

Ministry of Education
Early Years Division

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MEMORANDUM TO: Consolidated Municipal Service Managers
District Social Service Administration Boards
First Nations Chiefs
First Nation Child Care Supervisors
District School Boards and District School Authorities

FROM: Jim Grieve
Assistant Deputy Minister
Early Years Division

DATE: November 1, 2013

SUBJECT: **New Professional Learning Resources for Educators Working
in Early Years Settings**

I am pleased to provide you with information regarding new professional learning resources for educators and other professionals working in early years settings. As you know, the Ministry of Education is committed to supporting early years settings in providing high quality early learning and development opportunities for children across Ontario. The recently released *Ontario Early Years Policy Framework* describes how high quality programs have an extraordinary and long-lasting impact on children's development, and therefore we want to do everything that we can to support educators in this important work.

As part of this process, the Ministry recently worked with leading experts in the field of early childhood education to develop six research briefs and several associated video clips for educators working in early years settings. These resources build on the existing resources that have been developed related to the Early Learning Framework. We are pleased to announce that these resources are now complete and can be found on the Ministry's website at:
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/research.html>

The briefs and video clips highlight key research findings and practical tips for educators related to seven elements of early years program quality. These elements include: positive adult-child relationships and brain development, learning environments, pedagogical documentation, pedagogical leadership, self-regulation, parent engagement, and inclusion. The resources are not intended to provide an in-depth analysis of each topic, rather they serve to highlight key ideas that educators may find useful in their understanding of young children. They are intended to encourage critical reflection and discussion about these ideas and challenge educators as they consider their daily practice from new perspectives.

We encourage you to read the briefs and watch the clips and consider how they could be shared across your community, perhaps in conjunction with any existing professional development opportunities offered in your area.

We hope that you will find these materials useful as we all work towards supporting high quality experiences for young children and their families.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Grieve". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "G".

Jim Grieve
Assistant Deputy Minister
Early Years Division