

Section: SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT	Name of Policy: INDIGENOUS SERVICES
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APPROVED BY: Director, Children's Services **DATE:** February 21, 2008

EFFECTIVE DATE February 21, 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 Children's Services policies and practices regarding Indigenous-led licensed child care and early years programs and service in Niagara.

Rationale: To comply with Ontario Ministry of Education requirements and expectations regarding Indigenous-led licensed child care and early years programs and services.
Niagara Region Children's Services, as the Consolidated Municipal Services Manager (CMSM) is required to offer programs and services that reflect local Indigenous cultures, as determined through local service planning and engagement with parents and caregivers. The CMSM is expected to work in close partnership with Indigenous organizations and local First Nation (if applicable) to plan for and deliver culturally response early years programs and services off-reserve.

Definitions: Content not required.

Policy: Niagara Region Children's Services works with service providers to ensure service levels for Indigenous off-reserve licensed child care programs are maintained since the transfer of responsibility from the province to the local municipality in 1999.

Scope: This policy is specific to licensed child care and early years programs and services for children under age twelve and their parents and/or caregivers. It is not intended to address early years services funded by the federal government.

Procedure:

1. Children's Services enter into a contract with all Indigenous licensed child care centres and family resource centres.
2. These non-profit organizations must comply with all additional regional requirements.
3. CMSM's are expected to engage Indigenous partners on an ongoing basis as part of local planning for the early years.

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Compliance: Accountability is maintained through a transparent Child Care Service Plan which is shared with the Ministry of Education and community stakeholders on an annual basis.