

*Research shows an educated workforce is the #1 indicator for quality in early learning and child care (ELCC) programs*

## CURRENT STATE

**Only 15% of Alberta's children (birth to 12) have access to a licensed/regulated child care space, yet approximately 70% of their mothers are working.**

**More than one in four children are struggling in their development by kindergarten, which is a higher percentage than the Canadian norm.**



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Association of Early Childhood Educators of Alberta

[www.aecea.ca](http://www.aecea.ca)

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## WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN

Alberta must develop a plan to ensure all children have access to high quality child care, delivered by an educated workforce.

Young children deserve to have competent educators who understand how they learn and develop and who work with and provide support to families.



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**Alberta needs at least 7,000 more early childhood educators to meet the demand.  
Only 800 graduated from early learning and care programs last year.**

**Licensed programs experience a 25% staff turnover rate due to issues around low  
wages and lack of workplace supports.**



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## WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN

Alberta requires an early childhood educator workforce strategy to ensure programs can recruit and retain educated staff, open more high-quality spaces, and ensure the workforce is educated, fairly remunerated, valued and supported.



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**39% of Alberta's early childhood educators have only a 54-hour online course, only 17% have a one-year certificate in early learning and care (or educational equivalent).**

**70% of early childhood educators surveyed would complete further education if barriers to completing studies, such as funding and time, were removed.**



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## WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN

Alberta requires a child care system that is planned for, supports all children and families, and the early childhood education workforce.

Early childhood educators need access to post-secondary early learning and child care programs, bursaries, and supports through their workplaces to help them achieve this level of education.



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