Early childhood development
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CMA POLICY
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCTION

Early childhood development is a foundational element for a child's lifelong health and well-being. A healthy, supportive environment during the early years is crucial for developing brain connectivity and proper social and emotional development. Policy must support and promote practices that enhance early childhood development, including investments in quality early childhood education and care.

The CMA recommends that:

1. The federal government, in collaboration with the provinces and territories, ensure that all children have access to high-quality early childhood education and care programs that are inclusive, comprehensive and age-appropriate.

2. The federal government encourage provinces, territories and municipalities to implement proven effective practices for early childhood development, such as universal access to high-quality early childhood education and care programs.

3. The federal government require that early childhood education and care programs include comprehensive health education and training for providers.

4. The federal government support research and evaluation of early childhood development programs and policies.

Information on early childhood development is crucial for understanding the child's development potential and provides the opportunity to intervene to improve outcomes. Early childhood development should be a priority for all levels of government, as it impacts lifelong health and well-being. The CMA recommends that:

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