

Back to school with full-day early learning ^[1]

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With the beginning of the school year, this week three additional provinces will be offering public full-day early learning/kindergarten programs for the first time. Ontario, Prince Edward Island and British Columbia will join Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec in offering full school-day programs under an education auspice before compulsory schooling begins; Ontario is the sole province to offer these programs to four year olds. In Ontario some school boards are integrating full school-day early learning programs with before- and after-school care, as per the recommendation of the province's report "[With our best future in mind](#)" ^[2].

Read more about these provincial initiatives from the three governments' websites:

Prince Edward Island kindergarten transition ^[3]

PEI Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Ontario full-day early learning ^[4]

Ontario Ministry of Education

British Columbia full school-day kindergarten ^[5]

BC Ministry of Education

There has been considerable media interest as Canadian provinces have begun to move to full-school day early learning. See [Child Care in the News](#).

To learn more about programs in Canadian provinces/territories, see the [provincial/ territorial chapters](#) ^[6] of [ECEC in Canada 2014](#).

Many other countries have moved forward in integrating care and education into a single accessible program, using a variety of models. The most notable example, and one about which considerable information is available, is Sweden, where in 1998 preschool -- long an established public program under a social welfare auspice -- became the first step in the education system. To learn more about the Swedish approach to early years provision, see "[Pre-school in transition: A national evaluation of the Swedish pre-school](#)" ^[7], "[An overview of the Swedish education system](#)" ^[8] and the "[Curriculum for preschool](#)" ^[9]

An excellent UK-produced video about the Swedish approach to blending early childhood education and care is available online, "[Early Years: How do they do it in Sweden?](#)" ^[10].

To learn more about the issue of merging child care and kindergarten into a seamless day, see CRRU's [Issue File on full-day early learning](#) ^[11].

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