

Child care and early learning updates e-newsletter

November 25, 2024

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:

- Help celebrate educators: 2025 Prime Minister's Awards nominations
- Ontario Early Childhood Education (ECE) grants
- Resource Library update
- Enhanced staffing funding update

Help celebrate educators: 2025 Prime Minister's Awards nominations

The nomination period for the 2025 [Prime Minister's Awards](#) is now open. The Prime Minister's Awards are a chance to celebrate educators for their leadership and exemplary education practices. Any person or group (i.e., parents, colleagues, principals, board members, or students) can nominate educators in three different categories:

- Teaching excellence
- Teaching excellence in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
- Excellence in early childhood education

To help encourage nominations and recognize outstanding educators who empower Canada's youth, refer to the [promotional toolkit](#) which includes promotional information such as posters, web buttons, shareables and key messages.

Raise awareness of the awards by printing posters, uploading a web button to your website, and/or promoting the initiative on your social media accounts.

Ontario Early Childhood Education (ECE) grants

[Ontario ECE grants](#) will begin accepting applications for the winter 2025 semester from previous ECE applicants as of November 18.

All other applicants, including those for the Leadership Grant program, can apply beginning December 2. For further details, including required documents to apply for

both the ECE and Leadership grants, please visit the [Questions & Answers](#) section on the Qualifications Upgrade and Leadership pages.

Resource Library update

The newly renovated Resource Library is now open to the public on Wednesdays between 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Appointments are to be made with a minimum of one business day notice. Contact Kimberley Timianis by email at kimberley.timianis@durham.ca to make an appointment to use the Resource Library. The new and improved space is ideal for teamwork, networking, and creating materials to enhance early learning programs.

Enhanced staffing funding update

To support record keeping, the Children's Services Division will provide operators who were approved for enhanced staffing funding in 2024 with an updated and reconciled summary of approvals in the new year. Summaries will be populated by head offices and uploaded to the Operator Portal by the end of January 2025.