

<b>Section:</b> <b>SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>Name of Policy:</b> <b>FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICES</b>
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**APPROVED BY:** Director, Children's Services **DATE:** February 26, 2008

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** February 26, 2008 **LATEST REVISION:** November 20, 2017

**Authority:** Child Care Service Management Guidelines, 1999  
Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres Business Practices and Funding Guidelines for Service System Managers (2018)

**Intent:** To outline Niagara Region Children's Services policies and practices regarding French Language child care and early years services in Niagara.

**Rationale:** To comply with Ontario Ministry of Education requirements regarding French language licensed child care and early years services.  
**As a third party provider**, Consolidated Municipal Services Managers (Niagara Region Children's Services) under the *French Language Services Act* (FLSA), Regulation 284.11 are required to offer French language child and family programs and services, on behalf of the government and in accordance with legislated responsibilities.

**Definitions:** Content not required.

**Policy:** The *French Language Services Act* identifies designated areas across the province where services must be offered in French. Niagara Region has two French Language designated areas: City of Welland and City of Port Colborne. Niagara Region Children's Services will strive to partner with organizations in planning and the provision of licensed child care programs, early years programs and support services to children with special needs in French. Every effort will be made to partner with organizations most capable of providing services by taking into consideration criteria such as, but not limited to agencies expertise, linguistic capacity, administrative ability and knowledge of clients needs.

**Scope:** This policy is specific to French Language licensed child care and early years services for children under age twelve in Niagara region.

**Procedure:**

1. Children's Services enters into a contract with French language licensed child care centres, family resource centres, and agencies providing supports to children with special needs.
2. Contracted non-profit organizations must comply with all additional Niagara Region Children's Services requirements.

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3. Through the Child Care and Early Years Service System Plan, Children's Services identifies the geographic location, levels of service, and includes relevant information identified through the local French language planning council. When dollars become available through the Province of Ontario, Niagara Region Children's Services ensures that an appropriate percentage of resources are allocated for expanded or new French language licensed child care and early years services to address identified needs and gaps in service.

**Procedure:**

Accountability is maintained through reporting of key Child Care and Early Years Service System Plan goals and deliverables with the Ministry of Education and local community stakeholders on an annual basis. Accountability is maintained through the French Language Service Plan submitted annually to the Ministry of Education. The Plan identified current capacity in the delivery of French language core child care services and early years programs and supports, including short-term and long-term strategies with timelines if not at full capacity.