

Ministry of Education
Early Learning Division

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Ministère de l'Éducation
Division de l'apprentissage des
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MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Secretaries and Supervisory Officers of School Authorities
Director, Provincial Schools Branch
Superintendent, Centre Jules-Léger

FROM: Jim Grieve
Assistant Deputy Minister
Early Learning Division

DATE: February 8, 2010

SUBJECT: Professional Activity Days - Early Learning Topic

As you are aware, beginning in September 2010, nearly 600 Ontario schools will offer full-day early learning for four- and five-year-olds. I recognize the considerable work that school boards are currently undertaking to prepare for implementation. As part of that preparation you may wish to start to prepare staff in the area of early learning to ensure that the first year of the program is as effective as possible.

On February 8, 2010, a new Policy and Program Memorandum (PPM) 151 is being released for implementation in the 2010-2011 school year. In the Appendix to the PPM, you will note that "early learning" is among the topics available to school boards for the two mandatory PA days devoted to provincial education priorities. The Ministry of Education strongly recommends that school boards devote one of the two mandatory professional activity (PA) days to early learning for the 2010-2011 school year. Boards may also use this day to focus on bringing Early Childhood Educator and Teacher teams together to establish working relationships and jointly plan programs and communication with parents.

The Ministry is committed to providing our youngest students with the strongest start on learning. We hope that all directors will support this important area of professional learning for their school boards.

Jim Grieve

It is noted that legislation will be required to authorize many of the measures outlined in this memorandum. The Minister intends to seek the legislative amendments needed to fully authorize such measures.