

Brantford and Brant County Frequently Asked Questions

What is Raising the Bar ?

Raising the bar is a voluntary accreditation program designed to help families ensure their children are receiving high quality early learning and child care programs.

The presence of a Raising the Bar certificate is your assurance that the program you have chosen is committed to maintaining provincial regulatory and community standards.

Who can participate?

- Early Learning and Parenting Centres
- Licensed Child Care Centres
- Special Needs Resource Agencies
- Licensed Home Child Care Agencies

Raising the Bar participants voluntarily submit to an annual review to ensure they meet community standards.

- **Bronze level** programs follow fundamental quality indicators that raise the standards above the minimum ministry guidelines.
- **Silver level** programs have additional strategies to enhance quality.
- **Gold level** programs demonstrate a long-term commitment to high quality in early learning and child care.

Quality Assurance:

- Quality is monitored through frequent program observations through the use of accredited tools
- Parent and/or Caregiver feedback is collected each year.
- Action plans are developed to address areas of need and to plan for improvement.
- Programs are expected to provide support for **all** children.

Best Practices:

- The program offers information for parents and promotes opportunities for community involvement.
- There are detailed policies, procedures and management practices to guide day-to-day operations.
- Professionals provide reports about children's health and development.

Education and Training:

Raising the Bar program staff maintain credentials and commit to additional training each year.

- First aid and CPR.
- All staff are required to attend workshops and conferences to enhance their understanding of early learning and child care.
- Raising the Bar programs support training through mentorship and by providing practical training opportunities for students and volunteers.

How will I know if my child's program is Raising the Bar?

- Participating programs receive a certificate each year and are encouraged to post it in a visible location.
- Participating programs are identified on the Early Years Community Website www.eycbrant.ca.
- The program staff will be pleased to tell you about Raising the Bar.

Is Raising the Bar a guarantee of quality?

- Participating in Raising the Bar indicates a commitment to supporting healthy, high quality environments for the children in our community, but it is not a guarantee or endorsement.
- The Ministry of Children and Youth Services is responsible for the regulation of child care in Ontario.
- An annual review of documentation submitted by the programs is undertaken by a committee of community peers.

An ASCY Community Initiative

Raising the Bar was developed in Hamilton and is a community project coordinated by Affiliated Services for Children and Youth (ASCY).

For more information about Raising the Bar on Quality, please contact
Ontario Early Years Centre: Brant
330 West Street
Brantford, ON N3R 7V5
519-759-3833





Brantford and Brant County 2008

Congratulations to the following Early Learning and Child Care Programs that completed the process of Raising the Bar on Quality 2008!

These centres implemented the program components of Quality Assurance, Best Practices and Staff Professional Development.

Congratulations to:

Brantford Programs

Beryl Angus Municipal Children's Centre
Our Lady Queen of Peace Montessori Bilingual School
Wee Watch Enriched Home Child Care
City of Brantford License Home Child Care
Ontario Early Years Centre: Brant
Lansdowne Children's Centre
Family Counselling Centre of Brant

Brant County Programs

Just 4 Mom's & Kids Children's Centre
Paris Child Care Inc.
Paris Child Care; Holy Family Child Care
Paris Child Care; North Ward School Age
Paris Child Care; Queen's Ward School Age Program

