

Child care and early learning updates e-newsletter

September 29, 2025

Welcome to The Regional Municipality of Durham's child care and early learning updates e-newsletter. These e-newsletters provide licensed child care operators in Durham Region with updated information related to child care.

This edition includes the following topics:

- Special Needs Resourcing (SNR) updates
- Last call: Online application for Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system directed growth spaces
- CWELCC operator session
- Changes to the notifications in the Child Care Operator Portal

Special Needs Resourcing (SNR) updates

The Region of Durham, Child Care and Early Years Division (CCEYD) is the Service System Manager (SSM) for licensed child care, including the provision of SNR services to child care centres. SNR services aim to support the inclusion of all children in child care environments through educator capacity building, classroom strategies and supports.

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement and to better meet the needs of children, their families and educators, the CCEYD initiated a third-party evaluation of the SNR services provided by SNR agencies that receive funding from the Region of Durham. In Spring 2024, a team of researchers from Toronto Metropolitan University, York University and the University of Windsor invited child care educators and leadership staff, SNR providers, and families to participate in a series of focus groups and online surveys. The findings of their review (attached with the EL update), highlight strengths within the current SNR system and opportunities for growth and consideration.

Further feedback was gathered from SNR agency service providers through a SWOT (strength, weakness, opportunities, threats) exercise during a networking event this past March. The input and feedback collected from both initiatives revealed common themes and alignments. The CCEYD thanks everyone who shared input and participated in surveys, focus groups and exercises.

Incorporating feedback from both initiatives, the CCEYD is developing a plan forward that aims to improve the SNR system in Durham. Some areas of focus include: sector-

wide capacity building, enhanced education on SNR supports available to child care programs, and a review of the current enhanced staffing funding model.

We look forward to sharing additional details and providing opportunities for continued collaboration as the team works through aspects of planning and implementation.

Last call: Online application for Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system directed growth spaces

The online application form to express interest in CWELCC enrolment and expansion will close on October 1 at 6 p.m. The link to the online application can be found on the [Child Care and Early Years](#) website.

Applications are being accepted for projects located in the highest priority neighbourhoods and operated by not-for-profit entities only.

CWELCC operator session

Recently, operators received information via email about the operator meeting scheduled for October 8 at 10 a.m. Please join us for important CWELCC updates and clarifications as we approach the final quarter of 2025. Participation is key to staying informed and aligned with CWELCC program expectations. The session will include information on eligible expenses, emergency and professional learning funding, the year-end reconciliation process, and completion of the data tool in preparation for 2026. There will be an opportunity for questions after the presentation in the Q&A chat. Alternatively, operators can forward questions in advance to Stacee.Stevenson@durham.ca by October 6.

Changes to the notifications in the Child Care Operator Portal

Child Care Operators are now required to notify the CCEYD after submitting documents to the HO Shared Documents or SITE Shared Documents sections of their Child Care Operator Portal.

After uploading a file, operators must:

- Email the CCEYD staff member who requested the documentation, or
- Send an email to CCEYDnotifications@durham.ca, if the operator is unsure of which staff member to send the documentation to. The operator should reference the name and/or type of document that was uploaded, and the folder it was placed in.

When returning a document at the request of a CCEYD staff, please ensure it is uploaded to the folder specified in the 'Return Document To' column. These steps help ensure timely processing and follow-up.

All auto-generated email alerts produced from the Child Care Operator Portal will cease as of October 2025. To review or update the contact information for your centre(s), please email ChildCareTechSupport@durham.ca.