

BestStart

Supporting Home, Child Care, School





Best Start Update

Moving forward together for children and families

Lois Mahon, Chair, Best Start Network

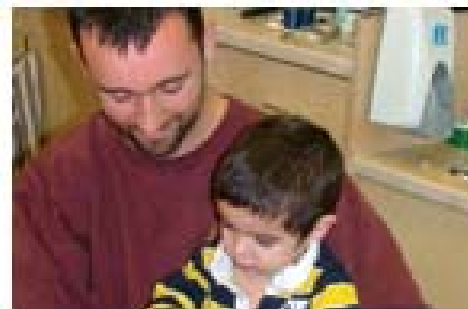
June 18, 2008



A Provincial Leader

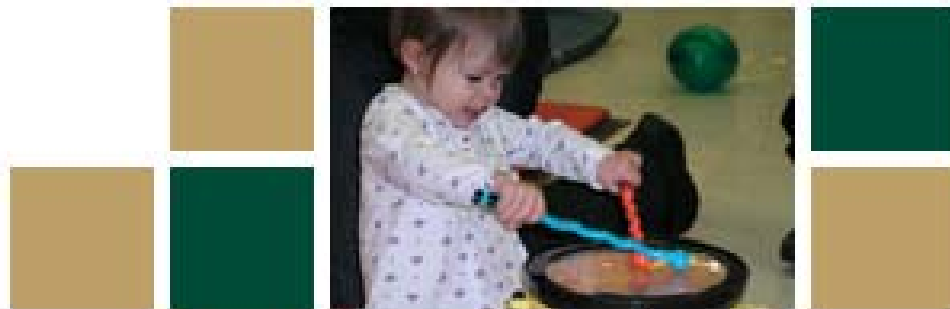
The City of Greater Sudbury is a leader in implementing Best Start:

- An effective and active Best Start Network
- First to build a system of Best Start Hubs
- Exceeding all targets for expansion of licensed child care
- Multi-million dollar initiative at 100% MCYS funded



Best Start Network

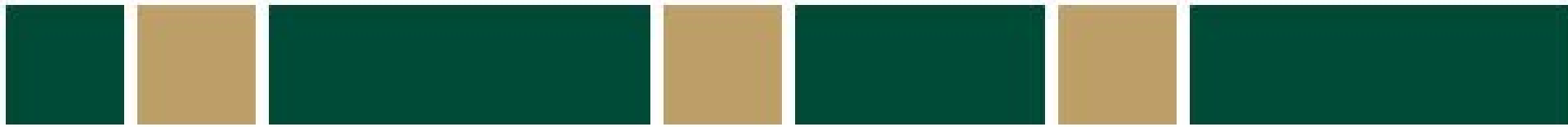
- Coordination and planning for children services throughout the City
- City provides leadership with 3 dedicated staff
- 36 organizations represented on the Best Start Network
- Reorganized the delivery of FRP and OEYC family support services



Best Start Hubs- Progress

Then: 2 OEYCs and 3 FRPs offering a range of services, 6 different organizations, different funders, locations “random”, bilingual services.

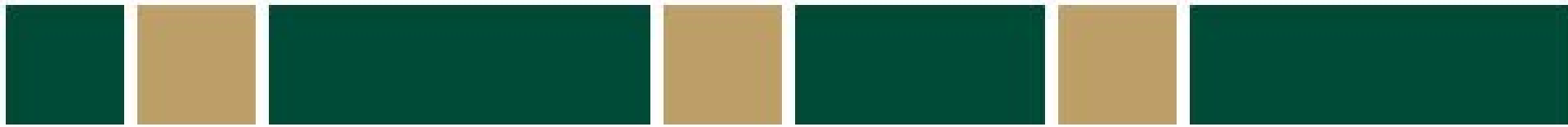
Now: A system of 12 Hubs (8 English, 3 Francophone, 1 Aboriginal), standardized funding levels, planned locations, common branding and marketing, coordinated hours and staffing, opportunities for service integration, strong connection with schools.





Best Start Hubs - Next Steps

- Open remaining 3 sites
- Increase opportunities for parent involvement
- Standardize and coordinate services and programs
- Bring in additional services for families
- Use Hubs as a venue for more integration of services





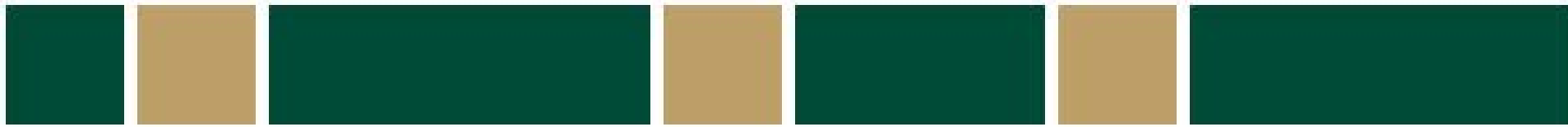
Licensed Child Care - Progress

- Continued to support child care expansion (489 new spaces 07/08)
- Infant spaces a priority- 58 new infant spaces since 2005
- Approaching 5,000 licensed spaces community-wide (1 : 4.5)
- Commitment to public and not-for-profit child care
- Transition to streamlined subsidy system- supporting a wider range of families (113% increase in families served over 2001)



Licensed Child Care – Next Steps

- New infant spaces still a high priority
- Maximize wage enhancements for child care workers
- Launch of a centralized registry and waitlist for child care
- Support a community strategy to recruit and retain qualified Early Childhood Educators





Best Start Video

- The following is a clip from a promotional video about Best Start Hubs, produced by the Best Start Network.
- For the full video and further information on Best Start, visit www.beststartsudbury.ca

