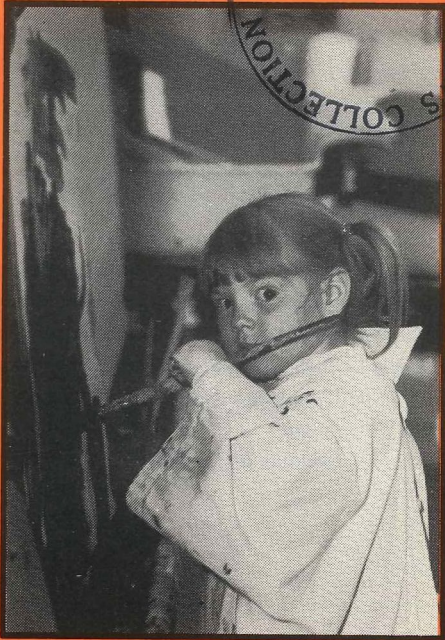


ED 228

Day Care



fw
ta
o

**FEDERATION OF WOMEN TEACHERS'
ASSOCIATIONS OF ONTARIO**

1260 BAY STREET, THIRD FLOOR, TORONTO M5R 2B8

Members have requested information on day care in Ontario to assist them in advocating increased day care in their own communities. Since a working knowledge of day care includes knowledge of the Act and Regulations, as well as knowledge of the child and child development, this pamphlet provides a summary of the law, information on funding and a list of sources.

THE LAW

Early child care in Ontario is governed by the **Day Nurseries Act** and the regulations which accompany it. The regulations are presently undergoing revision. You may obtain copies of the Act and Regulations from the
Ontario Government Bookstore
880 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1Z8

The Day Nurseries Act defines the following:

“day nursery” means a premises that receives more than five children who are not of common parentage, primarily for the purpose of providing temporary care, or guidance, or both temporary care and guidance, for a continuous period not exceeding twenty-four hours, where the children are,

- (i) *under eighteen years of age in the case of a day nursery for children with a developmental handicap, and*
- (ii) *under ten years of age in all other cases, but does not include,*
- (iii) *part of a public school, separate school, private school or a school for trainable retarded children under the **Education Act,***
- (iv) *a place that is used for a program of recreation and that is supervised by a municipal recreation director who holds a certificate issued pursuant to section 10 of the **Ministry of Culture and Recreation Act,** or*
- (v) *a children's mental health centre under the **Children's Mental Health Services Act.***

The Act outlines the roles of the Minister of Community and Social Services:

- establishing centres where no municipality exists, entering agreements with operators in such jurisdictions and making direct payments to these operators
- entering agreements for private home day care and making direct payments where no municipality exists

and the municipalities:

- making by-laws concerning day care, including grants to operators and providers of in-home care if the municipality chooses.

Every approved corporation (i.e. a private day care centre) receives grants according to the Regulations and the Act which includes a procedure for suspension of approval and appeal.

Capital funding is available for approved new buildings, additions, renovations.

Only licensed facilities may provide day care and licenses are only granted to responsible applicants of good character who can provide appropriate accommodation. Licenses may be revoked for failure to comply with regulations, for lack of provision for the health, safety and welfare of the children, for making false statements in applications, reports or other information and for changing officers of the corporation during the initial application process. Licenses continue in effect until they expire or until a lengthy appeal procedure with hearings has taken place.

An emergency mechanism is provided whereby a Director, an employee of the Ministry, may demand changes in the centre to bring it up to standard, or close it. A Director may file an injunction to force compliance and the injunction may be appealed.

Programme advisers are provided by the Act to inspect facilities, evaluate services and check the financial and other records of the centre or agency.

The Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council (i.e. the Cabinet) makes regulations on the detailed administration of centres.

Penalties for non-compliance and contravention are provided.

Bands under the **Indian Act** have the same rights and responsibilities for day care as municipalities.

FUNDING

Funding for day care comes from several sources. The federal government pays 50% of operating costs under its Canada Assistance Plan, the province pays 30% and the municipality 20%. The municipality decides how many spaces will be subsidized and who qualifies for subsidized day care. The province and the municipality share capital costs equally for new facilities, but the province will pay 80% for approved renovations, leaving 20% of the cost to the municipality. The federal government allows the province to claim depreciation on these capital expenditures.

Advocates of day care need to understand the complex bureaucracy which often obscures the facts. A review of the **Status of Day Care in Canada: 1980** by National Health and Welfare found that the provinces did not gather information on day care in the same way, making comparisons difficult. On the smaller scale, informal day care arrangements cannot be included in any study because of the lack of organization of these facilities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

The following annotated list provides the members with FWTAO's position on the question of day care and a few other titles for general information. All of the titles are available from the FWTAO library.

Early Childhood Education — FWTAO examines basic theory on cognitive, social, emotional and physical development with a discussion of the implications for classroom practice and an examination of trends in early childhood education — the child from three to eight years.

To Herald a Child: The Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Education of the Young Child — Among the recommendations of the Commission, which was funded by the four elementary affiliates of OTF and the Ministry of Education are several which advocate Family Centres for young children up to age eight which would provide quality care. Another recommendation suggests a Ministry of the Family and of the Young Child.

Response to "To Herald a Child" by the four sponsoring affiliates — OPSMTF, AEFO, FWTAO and OECTA agree with the concept of Family Centres and call on the Ministries to cooperate in a pilot project.

FWTAO Response to "To Herald a Child" — FWTAO encourages the expansion of courses in early childhood education, and the provision of qualified administrators at the school, Board and Ministry levels.

Daycare Deadline 1990: Brief to the Government of the Province of Ontario on the Future of Daycare Service in Ontario by the Ontario Coalition for Better Daycare — The Coalition, of which OTF and FWTAO are members, recommends specific goals and targets for the expansion of daycare in Ontario, including an organizational model, the HUB, which is similar to the Family Centre. The Coalition also calls for pilot projects to begin immediately.

Perspectives on Work-Related Day Care — This document is Child in the City Report No. 11, from the University of Toronto Centre for Urban and Community Studies. It provides invaluable information on all aspects of day care.

Workplace Child Care — A Background Paper — The Women's Bureau of the Ontario Ministry of Labour provides an international context for day care as well as an extensive bibliography of materials on day care in Canada.

Report of the Workgroup on the Co-ordination of Comprehensive Care Programs — The Toronto Board of Education has a plan for improving day care.