

## "Welcome

I am glad you have joined us to participate in this resource created for our members providing valuable work in Early Years.

For most children, kindergarten will be the first time they experience a full-day learning environment in a public school setting. It's an experience that should be positive and encouraging, designed to bolster a child's love for school and for life-long learning. At OSSTF/FEESO, we know that none of that happens by accident.

OSSTF continues to lobby all political parties and calls for:

- Equitable and timely access to professional student services to ensure that the Early Learning team is fully prepared to help every child reach their full potential.
- A commitment to safeguard the well-being of children with special needs through the presence of highly-trained educational assistants. When we do this, we enhance the learning of every child in the classroom.
- A teacher and an early childhood educator in each kindergarten classroom to ensure a robust, play-based learning environment where every student will benefit and feel supported; and
- School boards to spend their Early Learning funding allocation on kindergarten classrooms.

We know that play-based education is central to the development of young children. Through play-based inquiry, children consolidate their knowledge, learn social skills, and express their emotions. Early childhood educators, as key members of the education team, bring that essential component to the full-day kindergarten classroom.

We hope that this resource will provide you with useful information for thoughtful reflection, engaging discussion and positive action."



"You love your work. It's challenging, exciting and rewarding.

But it is also demanding, stressful and working in the Early Years is, frankly, a tough job."



"We have divided this slideshow into 5 sections. By the end we hope you will:

- · have a better understanding of what can cause challenging behaviours,
- · know your rights as an educational worker,
- · and be aware of some next steps you may find useful"