

Hamilton Early Years Quality Program – System Priority Template

Instructions for Template Completion

Getting Started

- The submission date is April 30, 2021.
- Engage your teams in reflecting on goals from the previous years and in planning for the year ahead. Engage your team in visioning goals for the year ahead, thinking about your overall vision. As you plan with your teams, introduce them to the Hamilton Early Years Quality Program Guide and discuss its elements, visions, and goals. Consider the eight elements as building blocks for the foundation of a quality program.
- Download the template from the City of Hamilton website, Child Care Operators, Early Years System - [Hamilton Early Years Quality Program System Priority Template](#)
- On the Early Years Systems page, scroll to “Early Years Quality Program” and you’ll see the posted documents. Open the template and download to save as a document on your computer. You may also choose to download the Hamilton Early Years Quality Program Guide.

Completing the Template

Educator engagement is strongly encouraged. Include educators from all service types, including child care, school age programs, licensed home child care, and EarlyON programs.

In **Part 1-A**, you’ll reflect on highlights from the previous year and are asked to develop a pedagogical story of one or more highlights from your quality goals, and to share impact by portraying the experience of the child, family, and/or educator. Multi-service programs are asked to include documentation for each early Learning and child care program type that is offered. (E.g. Child Care, EarlyON)

Part 1-B: This section relates to **Tools for Life**. In 2020, Tools for Life continued to be a key initiative for our community. Engage with your team to reflect on its implementation, its impact, and share example(s) of how it has been implemented or adapted for your classroom. Indicate your interests or needs for further training in the year ahead.

Part 1-C: In this section, reflect on the professional learning you have undertaken as teams and consider next steps.

In 2021, as a community, professional learning will continue to focus on pedagogical documentation, family engagement, inclusion, self-regulation and Tools for Life, as well as responding to emerging interests in using technology, pedagogical leadership, physical literacy, outdoor classrooms and nature-based learning.

Engage educators from all service types, including child care, school age programs, licensed home child care, and EarlyON programs to discuss and review the vision that informs quality goal(s) for their program. Reflect on progress towards that vision through the children’s lens, considering play, inquiry, curiosity, and/or well-being.

Consider what will support you in progressing toward your vision in 2021 (examples: professional learning plans, new materials).

Part 2: There is a page for each of the four system priorities: **Quality, Accessibility, Integration, and Sustainability**. Select 1-3 goals for each priority. It is acceptable to have the same goal for more than one priority, if you speak to its relevance to the second priority.

Column 1) Use the drop-down menu to identify whether the goal is new for 2021 or something that was begun in the previous year and is being continued and expanded upon.

Column 2) Hamilton Early Years Quality Program Guide: In this drop-down, you’ll see the eight elements from the quality framework. Refer to the visions and goals and select the element that connects to your goal.

Column 3) Write your goal, stating it as the outcome you are aiming for (e.g. “Children will have access to an outdoor classroom”).

Column 4) A. Use the drop-down menu to show a connection to **How Does Learning Happen?**, its core views, and foundations for learning.

B. Relevance to your program: Note why you chose this goal for your program. Does it connect to your vision? Does it respond to an on-going challenge? Does it partially support a large or long-term project?

Column 5) The last box is where you will list key tasks, timelines, and, as relevant, the person responsible for undertaking the key tasks.

Part 3: Multi-Site Operators

Provide a description of how the organization will engage all teams in understanding the goals as well as the overall quality process. We encourage operators to engage site supervisors in developing a site-specific work plan for quality goals to guide timely implementation, transfer to practice, and optimize collective impact for the organization.

For those organizations providing Licensed Home Child Care, a separate attachment for part 3 will be provided.

Communicating with the City

Send your completed template to ccss@hamilton.ca. Please save and name your files using your program name (e.g. XYZZ ELCC 2020 template.docx).

Next steps: Once templates have been reviewed, visits will be scheduled. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2021 we will be planning for small group virtual sessions beginning in May 2021. If possible, we will schedule follow-up site visits for later in the year. Additional information will be sent in early April to guide you in preparing for the virtual session.

ASCY Support: You are encouraged to have discussion with your ASCY Professional Learning Consultant (PLC), as professional learning opportunities or coaching may be key activities you include in your timeline. ASCY PLC's can also be a resource to help you to identify your goals and share samples of documentation.