

Best Start

The Goals of Best Start

Best Start is a bold strategy, one that will involve a massive expansion of quality and affordable child care and investments in children's healthy early development – all in a convenient and easily accessible location for parents. Approximately \$1.1 billion in new federal funding over the next three years beginning in 2005-2006 will enable us to work with our community partners – school boards, public health units, child care and children's services providers, and municipalities – to make sure that:

- many more children and parents have access to services and supports, regardless of individual economic or social circumstances
- pre-school, junior kindergarten, senior kindergarten, quality child care, public health and parenting programs are integrated into a seamless system that supports families and children
- early and ongoing screening of Ontario's children to identify potential issues, needs and risks is strengthened
- early learning and care hubs are centrally established in Ontario's communities to provide families with a single, integrated, seamless point of access to services and supports based on local needs and available resources.