



**all kids belong**

Inclusion Support Services

**All Kids Belong  
Updates for Child Care Advisory Committee  
February 2021**

In 2020 our community, and our program, faced unprecedented changes and challenges due to the COVID 19 Pandemic. Child Care and Early Years programs and schools were closed for several months. During this time All Kids Belong (AKB) created and distributed information and suggestions via “eblast” to support and remain in contact with programs and families. Transition to school meetings were facilitated. Workshops and Knowledge Exchange events were offered to the community. Time was spent in updating our resources and engaging in professional development. Over the course of time, some child care centres re-opened to provide care for children of essential workers. Eventually most programs and schools were able to re-open, although restrictions remained in place to promote infection prevention and control, and capacity was sometimes limited. AKB remained available at all times. We provided virtual services via videoconferencing, telephone and email. When permitted to do so, we began a gradual and cautious return to in-person services with many precautions in place. Most of the targets we set for the year were met, or almost met, although the method of service delivery was different than originally planned.

Currently, All Kids Belong continues to offer most services virtually, with in-person visits occurring only when other means of providing service have been exhausted. The number of classrooms and centres visited on any given day is strictly limited. Staff follow all protocols set out by the Ministry of Education, Health Unit, and individual programs.

In 2020 we developed and launched our new strategic plan that focuses on Excellence, Innovation and Leadership. We are confident that this plan has the right combination of inspiration, flexibility and accountability to guide our work with the community in this unique time.

The challenges imposed by the pandemic prompted us to be flexible and creative, and to embrace technology. We are grateful to have been able to remain available to the community, and for the new skills and approaches we learned. We will continue to evaluate the data we collected this year, and to revisit our service model in light of everything we learned, and continue to learn, from this challenging year.

Respectfully submitted,

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