

Child care and early learning updates e-newsletter

March 30, 2026

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:

- Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth (RFECY): Preschool Outreach Program (POP)
- Temporary Program Assistant (TPA) funding guidelines
- Diversity, Equity Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) policy resource
- Supervisors' Network meeting with the Ministry of Education
- 2025 CCEYD Service Plan update
- Children's Developmental and Behavioural Supports (CDBS) pilot: Concepts to Classrooms - A collaborative, hands-on behaviour strategies learning experience for child care teams
- Spring Mobile ID and Benefits Access Hubs
- Ontario launches 2026 to 2027 Francophone Community Grants Program

Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth (RFECY): Preschool Outreach Program (POP)

Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth (RFECY) and Grandview Kids have collaborated to develop a new referral process for the Preschool Outreach Program (POP). To support consistency and ensure that the process is coordinated for educators and children in your care, all referrals to POP will now be submitted by the assigned resource consultant. Please see the attached communication for further details on the updated referral process.

Temporary Program Assistant (TPA) funding guidelines

Please see attached communication for updated guidance on funding that may be available to support and promote inclusion in eligible licensed child care centres.

Please note that these guidelines and parameters take effect on April 1. Centres approved for Enhanced Staffing Funding (ESF) between January and March 2026, can submit an application in collaboration with their assigned resource consultant for April onwards.

In addition to the guidelines, the Child Care and Early Years Division (CCEYD) has also provided a copy of the questions that will be asked in the TPA applications as a reference. All applications are required to be submitted by the resource consultant, in collaboration with the child care centre.

Please reach out should you have any questions following the review of these new guidelines. Thank you for your ongoing partnership in providing inclusive early learning environments in Durham Region.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) policy resource

The CCEYD is pleased to share the [Regional Early Learning and Child Care Centres' Child Care Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility \(DEIA\) policy](#) as a resource for the early learning community.

This document reflects the commitment to fostering environments where children, families, and educators feel valued, respected, and have a true sense of belonging.

We recognize that every program and community is at a different point in its diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility journey. With that in mind, this policy is being shared simply as a tool operators may wish to draw from, adapt, or reflect on as it supports your organization's work.

We hope it offers a helpful reference point as you continue shaping approaches that best meet the needs of your children, families, and educators.

Supervisor's Network meeting with the Ministry of Education

Please join us for an upcoming Supervisors' Network meeting with the Ministry of Education on Thursday, April 23, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Centennial Building, (Regal room) at 416 Centre Street South in Whitby. A senior program advisor from the Ministry of Education will provide updates on recent licensing trends and serious occurrences, followed by updates from CCEYD. Participants are encouraged to submit any questions in advance to Jennifer Titterton at Jennifer.Titterton@durham.ca. Registration for the event is required for anyone planning to attend. To register, select the link below and provide the relevant details.

Registration: [Supervisors' Network – Ministry of Education and CCEYD updates](#)

2025 CCEYD Service Plan update

The 2025 [CCEYD Service Plan](#) update is now available. This annual report outlines initiatives and accomplishments to meet the 2023 to 2027 Service Plan priorities and shares the continued commitment to supporting Durham Region children and families. The CCEYD demonstrates annual progress and communicate achievements, initiatives and milestones of the division through these updates.

Children’s Developmental and Behavioural Supports (CDBS) pilot: Concepts to Classrooms - A collaborative, hands-on behaviour strategies learning experience for child care teams

Are you a child care centre looking for a collaborative learning experience that supports educators in building confidence, strengthening skills, and developing shared approaches, right within their own classrooms?

Children’s Developmental and Behavioural Supports (CDBS) invites your team to participate in Concepts to Classrooms, a hands-on professional learning pilot designed with educators, for educators.

This pilot emphasizes learning together, applying key strategies in real time, and reflecting as a team on what works best for your educators and your classrooms. Educators are active partners throughout the process, asking questions, practicing strategies, reflecting on their experiences, and sharing how learning is applied, all while being supported by a behaviour consultant.

What to expect

Participating centres will engage in a blend of shared learning, in-classroom practice, and ongoing reflection.

The pilot experience includes:

- Brief learning surveys to identify your team’s priorities and ensure educator voice guides the focus of the learning.
- One in-person professional learning session held during a staff meeting at your site, based on a topic selected through a needs assessment completed with the support of a behaviour consultant.
- Up to three behaviour consultation, practice, and coaching sessions in up to two child care classrooms. These sessions are embedded within regular programming to support real-time practice and reflection.

- A follow-up reflection session approximately three months later to revisit learning, celebrate growth, and discuss sustainability.

Professional learning topics

Sessions focus on foundational behaviour concepts and their practical application to support calmer, more connected, and successful classroom environments.

Together, we will explore:

- Practical prevention strategies that strengthen key educator skills and support safe, proactive, and consistent practices.
- Building clear expectations using relationship-based approaches that reduce power struggles and promote positive engagement during routines and transitions.
- Working through real examples from your classrooms to better understand the “why” behind interfering behaviours.
- Identifying simple, meaningful adjustments to interactions and the environment that support positive behaviour and cooperation.

Interested in participating in the pilot?

By joining Concepts to Classrooms, your centre becomes a co-creator of an innovative professional learning model for our community. Your experiences, insights, and reflections will help shape a model that is practical, responsive, and grounded in what educators truly need.

To ensure meaningful consultation and a high-quality hands-on learning experience, participation in this pilot phase is limited to a small number of centres. Child care supervisors or head office staff can express interest by contacting behaviouralsupports@durham.ca (Please include “Concepts to Classrooms Pilot” in the subject line.)

Spring Mobile ID and Benefits Access Hubs

The Region of Durham is hosting [Mobile ID and Benefits Access Hubs](#) this April and May. The hubs will help clients and residents living with low income to:

- Open a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) and apply for the Canada Learning Bond (CLB).
- Access Social Insurance Numbers (SINs), birth certificates, and other forms of ID.
- Get their taxes filed for free.

- Sign up for the Canadian Dental Care Plan.
- Learn about other income-boosting benefits that they may be eligible for.

The upcoming spring hubs will run:

- Pickering Public Library, 1 The Esplanade South, Pickering: April 14, 1 to 6 p.m.
- Brock Community Health Centre, 39 Cameron Street West, Cannington: April 22, 1 to 6:30 p.m.
- Ajax Public Library, 55 Harwood Avenue South, Ajax: April 29, 1 to 6 p.m.
- Oshawa Public Library, 65 Debwewin Miikan (formerly 65 Bagot Street), Oshawa: April 30, 1 to 6 p.m.
- Clarington Library, Museums and Archives, 163 Church Street, Bowmanville: May 6, 1 to 6 p.m.
- Whitby Public Library, 405 Dundas Street West, Whitby: May 14, 1 to 6 p.m.

Visit Durham Region's [Mobile Benefits Hubs](#) page to learn more information on hub event details.

Ontario launches 2026 to 2027 Francophone Community Grants Program

The Ontario government has launched the [2026 to 2027 Francophone Community Grants Program](#) (FCGP). The program provides funding of up to \$50,000 for projects that improve access to French-language services, strengthen organizational capacity, promote Francophone culture, and support economic development. Interested community organizations and businesses can apply under two streams, Community and Culture, or Economic Development. All applications are due April 23.