



# KEEPING IN TOUCH

*Special Edition: December 2008*

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## ONTARIO COLLEGE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

This Special Edition of the CMAS newsletter, *Keeping in Touch*, brings you information about the newly established Ontario College of Early Childhood Educators.

*Please share this bulletin with all child care staff!*

### Background

The Ontario government introduced new legislation in 2007, *The Early Childhood Educators Act*, which established the College of Early Childhood Educators (College of ECEs).

The College of ECEs is a professional self-regulatory body for early childhood educators (ECEs).

The Ontario government formed the college in order to protect the public interest and to promote quality and standards of practice of early childhood education.

Over 40 self-regulatory Colleges exist in the province (including the College of Teachers and the Colleges of Nurses, as two examples). Ontario is the first jurisdiction in North America to have a College of ECEs.

### What does the College of ECEs do?

The College of ECEs sets the "Scope of Practice" for ECEs (*see below*); sets entry requirements; provides ongoing professional development; establishes and enforces professional standards; receives and investigates complaints; and communicates with the public on behalf of members of the College of ECEs.

### What exactly is Professional Self-Regulation?

Professional self-regulation is a model whereby an occupational group enters into agreement with the government to formally regulate the activities of its members. The profession itself sets the level of qualifications, the standards and takes collective responsibility for the quality of service provided by all ECEs in Ontario, regardless of which setting they work in.

## **Are LINC Childminders & Occasional Child Care staff required to register with the College of ECEs?**

According to the legislation, the College of ECEs requires all qualified Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) to register with the College of ECEs. If you are in possession of a recognized Early Childhood Education diploma or degree and are working as an ECE as defined in the Scope of Practice, the College of ECEs requires you to register with them.

The Scope of Practice as defined in the *Early Childhood Educators Act* is:

The practice of early childhood education is the planning and delivery of inclusive play-based learning and care programs for children in order to promote the well-being and holistic development of children.

Just as LINC instructors teaching ESL to adult immigrants in Ontario are required to hold a TESL Ontario Certificate, LINC Childminders and Occasional Child Care staff who are ECEs are required by provincial legislation to be registered with their professional body, the College of ECEs. (Child care staff who work as assistants and who do not hold a recognized Early Childhood Education diploma or degree are not required to register with the College of ECEs).

## **What does registration mean? How do I register? When should I register?**

For information on how to register, visit the College website at: <http://www.collegeofece.on.ca>

The website contains the *application form* and an *application guide*.

*The College of ECEs requires all ECEs to register by Feb. 14, 2009.*

## **Is there a fee to register?**

The College of ECEs requires a one time application fee of \$75 and an annual registration fee of \$150.

*If you apply before January 30, 2009, the Ontario government will waive the application fee of \$75.*

## **Where to get more information?**

The College of ECEs is your professional body and as such, should be your first point of contact with regard to questions about registering.

The FAQ and more information can be found on the College website, should you have any questions: <http://www.collegeofece.on.ca>.

However, if you have additional concerns that are not addressed by contacting the College, please remember that *CMAS is here to support you!*

**CMAS – Childminding Monitoring Advisory & Support**  
17 Fairmeadow Ave., Suite 211  
Toronto, Ontario M2P 1W6  
Phone 416-395-5027 Fax 416-395-5190  
[info@cmascanada.ca](mailto:info@cmascanada.ca) [www.cmascanada.ca](http://www.cmascanada.ca)