

# Early Years Community Plan

THE CITY OF HAMILTON & HAMILTON BEST START NETWORK

2012-2015



# IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

**May 12, 2014**

Emergency & Community Services Committee  
Item 7.1



Hamilton  
Best Start  
Hamilton  
Meilleur départ

# What is the Early Years Community Plan?



- Developed in partnership with the City of Hamilton and the Hamilton Best Start Network
- The product of community consultation that began in 2012 to determine the current state of early years services in Hamilton and to develop a plan for the future
- The plan includes:
  - An environmental scan of the city's early years system
  - The results of stakeholder consultation and community engagement
  - An analysis of findings and recommendations

# Importance of the EYCP



- Supports the Best Start Vision
  - Best Start is about children
  - Best Start is about families
  - Best Start is about community and connections
  - Best Start is about our future
- Supports the City's Vision:
  - Making Hamilton the best place to raise a child

# Key Findings of the EYCP



- Twelve challenges were identified that can be categorized into four key themes
  - Inclusion
  - Child Care Stabilization and Transformation
  - System Integration
  - Access to Information

# INCLUSION

## How will these challenges be addressed?



- Children with special needs have access to high quality early years supports.
- All children, including Francophone, Aboriginal and newcomer children, are welcomed in all environments.

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Special needs resourcing review
- Review of supports available to children without identified special needs
- Cultural sensitivity training opportunities for early years professionals through a variety of approaches

# CHILD CARE STABILIZATION AND TRANSFORMATION

## How will these challenges be addressed?



- With the introduction of full-day kindergarten, the licensed child care system is supported as centres focus on providing care to younger children.

### **OPPORTUNITIES**

- City of Hamilton's funding model
- City of Hamilton's child care fee subsidy waitlist strategy
- Communications between the City of Hamilton and early years service providers
- OneHSN, an on-line licensed child care registry

# SYSTEM INTEGRATION

## How will these challenges be addressed?



- A seamless early years system is in place so that children and families can quickly and efficiently access services they require.

### **OPPORTUNITIES**

- Clear, measurable outcomes for the Best Start Network
- An inventory of early years services
- A “warm transfer” protocol between service providers
- An interactive tool to support the early years inventory

# ACCESS TO INFORMATION

## How will these challenges be addressed?



- Families and service providers can quickly and easily access accurate/current information.

### **OPPORTUNITIES**

- Revised Best Start website ([HamiltonBestStart.ca](http://HamiltonBestStart.ca))
- Basic needs pilot in the Beasley neighbourhood
- Canada Learning Bond initiative in the Gibson/Landsdale neighbourhood
- Best Start magazine
- Evidence based decisions



## Next Steps



- Will continue to work with the community to find and implement solutions that will address the identified challenges
- Will need to update the plan in 2016
- Continue to be pro-active in planning for the needs of Hamilton so that we can respond to new Ministry initiatives and/or directives