

Early Childhood Education and Care for Newcomer Families

TITLE OF RESEARCH: **Mobilizing Innovative Models in Early Childhood Education and Care for Newcomer Families and Children**

RESEARCHER TEAM: Jessie-Lee McIsaac, Nahal Fakhari, Milena Pimentel, Nickolas Hickens, Heather Podanovitch, Emma Coughlan, Nabiha Atallah, Gina Moynan, Tayitu Sebsibie

SUMMARY: This study explored current early learning and child care (ELCC) programs available to newcomer families to better understand what is needed to meet the unique social and emotional learning needs of newcomer children.

LINK: Click [here](#) to read the executive summary and [here](#) to read the report



Strengths of ELCC programming identified by settlement organization staff

- Cultural diversity among ELCC staff.
- Wrap-around support that allowed parents to access additional programs based on their needs.
- The proximity of the child care to parents' programming to help children's transition.



Challenges to ELCC programming identified by staff

- The variety of language needs of families.
- Distress from children and parents about separating due to the trauma and pre-migration experiences of families.
- A lack of outdoor space preventing children from exercise their gross motor skills.
- Insufficient funding creates barriers for programs to access specialized support, offer fair compensation for their educations, and access professional development.



Innovative models in ELCC programming

- Partnerships with school district, settlement department, other child care programs, and other licensing bodies.
- Organizational commitment to trauma-informed care and specifically seeking out professional development for staff on this topic.
- The use of toys and equipment to support children's gross motor skills without access to an outdoor playground.

Recommendations:

- Advocates should continue to shift the framework from child minding to early learning and emphasize the crucial role of child care as an essential settlement program.
- Policy makers should enable partnerships between ELCC programs and other organizations by creating opportunities and funding through the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care agreements.
- Policies and programs are needed to support early childhood educators through professional learning and fair compensation

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the researchers and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Child and Youth Refugee Research Coalition.

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