

EXPLORING POVERTY REDUCTION GAME CHANGER SERIES

GAME CHANGER #6 - EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Healthy early child development, school readiness, strong parenting skills, and access to affordable and regulated childcare spaces.



Healthy early childhood development supports children to be physically and emotionally healthy, safe and secure, ready to learn, socially engaged, and responsible. A child’s early years, particularly from before birth through age six, critically influence the course and outcome of their adolescent and adult lives. Their development during these years influences success in school, transition into adulthood, and lifelong health and well-being. Children require access to early literacy and development programs, positive school experiences, inspiring adult role models, and opportunities to develop their talents. Parents must have the time, tools, and resources required to give their children a good start in life, including strong parenting skills, and access to affordable, regulated child care services. Ultimately, children are our future parents, consumers, and decision-makers. Maximizing development through their early years ultimately creates positive and supportive communities for all.

**What is a poverty reduction Game Changer? Read: [Sometimes to hear the music you have to turn down the noise.](#)
Have feedback or ideas on our Game Changer exploration? Let us know by filling out this [short survey.](#)**

RECOMMENDATIONS ON BEST PRACTICES AND POLICIES

FEDERAL



Government of Canada
Gouvernement du Canada

[Canada Child Benefit](#) – A tax-free monthly payment to help low- and middle-income families with the costs associated with raising their children.

[Early Childhood Development and Early Learning and Childhood Agreements](#) – Fund transfer to provinces to support them to invest in early childhood development, early learning and child care, and child care spaces.

PROVINCIAL / TERRITORIAL



[Ontario’s Child Benefit](#) – Financial support for low- to moderate-income families, regardless of working status, to help parents with the costs of raising their children.



[Healthy Child Manitoba: Starting Early, Starting Strong](#) – Prevention and early intervention strategy supporting children’s physical and emotional health, safety and security, learning success, and social engagement and responsibility.

MUNICIPAL / COMMUNITY

- [\\$10 per day campaign](#) – Proposed child care plan to reduce fees, to ensure regulated spaces are available for every child, and to train and employ fairly-compensated educators.
- [Early Childhood Development Provincial Partnership \(ECDPP\): Success by 6](#) – Develops community Early Years Councils and Aboriginal Early Years Councils, advances early childhood development, improves service delivery, and builds child and family friendly communities.
- [Early Years Development Institute](#) – Fosters innovative strategies to support young children by identifying strengths, acknowledging vulnerabilities, leveraging resources and influencing systems.