Together for Kids Mental Health, Special Needs Strategy, Child Care Supervisors, Education, Community of Practice) to inform service system planning
- Promote early identification of children under the age of 3
- Continue to increase understanding of indigenous cultures and traditions through networking and sharing
- Improve the system-wide approach to further support indigenous families by providing training, networking and partnering with area agencies
- Support the development of a community business plan for a community hub for youth

## **Considerations for Implementation**

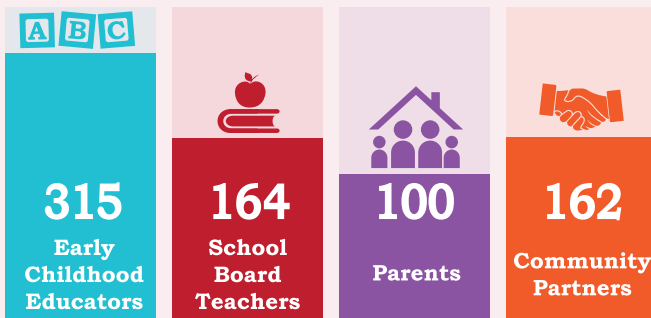
**How do we implement the above priorities with:**

- all partners of the LCPN facing ongoing budget and resource constraints?
- the existing aging technology in Best Start Hubs?
- the transformation of the Best Start Hub model to the OEYCFC model?

# Parent & Professional Resource Centre

The LCPN supports, and the County of Lambton funds the Parent and Professional Resource Centre (PPRC) operated by Lambton College. In 2015 there were 741 members, participating in 71 Professional Learning events. The focus has moved from professional development to professional learning, with an emphasis on pedagogy and reflective practice. The “How Does Learning Happen” study group now meets monthly, at the request of participants to discuss and reflect on current research, pedagogy, and learning environments, with a focus on foundational relationships in the early years. Much work has gone into supporting Child Care Supervisors to mentor their staff in understanding the Child Care and Early Years Act (CCEYA), program statements, policies and regulations.

## 2015 PPRC Membership



## Lambton County Quality Assurance Commitment

The Children’s Services Department is committed to enhancing quality early learning experiences for children and families in Lambton County. A Quality Assurance Working Group was formed, made up of Child Care Administrators and Community Partners, to look at the present tools being used to support quality child care environments. The consensus was that the current tools were outdated and not reflective of “How Does Learning Happen”. After examining several options, the group decided to adopt the National Quality Rating Tool of Australia. Permission was obtained to use the framework and adapt it to the Standards of Practice for Early Childhood Education and CCEYA program statements. The Rating Tool will assist Early Childhood Educators to document and support learning in environments for children birth to twelve years. Eight programs are presently involved in a pilot of the tool and training to the broader community is expected to begin in late Fall 2016.



**The Lambton Children's Planning Network (LCPN) represents Lambton's commitment to working and planning together to support the early learning, health, and wellbeing of each child with the long-term view of enriching the quality and capacity of future generations.**

*"My kids and I have been going to the Ontario Early Years Centre for over 3 years now-since my oldest was first born. We enjoyed all the baby programs offered like Infant Massage and Make the Connection. We also love the drop in play times where my kids have learned how to play with others and I get to meet other moms. My 3 year old is in the PELP program and over the last year he's improved his communication and social skills and I feel like it's a great way to help him get ready for school. All the PELP teachers and early years staff are fantastic and we feel very fortunate to have such great services and support right here in Forest!"*

**Laura Campbell**

*"I did not know about the Parent and Professional Resource Centre before attending the visual strategies group (offered through Pathways Health Centre for Children), but now that I do, I will definitely be accessing the resources available."*

**Parent**

*"As parents we've had 2 children attend Little Friends – we have always been happy with the care and can easily see that our children enjoy it there. The facilities of both the Daycare and Best Start Hub are clean and welcoming. It's been enjoyable and convenient to use the Hub to work with Pathways and programs such as: Caring Connections, Women on the Rise and Fathers in Recovery, all at one comfortable facility. The Little Friends staff are easy-going, friendly and have always been helpful to us as parents and to our children. We would recommend Little Friends and the Hub services to everyone!"*

**Renee Kuley & Will English**

*"I really don't think I could have made it through the past year without the understanding and compassion I found. I have learned so much about child psychology & development as well as parenting and postnatal [PPMD] struggles that has helped me cope and adjust. Everyone I have worked with has been so great at ensuring that I am doing okay and connecting me with others making sure I didn't just "fall through the cracks". Before my experience I had no idea of the scope of services available [to me and my family] and I am so happy to let others know that help is available."*

**"K", mother of 2 young children**

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An AODA compliant version of this report is available upon request.

