



### **Shaping a National child care Strategy – What is Missing?**

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#### **INCLUSION IS AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF A NATIONAL CHILD CARE STRATEGY!**

A National Child Care Strategy must ensure INCLUSION is a Foundational Principle. The value of inclusion must be embedded across the QUAD principles. Without an EXPLICIT commitment to inclusion there can be no guarantees for the inclusion of children with disabilities. The development of a national child care strategy is too valuable an investment to risk the exclusion of children with disabilities.

Further the accountability framework for this programme must include measures and indicators of inclusion and a commitment to publicly report on inclusion, to ensure that this key principle translates into practice.

Children with disabilities need child care for the same reasons that other children do: healthy child development, parental labour force participation, and opportunity for others to understand and celebrate difference and as a resource to families.

As a country, Canada must ensure that children with disabilities rights are no longer compromised and that they are welcomed into programs. They should not experience exclusion based on resourcing issues, because of underlying misunderstandings about disability and /or overt discrimination. Children with disabilities should not be denied the critical social and developmental experiences, the opportunity to play and learn along side their peers, nor should their families be forced out of the workforce and onto unemployment and welfare programs.

Inclusive child care policies that establish the ground rules, sets standards, and provide the needed funding base for the development of inclusive, high quality child care is a necessary beginning!

See the [CACL website](#) for more info.