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Preliminary CHILD CARE Transition Plan

To March 2006

An Addendum to Child Care Matters 2005-2008

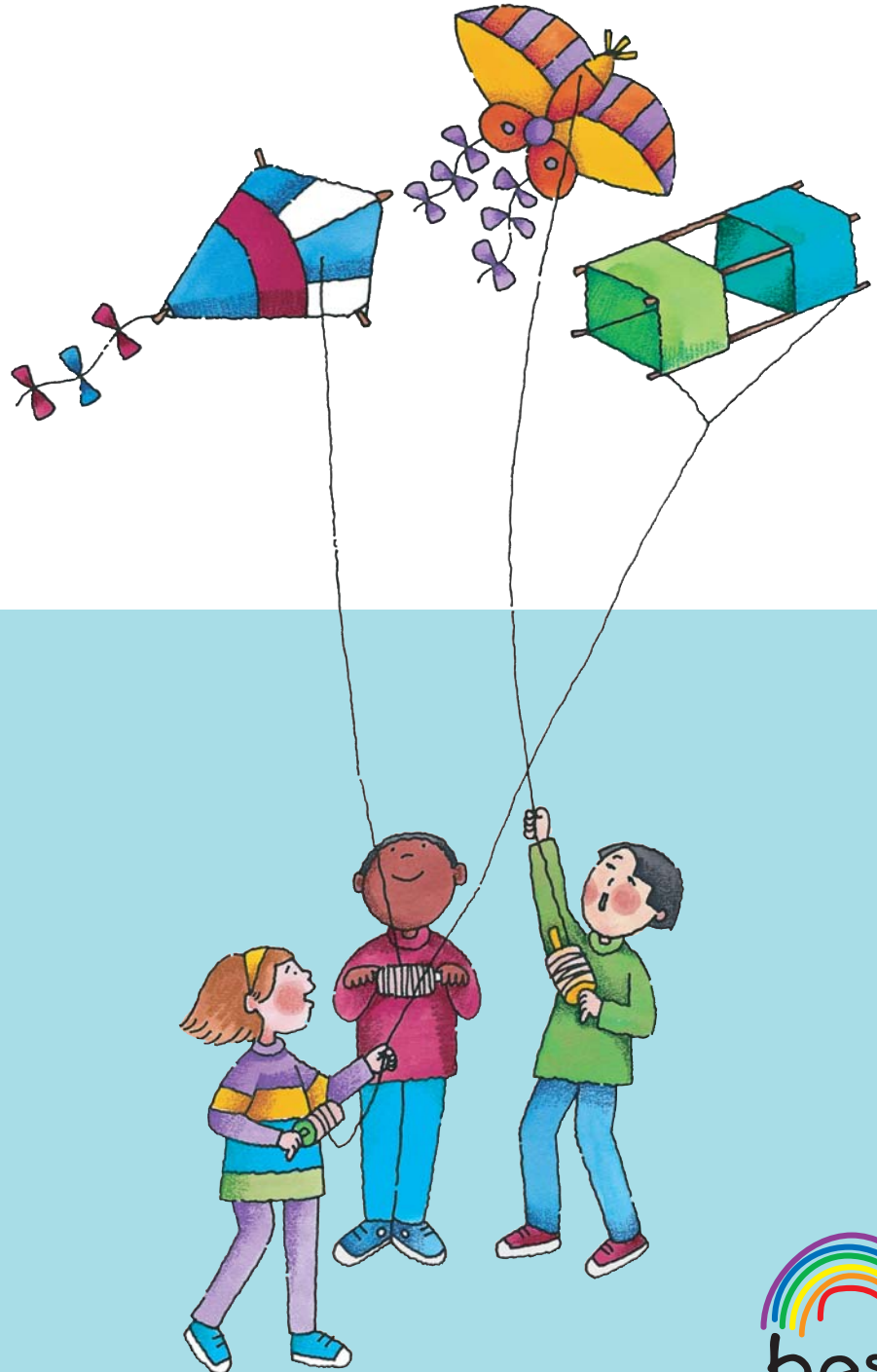
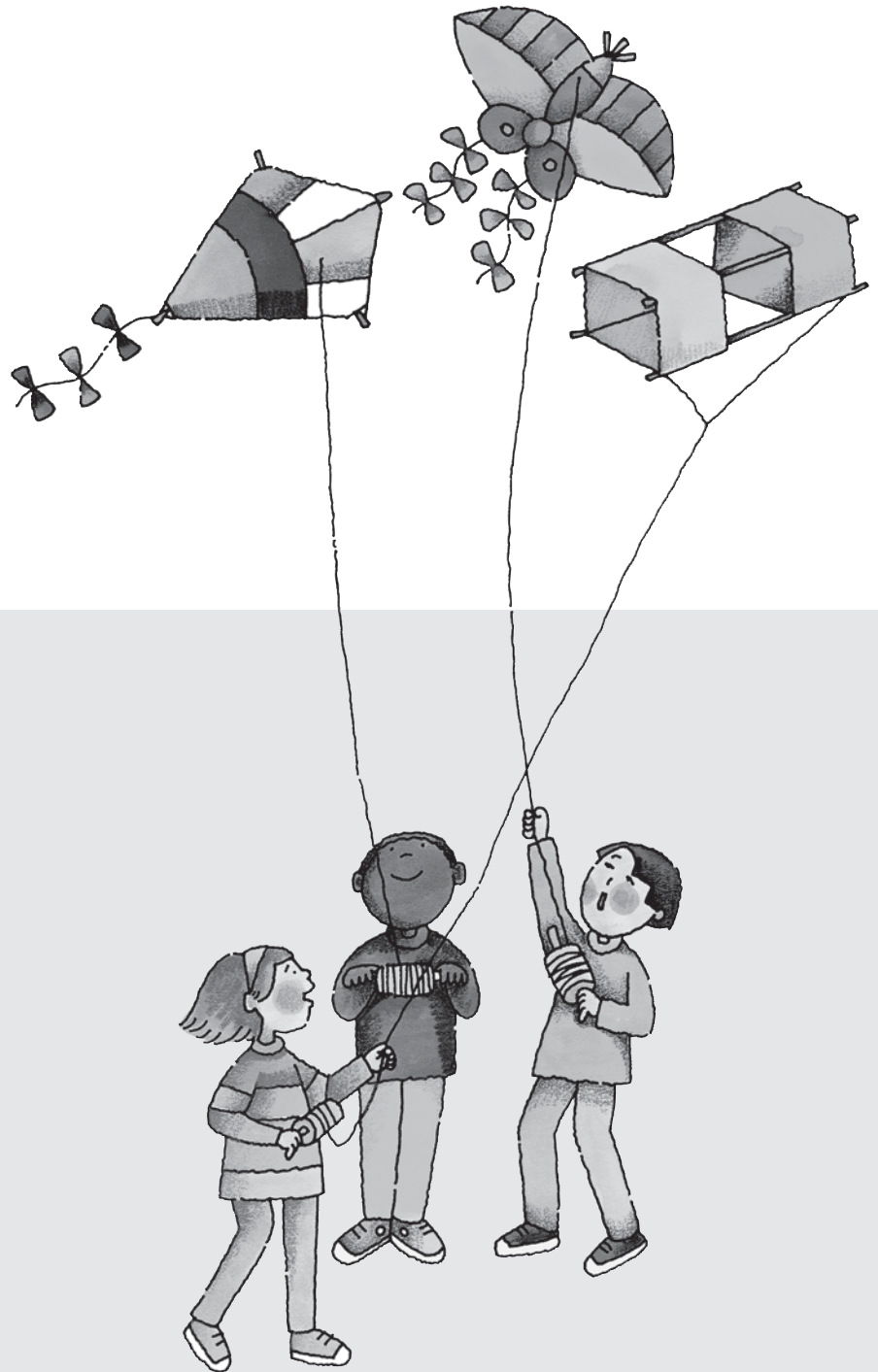


Table of Contents

1. Introduction	5
1.1 Demographics	5
1.2 Service Management	7
1.3 Best Start Child Care Transition Plan	8
1.4 Child Care Expansion Task Group	9
1.5 Best Start Network	10
1.6 Local Review Approval Process	10
2. Licensed Child Care Spaces	13
2.1 Description of Local Services	13
2.2 Range of Services Available	15
2.3 Assessment of Local Needs	16
2.4 Children Not in Any Form of Child Care But Might Participate	17
2.5 Early Development Instrument (EDI) Results	17
2.6 Analysis of Service Gaps/Overlaps	18
2.7 Service Priorities	18
3. Child Care Fee Assistance	21
3.1 Description of Local Services at December 31, 2004	21
3.2 Purchase of Service Agreements	21
3.3 Assessment of Local Needs	22
3.4 Analysis of Service Gaps/Overlaps	22
3.5 Service Priorities	23
4. Wage Subsidy	27
4.1 Description of Local Services at December 31, 2004	27
4.2 Assessment of Local Needs	27
4.3 Analysis of Service Gaps/Overlaps	27
4.4 Service Priorities	28
5. Special Needs Resourcing	31
5.1 Description of Local Services at December 31, 2004	31
5.2 Service Integration with Preschool Speech and Language	32
5.3 Transition to School	33
5.4 Assessment of Local Needs	33
5.5 Analysis of Service Gaps/Overlaps	34
5.6 Service Priorities	34
6. Early Child Development and Parenting Supports	37
6.1 Historical Overview	37
6.2 Description of Local Services at December 31, 2004	37
6.3 Assessment of Local Needs	38
6.4 Analysis of Service Gaps/Overlaps	38
6.5 Service Priorities	38

7. The Current Community Capacity to Increase Access to	
Child Care Spaces by March 2006	41
7.1 The Number of Vacant Spaces in Existing Programs	41
7.2 The Existing Child Care System's Capacity to Add Additional Licensed Spaces Quickly	41
7.3 Child Care Infrastructure Plan for Renovations/New Spaces, by March 31, 2006 According to Provincial Priorities	43
7.4 "Soft Costs" for 2006/2007	44
7.5 Identification of Programs/Spaces to Receive Subsidies	44
7.6 Capacity of Proposed Sites to Meet DNA Requirements	44
8. Workplan Summary	49
8.1 Service Targets for Transition Components March 31, 2006	49
8.2 Strategies Used to Meet the Child Care Expansion Targets	49
8.3 Number of Infrastructure Projects, Licensed Spaces and Fee Subsidies Currently in Development and Operational by March 31, 2006	50
8.4 Number of Programs/Spaces That Will Receive Fee Subsidies by Priority and Date of Implementation	50
8.5 Initial "Soft Costs" (Construction) Related to Renovation and/or New Construction in Development to March 31, 2006 for Construction/Renovation by March 31, 2007	51
8.6 Number of Land Purchases and Costs Related to Purchase of Land and/or Buildings That Will Be Built and Operational by March 31, 2007	51
8.7 Demonstrate that the Increased Service Levels for Child Care Expansion will be Completed within the Infrastructure and Program Allocations to March 2006	51
Appendices	55

I. Introduction



I. Introduction

The Ministry of Community and Social Services announced its Best Start Strategy in the fall of 2005 and requires CMSMs to revise their Child Care Service Plan to include Best Start components within their child care planning and management responsibilities and to develop a Best Start Child Care Transition Plan to March 2006.

The Best Start Child Care Transition Plan to March 2006 provides the framework to increase licensed child care spaces and subsidies by March 31, 2006 with priority for children in junior and senior kindergarten during non-school hours and gradual expansion of licensed child care and subsidies for children 0 - 4 years.

As a result of growth in the population and an increase in the number of low income families, the level of provincial funding for fee subsidy has not meet the community need. While there were 2,564 children in receipt of Child Care Fee Assistance in December, 2004 (62% of whom were 5 years and under), over 1,000 children 5 years and under remained on the wait list.

The growth in licensed child care spaces to 21,503 has been significant, and reflects the growth in child population, however, it addresses only a portion of the need of the 101,451 children, age 0 to 12 years, in York Region who live in families where either both parents or the lone-parent are employed. In addition, while there has been a 63% increase in licensed spaces since 1999, the provincial wage subsidy funding approval has increased by 13%. This has resulted in over 80% of licensed child care centres not receiving the level of wage subsidy funding for which they are eligible under provincial guidelines.

Service demand continues to exceed available resources and families in York Region continue to be placed on the wait list for Early Intervention Services. The monthly average wait list has increased to 102 in 2005, an increase of 56.7% since 2000. The increased enrolment reduces the intensity of services children receive with Early Intervention Services, thus making the services delivered less effective than optimal. Service hours per child have decreased by 42.2% since 1999.

The Best Start Child Care Transition Plan and the proposed allocation of provincial 100% funding will enable York Region, by March 31, 2006, to:

- Expand the licensed child care system by the Ministry target of 535 spaces.
- Increase by 800, the number of child care fee assisted spaces for children 0 - 5 years.
- Increase by 20%, the number of children with special needs receiving services through Best Start funding.
- Implement an increase in wage subsidy for the 80% of licensed child care centres who are not receiving the level of wage subsidy funding for which they are eligible under provincial guidelines.

I.1 Demographics

I.1.1 Growth

Since 1986, York Region has experienced the highest growth in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and continues to be one of the fastest growing regions in Canada. York Region's current population of 842,000 is anticipated to reach over 1 million by 2010 and approximately 1.28 million by 2026. York Region is forecast to continue as the fastest growing region in the GTA to the year 2031.

The number of children and youth is growing rapidly. According to 2001 Census data, York Region's child population between 0 and 14 years grew by 16.4% (18,759) from 136,951 to 155,710 between 1996 and 2001.

In 2001, there were 133,165 children between the ages of 0 and 12, living in York Region.

- 26,865 children between the ages of 0-2,
- 29,045 children between the ages of 3-5, and
- 77,225 children between the ages of 6-12.

(Source: 2001 Census, Statistics Canada)

In 2004, it is estimated¹ that there were 147,920 children between the ages of 0 and 12 living in York Region.

- 40,180 children between the ages of 0-3
- 21,930 children between the ages of 4-5, and
- 85,810 children between the ages of 6-12.

(Source: 2001 Census, Statistics Canada. ¹Estimate based on population growth in previous years)

Refer to Appendix 1, Map 1: Where Children 0 - 4 Years Are Living in York Region.

1.1.2 Birth Rates

Table 1 shows that between 1998 and 2003, the number of hospital births to York Region residents increased by 1,902 (25.3%).

Table 1

Number of Hospital Births to York Region Residents, 1998-2004

1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
7,524	7,747	8,057	8,918	9,258	9,426	2,394*

* January 1, 2004 - March 31, 2004 only

Source: Health Services Department, York Region

1.1.3 Immigration

Within York Region, the proportion of foreign-born individuals increased from 36% to 39% of York Region's total population during the period 1996 to 2001. Six percent (43,405) of York Region's population immigrated to Canada during 1996 to 2001. (Source: 1996 & 2001 Census Statistics Canada and Report No. 8 of the Planning and Economic Development Committee, York Region, 2003).

In the 2001 census, 38% of York Region's population reported a non-official language as their mother tongue - an increase of 43.4% (83,360) since 1996. In 2001, according to the census, York Region was the

third highest area in the province for households where neither official language was spoken at all. The 2001 census indicates that 2.1% (2,815) of York Region children, 0 to 12 years of age, were living in households where neither official language was spoken. Refer to Appendix 1, Map 2: Proportion of Elementary and High School Students Born Outside Canada, 2004.

1.2 Service Management

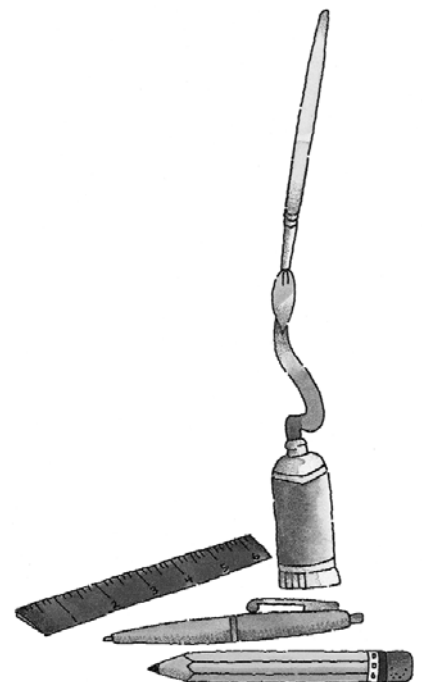
While child care services are a shared responsibility among the federal, provincial and local levels of government, it is the local government, in this case York Region, that is responsible for the administration and provision of child care services in accordance with the Day Nurseries Act (the Act).

In the mid 1990's the provincial government, as part of its reform agenda, began a review of "Who Does What" which led to the legislated realignment of local services under the Services Improvement Act. In the case of child care services, this resulted in amendments to the Day Nurseries Act that changed York Region's role and responsibilities.

The Ministry retains a number of responsibilities including Federal and Provincial relations, setting the provincial legislative framework, strategic planning, and determining cost sharing arrangements for local government based on legislated funding formulae and budgets approved by the Ministry.

As a result of changes to the Day Nurseries Act, (the Act), and in addition to retaining its existing responsibilities for the administration of fee assistance and for delivery of services to children with special needs, York Region became responsible for service system management in July 1999. York Region's Child Care mandate now includes:

- Service system planning
- Service Delivery
- Resource allocation
- Administration of:
 - Fee Assistance (including fee assistance previously administered by approved corporations)
 - Child care Special Needs Resourcing
 - Wage Subsidy
 - Pay Equity
 - Resource Centres
- Quality assurance
- Governing the service delivery organizations



1.3 Best Start Child Care Transition Plan

The Best Start Child Care Transition Plan (the Plan) identifies the need for child care during non-school hours for children 0 - 5 years, as well as the community's current capacity to provide child care for these children. The Plan includes requests for infrastructure funding for child care expansion including the sites to be renovated or constructed, the costs for each project and the timeframes for completion to March 31, 2006.

1.3.1 Guiding Principles

Child care providers are required to pursue a balanced, pragmatic approach to infrastructure development and renewal based on these five principles:

1. The public interest is paramount.
2. Value for money must be demonstrable.
3. Appropriate public control/ownership must be preserved.
4. Accountability must be maintained.
5. All processes must be fair, transparent and efficient.

These principles must be considered and explicitly referenced in all infrastructure proposals.

1.3.2 Provincial Eligibility Criteria

In order to be eligible for Best Start Child Care Infrastructure Funding:

- The child care provider must execute an Infrastructure Agreement with the Regional Municipality of York.
- Programs must demonstrate to the Regional Municipality of York that they are financially viable and operationally sound.
- Child care providers seeking infrastructure funding under the Infrastructure guidelines must also demonstrate to the Regional Municipality of York that they:
- Meet the requirements for a contract for infrastructure funding and fee subsidies.
- Are financially viable (audited financial statements for two most recent fiscal years) and/or able to sustain the program in the future through a sound business plan (needs assessment in support of the proposal).
- Have the expertise, knowledge, skills and resources to implement all aspects of the infrastructure project.
- Are incorporated as a non-profit corporation

1.3.3 Provincial Schools First Policy

The Provincial Schools First Policy states that, “schools will be the first choice for the expansion of child care spaces as part of Best Start”.

- o The expansion of child care spaces must be developed within the context of the schools first policy.
- o Consistent with the Schools First Policy, Ministry of Children and Youth Services encourages the expansion of child care within the non-profit sector located in schools.

1.3.4 Ministry Priorities

The Ministry has established the following criteria for the expansion of child care spaces in order of priority:

1. Create new child care spaces through renovations/retrofits in schools to provide licensed care options for children in JK and SK age groups, as well as child care for children 0 - 4 years.
2. Create new child care spaces for children in JK and SK as well as child care for children 0 - 4 years in new school buildings.
3. Develop new child care spaces in an existing child care program or home-based child care service within or close proximity to a “neighbouring early learning and care hub”.
4. Create new child care spaces within an existing licensed centre-based child care program and/or home-based child care service within close proximity to a school.
5. Establish new child care facilities to provide licensed child care options within close proximity to a school and/or neighbouring early learning and care hub.

1.4 Child Care Expansion Task Group

The Task Group met in April, May and August 2005 to verify child care information and identify opportunities for child care expansion in schools. The Group will continue to meet through 2005.

Members of the task group include:

Howard Dayton, *Manager of Licensing and Program Management, York Region*

Ruth Lambert, *Superintendent, Community Education, YRDSB*

Lewis Morgulis, *Coordinator of Accommodation Planning, Planning and Property Development Services, YRDSB*

Tom Pechkovsky, *Manager of Planning Services, YCDSB*

Kathryn Pelligrini, *Program Resource Teacher, YCDSB*

Joy Vance, *Coordinator of Child Care and Community Services, YRDSB (to August 2005)*

Elizabeth Wagle, *Director of Family and Children’s Services, York Region*

Gayle Whitehead, *Manager of Community Programs, YRDSB (commencing August 2005)*

Connie Wilson, *Manager of Child Care Services, York Region*

Lee Wilson, *Superintendent of Education and Student Services, YCDSB*

Fran Zeppieri, *Manager of Child Care, YCDSB*

1.5 Best Start Network

The Best Start Networks have not been established at the time of this writing. The Plan will be shared with the Best Start Network of York Region as stated on page 21, Child Care Service Management Guidelines.

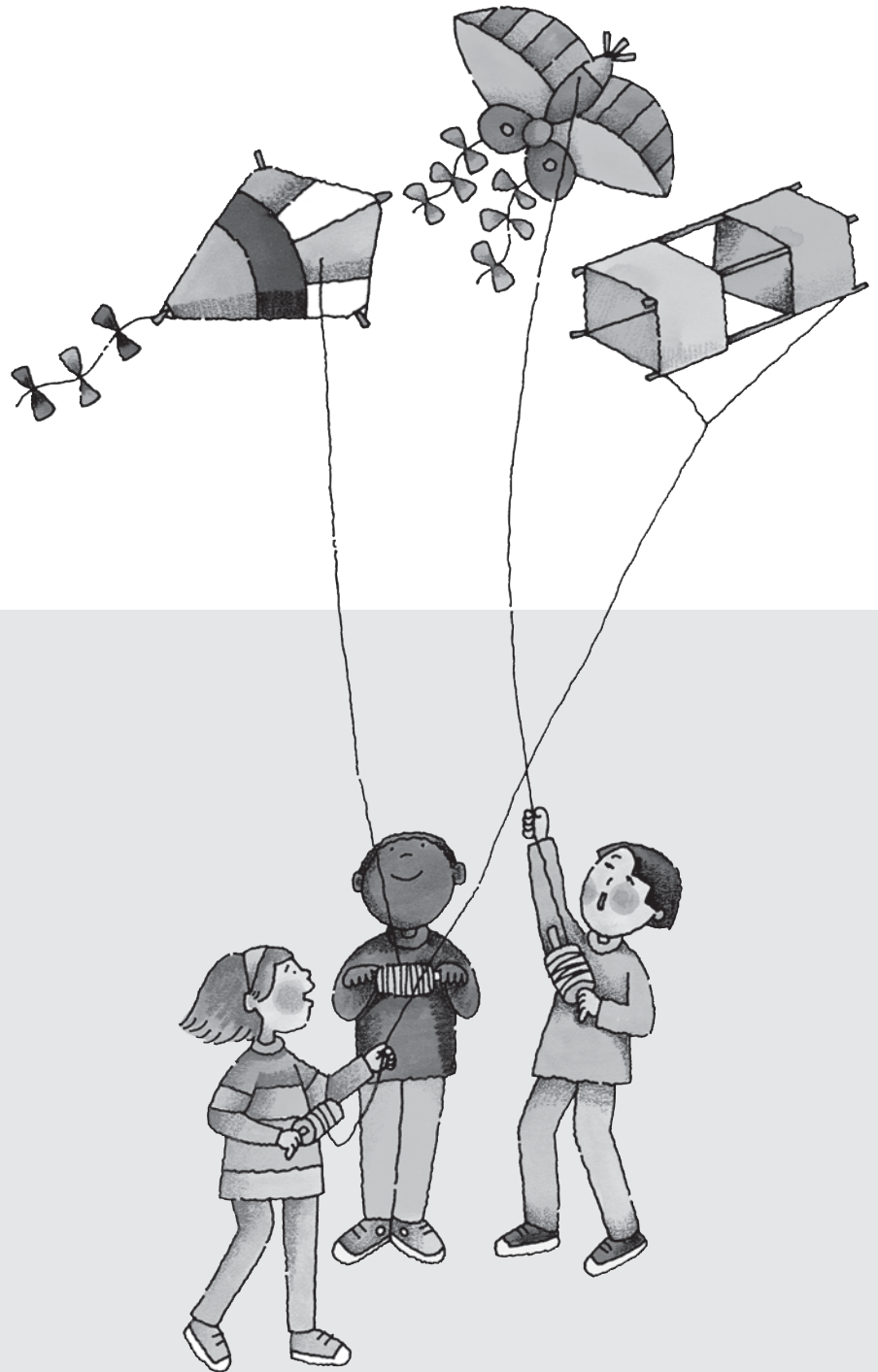
1.6 Local Review Approval Process

Following Senior Management's approval, the Best Start Child Care Transition Plan will be submitted to the Community Services and Housing Committee and Regional Council for approval.

Following Regional Council approval, the Plan will be submitted to the Ministry of Community and Social Services.



2. Licensed Child Care Spaces



2. Licensed Child Care Spaces

2.1 Description of Local Services

2.1.1 Licensed Child Care Centres and Home Child Care Agencies

There were 349 licensed child care centres and 13 home child care agencies operating in York Region in December 2004. Refer to Table 2.

2.1.2 Licensed Capacity

In December 2004, there were a total of 349 licensed child care centres in York Region providing a total of 20,799 licensed centre-based child care spaces, 10,875 of which were full-day spaces for children 5 years and under. Table 3 provides a summary of the types of licensed child care spaces by municipality.

There were 11,467 licensed centre-based child care spaces in York Region for children 5 years and under at June 30, 2005. This represents an increase of 592 spaces since December 31, 2004. Of the 11,467 spaces, 9,431 were for children age 2 ½ - 5 years, an increase of 521 spaces since December 2004. Refer to Tables 3 and 4. Refer to Appendix 1, Maps 3 to 12 for the location of child care centres in York Region.

Table 2

Number of Child Care Centres and Home Child Care Agencies, by Commercial, Non-Profit in Schools

	Total	Non-Profit Total	Non-Profit in Schools	Commercial Total	Commercial in Schools
Centres	349*	222	158	127	18
Home-Based Child Care Agencies	13	10	0	3	0

*includes 197 centres licensed for Before & After School Programs

Table 3

Licensed Centre-Based Capacity for Children 5 years and under, by Municipality as of December 31, 2004

Municipality	Infant	Toddler	Preschool	Kindergarten	Total
Aurora	0	50	407	60	517
East Gwillimbury	0	25	142	78	245
Georgina	10	30	259	28	327
King	16	40	89	30	175
Markham	161	463	2,150	401	3,175
Newmarket	53	155	516	115	839
Richmond Hill	23	197	1,045	338	1,603
Vaughan	92	610	2,114	738	3,554
Whitchurch-Stouffville	0	40	278	122	440
Total	355	1,610	7,000	1,910	10,875

Table 4

Licensed Centre-Based Spaces for Children 5 Years and Under, by Municipality, as of June 30, 2005

Municipality	Infant	Toddler	Preschool	Kindergarten	Total
Aurora	0	50	442	53	545
East Gwillimbury	0	25	179	63	267
Georgina	13	34	238	48	333
King	16	40	99	20	175
Markham	151	496	2,493	277	3,417
Newmarket	70	183	621	83	957
Richmond Hill	29	219	1,473	126	1,847
Vaughan	92	578	2,398	462	3,530
Whitchurch-Stouffville	0	40	272	84	396
Total	371	1,665	8,215	1,216	11,467

2.1.3 Children in Formal Care 0 - 5 Years

In December 2004, there were children enrolled in 10,271 of the 10,875 licensed child care spaces in York Region. These included 323 infant spaces, 1,496 toddler spaces, 6,656 pre-school spaces and 1,796 spaces for kindergarten children.

2.1.4 The Number of Vacant Spaces in Existing Programs that Could Be Filled

In December 2004, child care operators reported 604 vacancies in full-day licensed programs

that could be filled by JK/SK children and children 0 - 4 years. Refer to Table 5.

2.1.5 Wait Lists

In York Region, parents wishing to enrol their child(ren) in full-fee licensed child care, apply directly to the provider. Where a space is not available, service providers place the request on a wait list that is managed by the child care centre. As parents may have their child(ren) on a wait list at more than one centre, the wait list numbers obtained through a survey of service operators can be assumed to be inflated. Refer to Table 6.

2.1.6 Home Based: Child Care Vacancies and Wait List for a Space

The licence for a home child care agency does not restrict approval of homes specific to a region. Home child care agencies based outside York Region could have approved homes operating within York Region and the Region has the ability to enter into Purchase of Service Agreements for spaces in these homes. Conversely, home child care agencies located in York Region could have approved homes operating outside York Region and could undertake purchase of service agreements with other CMSMs. In 2004, there were 13 licensed home child care agencies operating in York Region, with the capacity to approve up to 391 homes.

Of the 13 home child care agencies operating in York Region, three are commercial and ten are non-profit. In 2004, 294 approved homes, (approximately 75% of the agencies' capacity), were in operation, with an average enrolment of 2.4 children per approved home.

While the licensed home child care agencies are operating below capacity, it is difficult to determine the exact amount of unused spaces that could be available in York Region. The ability for home child care agencies to use their licence capacity outside of York Region, age regulations and provider preference would impact the availability of spaces. The following examples provide two

Table 5

Vacancies in Licensed Centre-Based Child Care in York Region by Municipality and Type of Space, December 31, 2004

Municipality	Infant	Toddler	Preschool	Kindergarten	School Age	Nursery School	Total
Aurora	0	2	5	1	22	0	30
East Gwillimbury	0	0	9	6	12	8	35
Georgina	1	5	15	2	38	0	61
King	0	0	11	0	10	16	37
Markham	16	28	136	11	130	0	321
Newmarket	4	5	10	0	32	15	66
Richmond Hill	0	34	33	17	62	0	146
Vaughan	11	35	106	65	158	8	383
Whitchurch-Stouffville	0	5	19	12	7	18	61
Total	32	114	344	114	471	65	1,140

Source: York Region Child Care Operator Survey 2004

Table 6

Wait List for Licensed Centre-Based Child Care Spaces in York Region by Municipality and Type of Space, December 31, 2004

Municipality	Infant	Toddler	Preschool	Kindergarten	School Age	Nursery School	Total
Aurora	0	85	216	0	404	0	705
East Gwillimbury	0	14	8	2	0	6	30
Georgina	1	2	46	0	0	0	49
King	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
Markham	216	156	154	3	22	22	573
Newmarket	75	75	40	0	4	3	197
Richmond Hill	0	2	118	31	125	3	279
Vaughan	119	53	224	20	66	0	482
Whitchurch-Stouffville	0	0	1	0	5	0	6
Total	411	387	807	56	628	35	2,324

Source: York Region Child Care Operator Survey 2004

scenarios. If all the remaining approved home capacity began operating in York Region, (97 homes), with a continued average of 2.4 children per home, an additional 233 home child care spaces would result. If the same number of approved homes began operating in York Region with five children per home, an additional 485 home child care spaces would result.

2.2 Range of Services Available

2.2.1 School-Based Child Care

In 2004, there were 58 child care centres for children 0 - 5 years and 177 Before and After School programs operating in schools with an overall licensed capacity of 7,812. Refer to Charts 1 and 2 and Table 8.

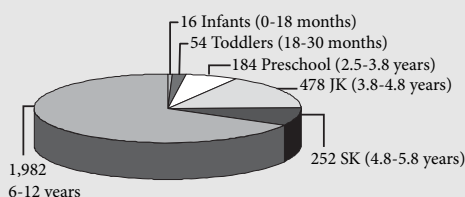
At December 31, 2004, of the total licensed capacity of 10,875 spaces for children 5 years and under 23.83% was in schools. Refer to Table 7.

Children Enrolled in Junior and Senior Kindergarten

In 2004, there were a total of 17,205 children enrolled in junior and senior kindergarten in York Region schools - 8,402 in junior kindergarten and 8,803 in senior kindergarten. In 2005, the York Region District School Board projected enrolment totals 11,724 - 5,625 in junior kindergarten and 6,099 in senior kindergarten.

Chart 1

York Region District School Board
Total Enrolment in School-Based Child Care Centres by Age Group*, 2004

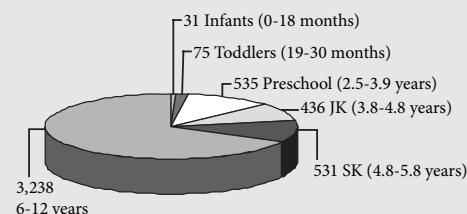


*does not include nursery school

Source: York Region District School Board, 2005

Chart 2

York Catholic District School Board
Enrolment in School-Based Child Care Centres by Age Group*, 2004



*does not include nursery school

Source: York Catholic District School Board, 2005

Table 7

Licensed Capacity by Age Group and Number in Schools December 31, 2004

Centre-Based Child Care	Age	Total Spaces	# In Schools	% of Total in Schools
		2004	2004	2004
Infant	0 – 18 m	355	47	13.2
Toddler	18m – 2 ½ yrs.	1,610	129	8.0
Preschool*	2 ½ – 5 yrs.	8,910	2,416	27.1
Total		10,875	2,592	23.83

Home-Based Child Care	Age	Total Spaces	# In Schools	% of Total in Schools
294 approved homes	***	704	0	0

* includes kindergarten (JK/SK) **does not include nursery school ***Home Child Care Agencies are licensed for a set number of approved homes and not for specific age groups. Therefore, the age of all children being served through home child care agencies is not readily available.

Table 8

Enrolment in School-Based Child Care Programs, by Age, 2004/2005*

	Infants	Toddlers	2.5-3.8 Years	JK 3.8-4.8 Years	SK 4.8-5.8 Years	School Age	Total
YRDSB	31	75	535	436	531	3,238	4,846
YCDSB	16	54	184	478	252	1,982	2,966
Total	47	129	719	914	783	5,220	7,812

* not including nursery schools

Source: York Region District School Board, York Catholic District School Board, 2004

2.2.2 Francophone

In 2001, of a total Francophone population of 15,750 in York Region, 2,905 were children age 0 - 14 years. Of these children, 605 were 0 - 4 years, 785 were 5 - 9 years, with the remaining 1,515 being children 10 - 14 years. (Source: 2001 Census, Statistics Canada)

In 2004, there were 3 Francophone licensed child care centres in York Region to serve 154 children 0 - 5 years and 108 school-age children 6 - 12 years.

York Region had a Purchase of Service Agreement with 2 Francophone centres to enable child care fee assistance to be accessed by eligible families.

2.2.3 Aboriginal

In 2001 of a total Aboriginal population of 7,080 in York Region, 770 were children age 0 - 14 years. Of these children, 195 were 0 - 4 years, 265 were 5 - 9 years with the remaining 310 being children 10 - 14 years. (Source: 2001 Census, Statistics Canada)

First Nation

- The Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation operate a child care centre for up to 5 infants or three infants and four toddlers or 16 preschoolers which equates to 16.6% or 23% or 53%, respectively, of the child population 0 - 5 years. There are no licensed child care spaces for children 6 - 12 years.
- The Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation provide child care fee assistance for residents through an agreement between the Provincial Government and the First Nation.

2.3 Assessment of Local Needs

Child care services have been greatly influenced by social and labour force changes over the past couple of decades. Traditionally, the responsibilities of child care were borne by mothers. This is no longer the case due to the increased tendency of women to participate in the paid labour force. (Source: *A Profile of the Childcare Services Industry, Statistics Canada, 2002*). Refer to Chart 3.

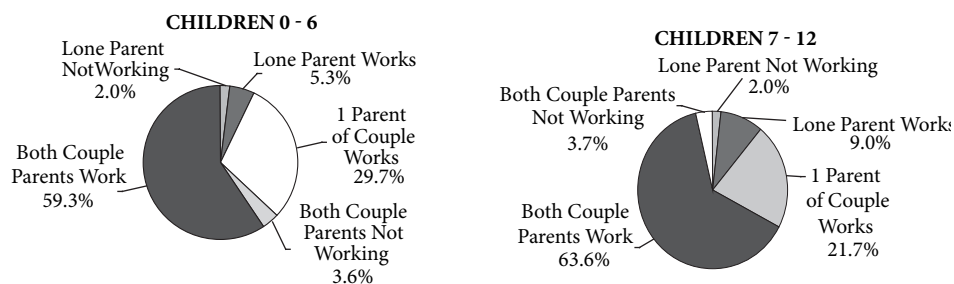
While the growth in licensed child care spaces to 21,503 (including 1,201 nursery school spaces) has been significant, it addresses only a portion of the need of the 101,451 children, age 0 - 12 years, in York Region who live in families where

either both parents or the lone parent are employed. (Source: *Statistic Canada Customs Tabulation Census Canada, 2001 - estimate based on child population growth in previous years*).

- Between 2001 and 2004, the child population (birth to 12 years) is estimated to have risen by 14,755 (11.08%).
- Between 2001 and 2004, the number of licensed centre-based spaces has increased by 4,528 (2.8%).

Chart 3

Proportion of Children by Parental Employment and Family Structure



Source: 2001 Census, Custom Tabulations, Statistics Canada

Definition: Aboriginal Identity

Refers to those persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, i.e. North American Indian, Métis or Inuit (Eskimo), and/or those who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian as defined by the Indian Act of Canada and/or who were members of an Indian Band or First Nation.

2.4 Children Not In Any Form of Child Care But Might Participate

It is not possible to determine accurately how many children are not in any form of child care. What can be determined is the number of licensed spaces that are available for children with one or both parent working. Children with one or both parent working might participate in licensed care if more spaces and subsidies were available.

In 2004, in York Region, licensed child care is estimated to have met the needs of 10.8% of children 0 - 2 years, 41.1% of children 3 - 5 years and 14.2% of children who have either both or lone parent working. Refer to Table 9.

While there were 39,879 children age 0 - 5 with both or

lone parent working, there were only 10,875 licensed spaces available for that age group.

Table 9 suggests that approximately 89% of children 0 - 2 years and 59% of children 3 - 5 years, with either both or lone parent working, are cared for outside the formal licensed child care system.

2.5 Early Development Instrument (EDI) Results

The Early Development Instrument (EDI), which is administered in Senior Kindergarten, was designed to measure, at the group level, children's readiness to learn in the school environment in five domains:

- Physical health and well-being
- Social competence

- Emotional maturity
- Language and cognitive development
- Communications skills and general knowledge

In 2002/2003, the EDI was completed by teachers for all Senior Kindergarten students in York Region.

26.1% of 7,938 Senior Kindergarten children in York Region had problems in at least one readiness to learn domain. 13.3% of 7,938 Senior Kindergarten children in York Region had problems in at least two readiness to learn domains. (Source: *The Canadian Centre for Studies of Children at Risk 2003*).

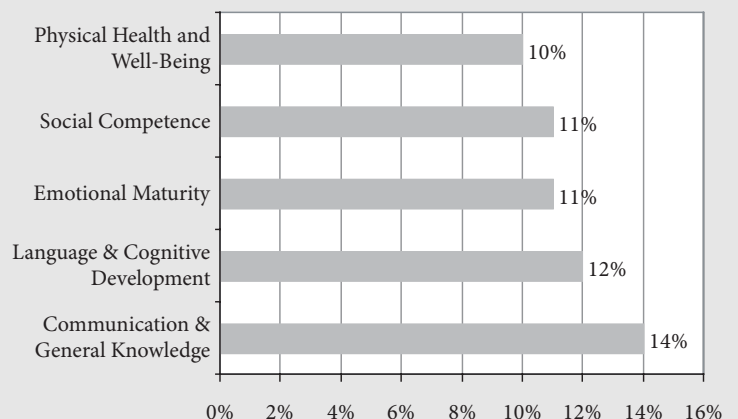
Refer to Chart 4. Refer to Appendix 1, Map 13: Children's Readiness-to-Learn in York Region and the Incidence of Low-Income in Economic Families by Census Tract.

Table 9
Availability of Full-Day Licensed Centre-Based or Children, 0-12 years, Who Have Either Both Parents or Lone Parent Working, York Region, 2004

Age of Children	Total Number of Children	Number of Children with Both Parents or Lone Parent Working*	% of Children with Both Parents or Lone Parent Working	Licensed Spaces for Children Requiring Care	% of Spaces for Children Requiring Care
0-2	29,850	18,220	61%	1,965	10.8
3-5	32,270	21,659	67%	8,910	41.1
6-12	85,800	61,572	72%	8,723	14.2
Total	147,920	101,451	69%	19,598*	19.3

*This is an estimate based on child population growth and parent participation in the workforce in previous years. **Nursery School spaces not included. Source: 2001 Census, Custom Tabulations, Statistics Canada

Chart 4
Proportion of Students Scoring in the Lowest 10% on the EDI, by Domain



Source: Early Development Instrument, York Region SK 2002/2003
The Canadian Centre for Studies of Children at Risk,
McMaster University

2.6 Analysis of Service Gaps / Overlaps

The predominant family structure is now one in which both parents work in the labour force.

In York Region, it is estimated that 18,220 children, 0 - 2 years, and 21,659 children, 3 - 5 years, live in families where both or the lone parent are working. At the same time, there are estimated to be only 1,965 full-day licensed centre-based spaces available for children 0 - 2 years and 8,910 full-day licensed centre-based spaces available for children 3 - 5 years. Child care operators report wait lists for child care spaces and a low vacancy rate of 5.2%. Operators and parents continue to identify the need for more physical spaces.

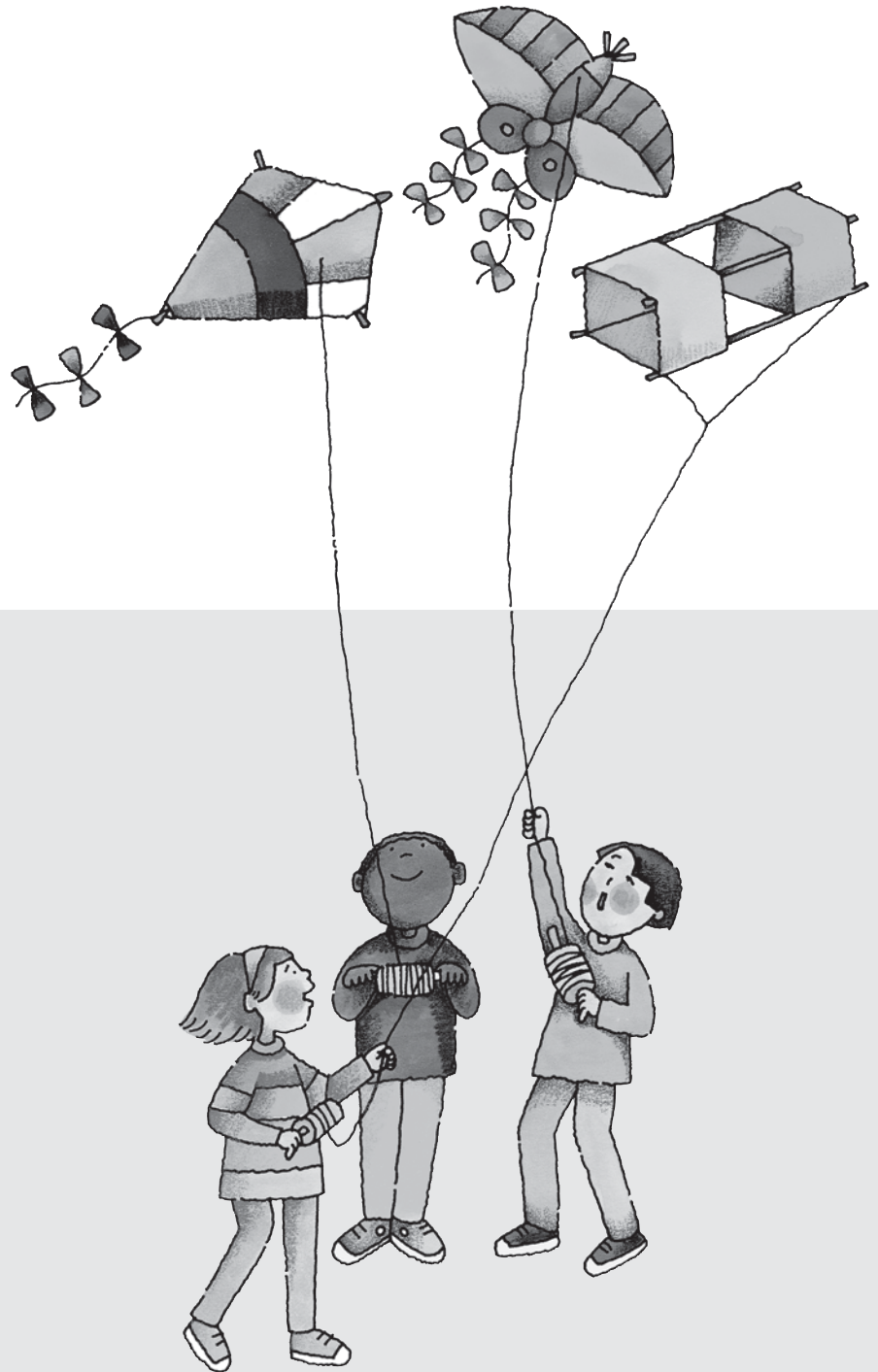
The EDI has identified a number of communities where 25% or more of senior kindergarten children are scoring in the lowest 10% in one or more domains. Research indicates that these children would benefit from access to quality early learning and care programs before entering senior kindergarten.

2.7 Service Priorities

Subject to 100% provincial funding approval for new licensed child care spaces and provincial and regional approval:

- Increase licensed child care spaces for children 5 years and under by 535 by March 31, 2006 with 60% useable by JK/SK children
- Work in collaboration with the school boards to identify opportunities for the expansion of licensed child care spaces.
- Allocate wage subsidy funding to new licensed child care spaces.
- Allocate infrastructure funding for construction and/or renovation of new spaces according to provincial priorities.
- Allocate start-up funding for furnishings and equipment to child care operators opening provincially funded new spaces.
- Consider EDI results when determining priorities for the expansion of licensed child care spaces for children, 0 - 5 years.
- Work in collaboration with local municipal recreation departments to identify opportunities for the expansion of licensed child care spaces.
- Funding to address health and safety concerns identified by the Ministry in licensed child care centres.

3. Child Care Fee Assistance



3. Child Care Fee Assistance

3.1 Description of Local Services at December 31, 2004

3.1.1 Children in Receipt of Child Care Fee Assistance

There were 2,524 children in receipt of child care fee assistance at December 31, 2004. Of these 2,524 children, 1,543 (61.1%) were children 5 years and under while 1,182 (46.8%) were children 2 ½ - 5 years. Refer to Table 10.

3.1.2 Children in Informal Subsidized Care (Ontario Works)

Child Care Fee Assistance for informal care was provided for a total of 64 children of Ontario Works participants in 2004.

3.1.3 Profile of Households Receiving Fee Assistance

DNA

In York Region, at December 31, 2004:

- 1,559 households were in receipt of child care fee assistance for a total of 2,562 children (excludes summer camp; includes 38 households NCB fee assisted).
- 73% were single-parent families; 27% were two-parent families.
- 8% were in school.

3.2 Purchase of Service Agreements

York Region enters into Purchase of Service Agreements with operators to enable fee assistance to be paid for child care services for York residents

who qualify for assistance in accordance with provincial legislation and York Region policy.

3.2.1 Licensed Centre-Based Child Care Spaces

Purchase of Service Agreements are in place with 55% of child care operators who operate 80% (16,613) of the licensed centre-based spaces. Refer to Table 11.

Purchase of Service Agreements are in place for 70% of infant spaces, 71% of toddler spaces, 55% of preschool spaces, 74% of kindergarten spaces, 85% of school-age spaces and 23% of nursery school spaces. Refer to Table 12.

Table 10

Children in Receipt of Child Care Fee Assistance (DNA and OW Formal), by Age Group, at December 31, 2004

Infant	116
Toddler	245
Preschool	1,182
School-age	981
Total	2,524

Table 11

Number of Operators – Centre-based with Purchase of Service* and without Purchase of Service, By Municipality – as of December 31, 2004

Municipality	# of Operators with Purchase of Service	# of Operators No Purchase of Service	Totals
Aurora	7	3	10
East Gwillimbury	3	1	4
Georgina	4	2	6
King	3	5	8
Markham	27	25	52
Newmarket	10	9	19
Richmond Hill	16	11	27
Vaughan	22	22	44
Whitchurch-Stouffville	5	4	9
Outside York Region	3	0	3
Totals	100	82	182

*Ability to purchase service subject to availability of approved Fee Assistance funds approved by the Ministry and York Region Council.

3.2.2 Licensed Home Child Care Agencies

Purchase of Service Agreements are in place with 92% of licensed home child care agencies. Refer to Table 13.

3.2.3 Approved Home Child Care Settings

Of the 294 approved home child care settings in operation in 2004, an estimated 275 (94%) were covered by Purchase of Service Agreements with York Region. Refer to Table 14.

3.3 Assessment of Local Needs

- There is insufficient funding to meet the needs of York Region residents for child care fee assistance.
- Operators require an annual cost-of-living increase in per diems to respond to higher operating costs.

3.4 Analysis of Service Gaps / Overlaps

Wait List

The monthly average wait list for child care fee assistance is highest in Markham, Vaughan and Richmond Hill. Refer to Table 15.

The Preschool age group, 2 ½ - 5 years, accounted for 545 (41%) of children on the monthly average wait list. Refer to Table 16.

Table 12

York Region Licensed Centre-Based Child Care Spaces, by Type of Space, by Purchase of Service Agreement*/ No Purchase of Service Agreement – 2004

Type of Service	Licensed Spaces Covered by Purchase of Services Agreement	Licensed Spaces Not Covered by Purchase of Service Agreement	Total Licensed Spaces
Commercial			
Infants	147	64	211
Toddlers	698	279	977
Preschool	1,858	1,497	3,355
Kindergarten	547	227	744
School Age	1,124	197	1,321
Nursery School	116	380	496
Subtotal Commercial Centres	4,490	2,644	7,134 (approx. 34% of Licensed Spaces)
Non-Profit			
Infants	144	0	144
Toddlers	558	75	633
Preschool	2,908	737	3,645
Kindergarten	1,064	72	1,136
School Age	7,204	198	7,402
Nursery School	245	460	705
Subtotal Non-Profit Centres	12,123	1,542	13,665 (approx. 66% of Licensed Spaces)
Grand Total	16,613	4,186	20,799

*Ability to purchase service subject to availability of approved Fee Assistance funds approved by the Ministry and York Region Council.

Table 13

York Region Licensed Home-Based Child Care Agencies, by Commercial and Non-profit, with or without Purchase of Service Agreements* – December 2004

With Purchase of Service	Without Purchase of Service	Total
3 commercial 9 non - profit	0 commercial 1 non - profit	3 commercial 10 non - profit
12 agencies	1 agency	13 agencies

*Ability to purchase service subject to availability of approved Fee Assistance funds approved by the Ministry and York Region Council.

Table 14

Approved Home Child Care Settings in Operation in York Region, with or without Purchase of Service Agreements*, by Area Municipality – 2000, 2004

Municipality	Total Number of Approved Homes Operating		Estimated # of Homes WITH Purchase of Service Agreement		Estimated # of Homes WITHOUT Purchase of Service Agreement	
	2000	2004	2000	2004	2000	2004
Aurora	15	8	11	8	4	0
East Gwillimbury	2	1	2	1	0	0
Georgina	12	12	12	12	0	0
King	0	0	0	0	0	0
Markham	70	75	70	72	0	3
Newmarket	29	29	24	29	5	0
Richmond Hill	43	115	38	108	5	7
Vaughan	44	53	32	44	12	9
Whitchurch-Stouffville	2	1	2	1	0	0
Total	217	294	191	275	26	19

* Ability to purchase service subject to availability of approved Fee Assistance funds approved by the Ministry and York Region Council.

Table 15

York Region Monthly Average of Wait listed Children, by Municipality – 2004

Municipality	Aurora	East Gwillimbury	Georgina	King	Markham	Newmarket	Richmond Hill	Vaughan	Whitchurch-Stouffville	Total
# of Children on Wait List	43	17	17	13	395	131	345	355	13	1,329
% of Total on Wait List	3%	1%	1%	1%	30%	10%	26%	27%	1%	100%

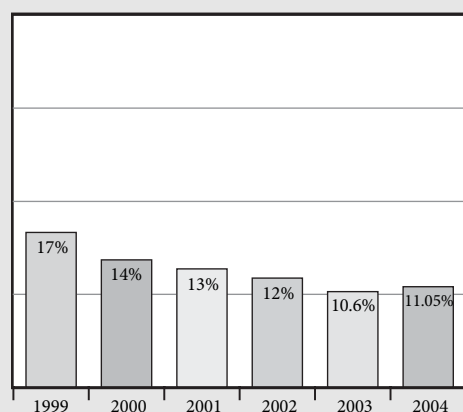
Table 16

York Region Monthly Average of
Wait Listed Children by Age Group

Age Group	# of Children on Wait List
Infant	242
Toddler	207
Preschool	545
School Age	335
Total	1,329

Chart 5

Subsidized Spaces as a Percentage of
All Licensed Spaces



In 2004:

- The average monthly wait list for child care fee assistance was 1,329 with 35% being sole support families and 65% two parent families.
- 79 sole support families and 97 two-parent families were added to the wait list each month. (*Source: Committee Report "Wait list for Child Care Fee Assistance", June 2nd, 2004*).

The level of provincial child care fee subsidy funding is sufficient to provide child care fee subsidies to less than 16% of families with children birth to 12 years whose income is below the Low Income Cut Off.

In 2004, through the Early Learning and Child Care Initiative (ELCC), the Province approved fee subsidy for 236 additional subsidized spaces. However, as a result of growth in the child population and an increase in the number of low income families, the current level of provincial funding for fee subsidy does not meet the community need.

The percentage of all licensed spaces for which provincial subsidy is available decreased from 17% to 10.6% between 1999 and 2003 and increased slightly to 11.05% as a result of ELCC funding in 2004. Refer to Chart 5.

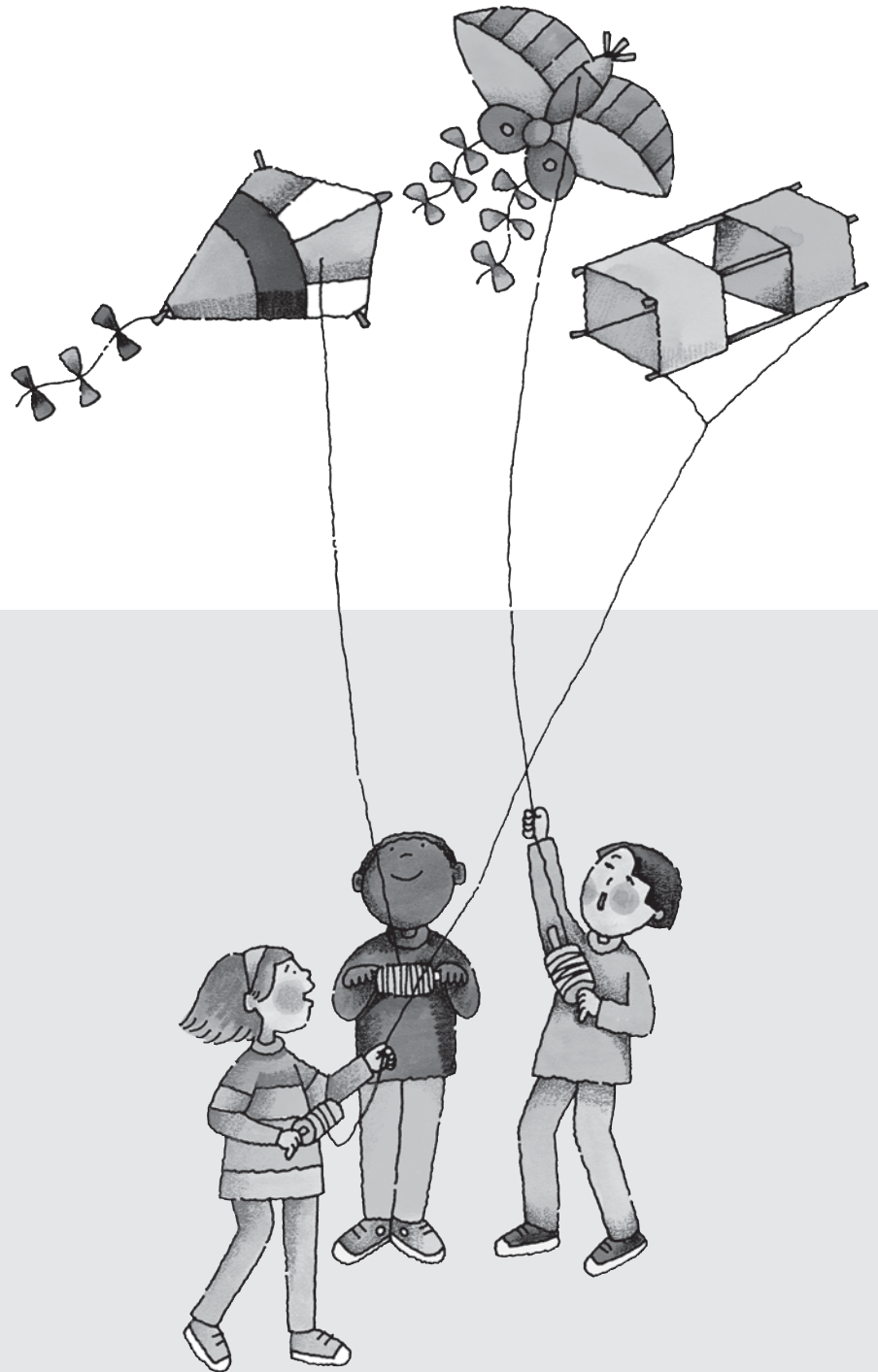
3.5 Service Priorities

Subject to 100% provincial funding and provincial and regional approval:

- By March 31, 2006, increase the number of child care fee subsidies by 800* for children 5 years and under with 60% for JK/SK children.
- Increase per diems paid to operators annually.
- Increase the number of child care spaces and child care operators covered by Purchase of Service Agreements.
- Enhance communication of the availability of child care fee assistance to York Region residents.

* This target may need to be adjusted if Income Testing for child care fee assistance is introduced prior to March 31, 2006.

4. Wage Subsidy



4. wage Subsidy

4.1 Description of Local Services at December 31, 2004

There are 182 child care operators in York Region who operate 349 centre-based sites. Of these sites, according to the Ministry 1995 Wage Subsidy Guidelines:

- 68 are receiving the level of wage subsidy for which they are eligible.
- 80 are receiving no wage subsidy.
- 201 are receiving less than the Ministry formulae and calculations in the 1995 Guideline.

There are 13 child care operators in York Region who operate 13 home child care agencies. Of these agencies, according to the Ministry 1995 Wage Subsidy Guidelines:

- 11 are receiving the level of wage subsidy for which they are eligible.
- 2 are receiving no wage subsidy.
- 0 are receiving less than the Ministry formulae and calculations in the 1995 Guidelines.

There are significant costs associated with bringing eligible programs up to the funding levels specified in the Ministry's guidelines. These costs increased between 1999 and 2003 as a result of the increase in licensed spaces. In 2004

through the ELCC Initiative, the Province approved additional funding of \$1.2 million to address the significant shortfall of nearly \$7 million in wage subsidy funding. At the same time the number of spaces which were eligible for wage subsidy increased by 1,288.

4.2 Assessment of Local Needs

Two major areas of need have been identified in relation to wage subsidy funding:

- Eligible programs that receive no wage subsidy funding
- Eligible programs that receive funding at levels less than the prescribed ministry formulae and calculations.

4.3 Analysis of Service Gaps / Overlaps

The provincial wage subsidy funding approval to York Region was not increased between 1999 and 2003. In 2004, wage subsidy funding was increased by 13% through the Early Learning and Child Care Initiative. During the same period, the number of licensed child care spaces which are eligible for wage subsidy, should funding become available, has increased by 63%, resulting in a significant shortfall in funding and 36% of child care operators not receiving any wage subsidy.

There are 349 licensed child care centres in York Region of which only 68 (19%) receive the level of wage subsidy funding for which they are eligible based on the Ministry 1995 Guideline. This Guideline states that early childhood practitioners working in commercial programs receive approximately one-third of the wage subsidy funding received by early childhood practitioners working in non-profit programs. The cost to bring all operators to the Ministry 1995 Guideline is \$2,567,363. Refer to Table 17. The cost to bring all operators to the Ministry 2000 Guideline of equity between commercial and non-profit sectors is \$6,349,235. Refer to Table 18.

Table 17

The Cost to Bring All Operators to the Ministry 1995 Guideline

	Commercial	Non-Profit	Total
2001	\$521,897	\$1,885,119	\$2,407,016
2002	\$784,006	\$1,803,914	\$2,587,920
2003	\$1,193,733	\$1,715,640	\$2,909,373
2004	\$810,232	\$1,757,131	\$2,567,363

Table 18

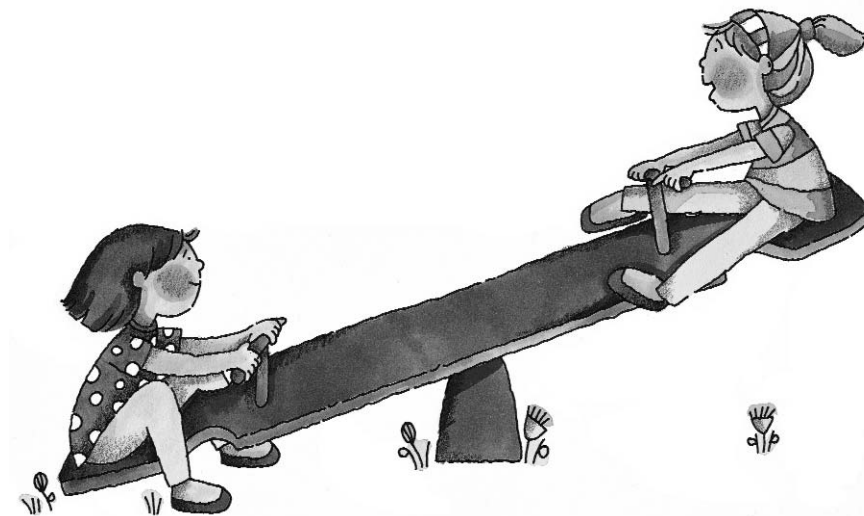
The Cost to Bring All Operators to the Ministry 2000 Wage Subsidy Guideline

Year	Cost to implement the balance between the commercial and non-profit sectors
2001	\$4,491,299
2002	\$5,468,377
2003	\$6,795,629
2004	\$6,349,235

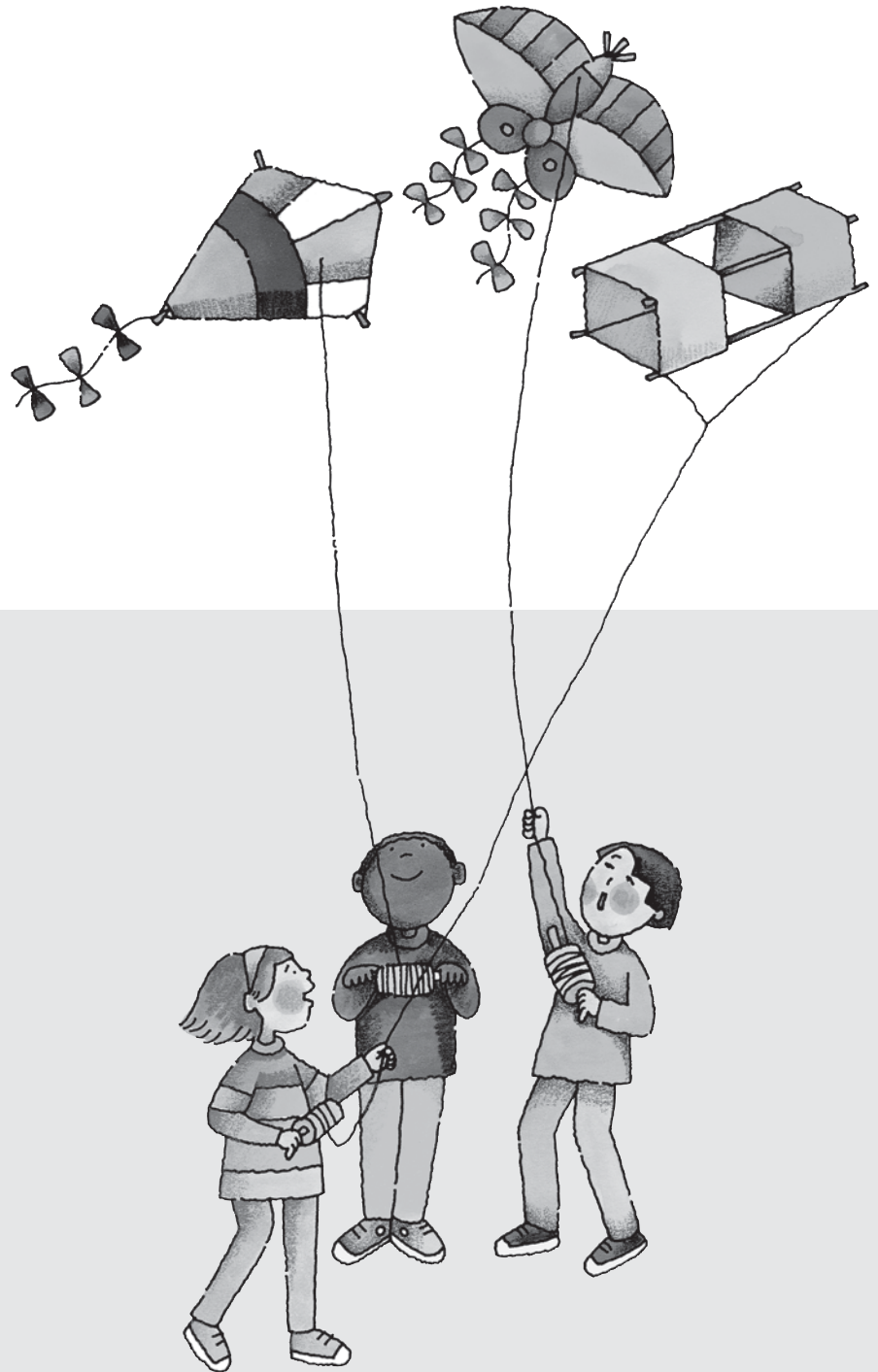
4.4 Service Priorities

Subject to 100% provincial funding approval and regional approval:

- By March 31, 2006, bring all operators serving children 0 - 12 years to the funding level for which they are eligible under the Provincial 1995 Guideline.
- By March 31, 2006, increase the level of the Direct Operating Grant component of wage subsidy from 50% to 80% for all commercial operators serving children 0 - 12 years in accordance with the Provincial 2000 Guideline.
- By March 31, 2006, allocate wage subsidy funding to new licensed spaces approved under the Best Start Child Care Transition Plan.
- Review business practices and reporting requirements to enhance accountability for additional funding.



5. Special Needs Resourcing



5. Special Needs Resourcing

5.1 Description of Local Services at December 31, 2004

5.1.1 Early Intervention Services

York Region Early Intervention Services (EIS), is comprised of Infant Development funded under the Child and Family Services Act and Child Care Special Needs Resourcing Programs funded under the Day Nurseries Act. EIS directly delivers programs that serve families with children under the age of six who have special needs or who are at risk for poor outcomes as a result of delayed development, specific diagnosed conditions, injury or health factors.

In 2004, the actual service level provided for Infant Development and Child Care Special Needs Resourcing exceeded the targets set by the Ministry by 57.3%. Refer to Table 19. A (30%) program budget overage occurred

as a result of service levels exceeding Ministry targets and interim measures to mitigate the negative impact on waiting for service. The program budget overage was managed, in year, within the Family and Children's Services budget approved by York Region. This approval from York Region enabled York Region to service 250 additional children with special needs who would otherwise be on the wait list for Early Intervention Services.

In reviewing changes that have occurred in relation to the Early Intervention Services Caseload:

- From 1997 to 2004, the total number of infants and children served each year has increased by 62% - from 819 in 1997 to 1,328 in 2004.
- From 2000 to 2004, the monthly average wait list has increased by 29%, from 62 in 2000 to 80 in 2004.
- The wait list in June 2005 was 102.

Refer to Table 20. Refer to Appendix 1, Map 14 for distribution of EIS caseload by team.

Table 20
2004 Activity Log

Service	Total
Annual number of children directly served (10.2% increase)	1,328
Average monthly caseload served (1.7% increase)	952
Children served through contracts with 3 other agencies	279
Office based service delivery hours: group & individual (32.8% increase)	2,914
Number of children newly enrolled in-year	405
Number of schools receiving EIS transition support to school	68
Number of child care and other group programs supported (14% increase)	219
Number of children served in private home child care	31
Average number of children on wait list (12% decrease)	80

Table 19

Child Care Special Needs Programs Funded Through Purchase of Service with York Region, 2003-2004

Program Funded	Ministry Target for # of Children to be Served 2003	Actual # of Children Served 2003	% Above/ (Below) Ministry Target 2003	Ministry Target for # of Children to be Served* 2004	Actual # of Children Served 2004	% Above/ (Below) Ministry Target 2004
Speech and Language Services	264	264	0	264	253	(4.2)
Services for Visually Impaired Children	13	15	15.3	15	12	(20)
Paediatric Seating Clinic	30	36	20	36	14	(61.2)
Total	307	315	35.3	315	279	(11.4)

*Target prorated over direct service a

5.1.2 Child Care Special Needs Program

In addition to direct services provided by Early Intervention Services, York Region administers:

- The funding and program relationship with agencies that provide the following services to eligible children and their families:
 - Preschool speech and Language Services
 - Services to Children Who Are Visually Impaired
 - A Seating Clinic

Refer to Table 21.

- The funding relationship for community-based supports to licensed child care centres, (Enhanced Funding), to enable the inclusion of identified children with exceptional special needs. A community-based committee makes recommendations to York Region for the allocation of this Enhance Funding.

5.1.3 Enhanced Funding

Enhanced Funding is provided to child care operators to address their staffing needs in order to support the inclusion of children with significant special needs. The ministry does not set targets for Enhanced Funding. In 2004, Enhanced Funding was provided, on average, to 54 licensed child care centres per month, serving on average, a total of 45 children and 28 groups each month. There were 29 children and 3 groups on the wait list for service at the end of 2004.

5.2 Service Integration with Preschool Speech and Language

York Region and Markham-Stouffville Hospital entered into a partnership to integrate programs they deliver - specifically Infant Development, Child Care Special Needs Resourcing, Preschool Speech and Language and Infant Hearing.

Through a funded agreement between York Region and the Markham-Stouffville Hospital, Speech and Language Pathologists hired by the hospital participate in interdisciplinary teams servicing children with special needs.

Interdisciplinary teams plan and deliver a range of services to children with special needs and high risk children: assessment, service planning, child and family intervention using a mediator model, home visiting, and referral. The teams bring together staff with various professional backgrounds and expertise.

As well, Preschool Speech and Language services are co-located with EIS in its delivery sites. Preschool children identified as needing a speech and language assessment are referred to the Preschool Speech and Language program through EIS.

These programs are accessed through a centralized intake number. The intake worker determines whether the family

Table 21

Child Care Special Needs Programs Funded Through Purchase of Service with York Region –2003, 2004

Program Funded	2003 Ministry Target for # of Children to be Served*	2003 Actual # of Children Served	2003 % Above/ (Below) Ministry Target	2004 Ministry Target for # of Children to be Served*	2004 Actual # of Children Served	2004 % Above/ (Below) Ministry Target
Speech and Language Services	264	264	0	264	253	(4.2)
Services for Visually Impaired Children	13	15	15.3	15	12	(20)
Paediatric Seating Clinic	30	36	20	36	14	(61.2)
Total	307	315	35.3	315	279	(11.4)

* Target prorated over direct service and purchased services.

should be enrolled in EIS and/or Preschool Speech and Language. Child Care Fee Assistance and Child Care Information Services are also accessed through the central intake. In addition, the intake worker facilitates referrals to other appropriate agencies.

This integrated model has been documented by the province as a best practice case study for the integration of human services.

5.3 Transition to School

Early Intervention Services assists families in preparing for their child's entry into the school system of the York Region District School Board, the York Region Separate School Board, or private schools. The transition process begins in the autumn of the year prior to school entry in order to provide both the family and the school with the information necessary to facilitate a successful school entry experience.

5.4 Assessment of Local Needs

Service Demand Exceeds Resources/Increasing Wait List for Service

The demand for Early Intervention Services (EIS) continues to increase. The 2004 monthly caseload average of 952 children enrolled in EIS is a 31% increase over the 658 monthly average of 1999.

The increased enrolment reduces the intensity of services children receive with Early Intervention Services, thus making the services delivered less effective than optimal. Service hours available per child have decreased by 42.2% since 1999.

Service demand continues to exceed available resources and York Region families continue to be placed on the wait list for Early Intervention Services. The monthly average wait list has increased - from an average of 50 in 1997 increasing to an average of 62 in 2000, a 24% increase, with 71 on the wait list at year end 2000, a 14.5% increase over 1999. The monthly average wait list increased to 91 in 2003, an increase of 46.7% since 2000 and decreased to 80 in 2004, as a result of Early Learning and Child Care funding. The wait list in June 2005 was 102.

Children served by EIS in 2004 were also enrolled in licensed child care and received service across 162 of the 349 licensed centres in York Region. The dispersion across almost 50% of the licensed centres supports parental choice, but has

significant impact on EIS programs, personnel, travel resources and numbers that can be served, as well as impacting on child care staff in terms of supports received.

Service demands increased as a result of the implementation of new programs and initiatives such as Healthy Babies, Healthy Children. Service demands have also increased with the introduction of additional programs and services such as the Infant Screening Program implemented in York Region in 2001.

The Preschool Speech and Language Program operated by Markham Stouffville Hospital, with which York Region has a funding and program relationship, has experienced a significant increase in the wait list for service.

Funding Has Not Kept Pace with Increased Demand Due to Population Growth or New Initiatives

Provincially approved funding levels for Early Intervention Services have not kept pace with the rapid population growth in York Region. The emphasis on early identification and awareness and the implementation of programs and processes, such as Healthy Babies, Healthy Children and the Infant Screening Program, have increased referrals to all service providers and funding has not increased proportionate to the resultant increased service demand. The increased service demand, without additional funding, has resulted in increased wait lists for service.

5.5 Analysis of Service Gaps / Overlaps

Special Needs Resourcing

Early identification and assessment are important in ensuring that children receive the appropriate support services they require during the critical early development period from birth to 6 years. On average, 1.5% (952) of all children 0 - 6 years are in receipt of Early Intervention Services monthly.

Research indicates that at least 5% of children 0 - 6 years (3,334 children) have some special need and would therefore benefit from Early Intervention Services. An increase of approximately \$13.3 million in provincial funding approval would be required in order to provide Early Intervention Services to 5% of children 0 - 6 years of age in York Region.

The monthly average number of children served in Early Intervention Services in 2004 was 952, an increase of 30.1% (224) over 2000. The increase in caseload has resulted in a reduction in the average service time per child of 42.2%. The monthly average wait list in 2004 was 80, a reduction of 12% (11) over 2003 as a result of Early Learning and Child Care funding.

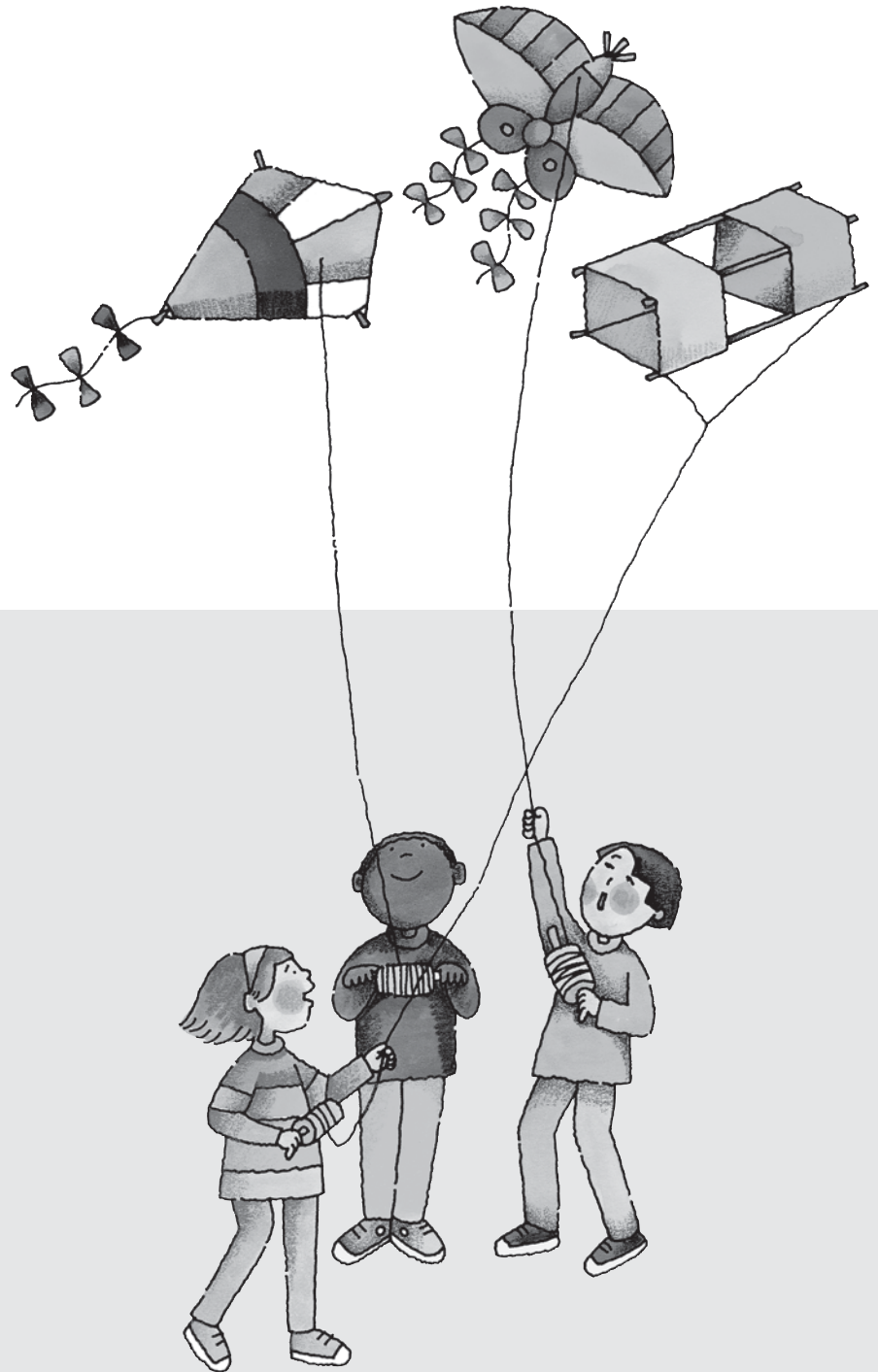
5.6 Service Priorities

Subject to 100% provincial funding approval and regional approval:

By March 31, 2006:

- Increase monthly average service levels by a minimum of 20% to address wait lists.
- Increase funding levels to increase the average amount of service time available per child to ensure that children with special needs receive optimal services which fully support their optimum development.
- Increase Enhanced Funding levels to support an increase to hourly wages.
- Increase service levels in Enhanced Funding annually to address the wait list.
- Increase Preschool Speech and Language funding level to support an increase in service levels and increased support to early childhood practitioners in licensed child care centres.
- Support the Community Funding Enhancement Committee in:
 - Reducing the 6-month "lead time"
 - Increasing the maximum hours per day
 - Organizing training
 - Consider providing EIS supports for families using private home child care agencies.

6. Early Child Development and Parenting Supports



6. Early Child Development and Parenting Supports

6.1 Historical Overview

Ontario Early Years Centres / Resource Centres

- Connections - November 2001, the Ontario Early Years Centres Community Plan for York Region recommended the redistribution of resource centre funding according to the child population birth to 6 years.
- The Province determined that its 80% share of Resource Centre funding would be redirected to Ontario Early Years Centres.
- York Region terminated its service agreement with 5 of the 6 resource centres effective April 30, 2002.
- York Region maintains its service agreement with Rose of Sharon Resource Centre as it was determined to be a “unique service” by the Ontario Early Years Centres Planning Group for York Region.
- This program is funded by the Province and York Region.

6.2 Description of Local Services at December 31, 2004

6.2.1 Resource Centres

Rose of Sharon Resource Centre provides a range of services that facilitate early child development and readiness to learn and foster parenting and child development skills for parents and other caregivers. Information is also provided to parents enabling them to choose quality child care. Sole support parents are also provided with the opportunity to complete their high school education and receive a high school diploma. The number of contacts for services exceeded 3,000 in 2004. Refer to Table 22.

6.2.2 Ontario Early Years Centres (OEYC)

Five Ontario Early Years Centres in York Region deliver cores services to families with children prenatal to six years. These activities include early learning activities, parent education, resources, referrals to other early years services and pre- and post-natal support. OEYC ensure that the range of core services are accessible to all families with young children in York Region through centre, satellite and outreach locations.

Across York Region, there are 5 main OEYC sites, 27 satellite sites and approximately 25 additional outreach sites in schools, churches, community centres, parks, etc., enabling residents to access OEYC programs. Refer to Appendix 1, Map 15, for location of OEYC programs.

Between April 1, 2003 and March 31, 2004, there were 75,442 adult visits and 90,961 child visits to OEYC in York Region representing 12,107 individual parents and caregivers and 11,786 individual children. Infants and toddlers accounted for 61% of the children served. Refer to Chart 6.

Table 22

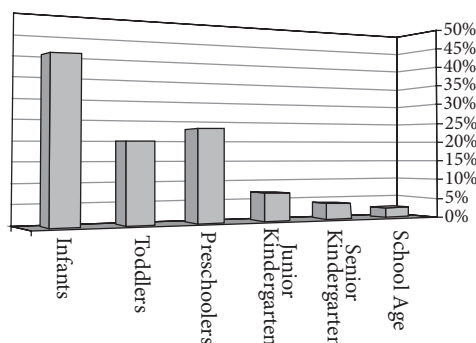
Core Services in Resource Centre 2004

Municipality	Newmarket
Lending Library	X
Warmline	X
Playgroup	X
Caregiver Education	X
Total	4

* Based on historical reporting of telephone contacts by teen mothers.

Chart 6

Distribution of Children by Age, York Region OEYC, 2003 – 2004



6.2.3 AOK Early Child Development and Parenting Programs

AOK Early Child Development and Parenting Programs are operated by 10 different agencies at 20 sites across York Region. Participants meet other parents and caregivers, take workshops, share stories, borrow resource materials about child development and parenting, gather information and join their children in activities. These programs are funded 100% by the Regional Municipality of York. Refer to Table 23. Refer to Appendix 1, Map 15, for location of AOK programs.

6.3 Assessment of Local Needs

The number of parents and children accessing the Resource Centre, OEYC sites and AOK sites constituted less than 10% of the adult and child population 0 - 5 years in 2004. There is a need to provide increased access to programs and increased access to a range of services through Early Child Development and Parenting Programs. A need to provide increased access to Parenting Supports has been recognized by the community and a Triple P Committee has been established with representation from a range of service providers. The Rose of Sharon Resource Centre continues to serve sole support parents of children 5 and under as a priority.

6.4 Analysis of Service Gaps / Overlaps

OEYC and AOK sites report that parents are frequently turned away as programs are full. There is a need to provide increased access to early child development and parenting programs. In addition, there is a need to rationalize the funding and program relationship with the Resource Centre, OEYC and AOK sites and in future years with the Best Start Hubs. Refer to Tables 24 and 25.

6.5 Service Priorities

By March 31, 2006,

- Increase the informal child care per diem to Rose of Sharon in accordance with provincial guidelines.
- Through consultation York Region consider the option of assuming the funding and program relationship with Ontario Early Years Centres from the Province.
- Dependent upon community support and 100% provincial funding, a proposal for York Region to assume the funding and program relationship with Ontario Early Years Centres be submitted to Regional Council and the Province for approval.
- Promote collaboration and cooperation as well as the integration of services where feasible of services provided by Ontario Early Years Centres, AOK sites, Resource Centre and Best Start Hubs.

Table 23

AOK Early Child Development and Parenting Programs – Service Levels 2004

# of Times Children Attended	20,120
# of Times Families Attended	14,940
Total # Hours	4,324
Total # Days of Service	1,654

Table 24

Source of Funding for Resource Centre, OEYC and AOK Sites, 2004

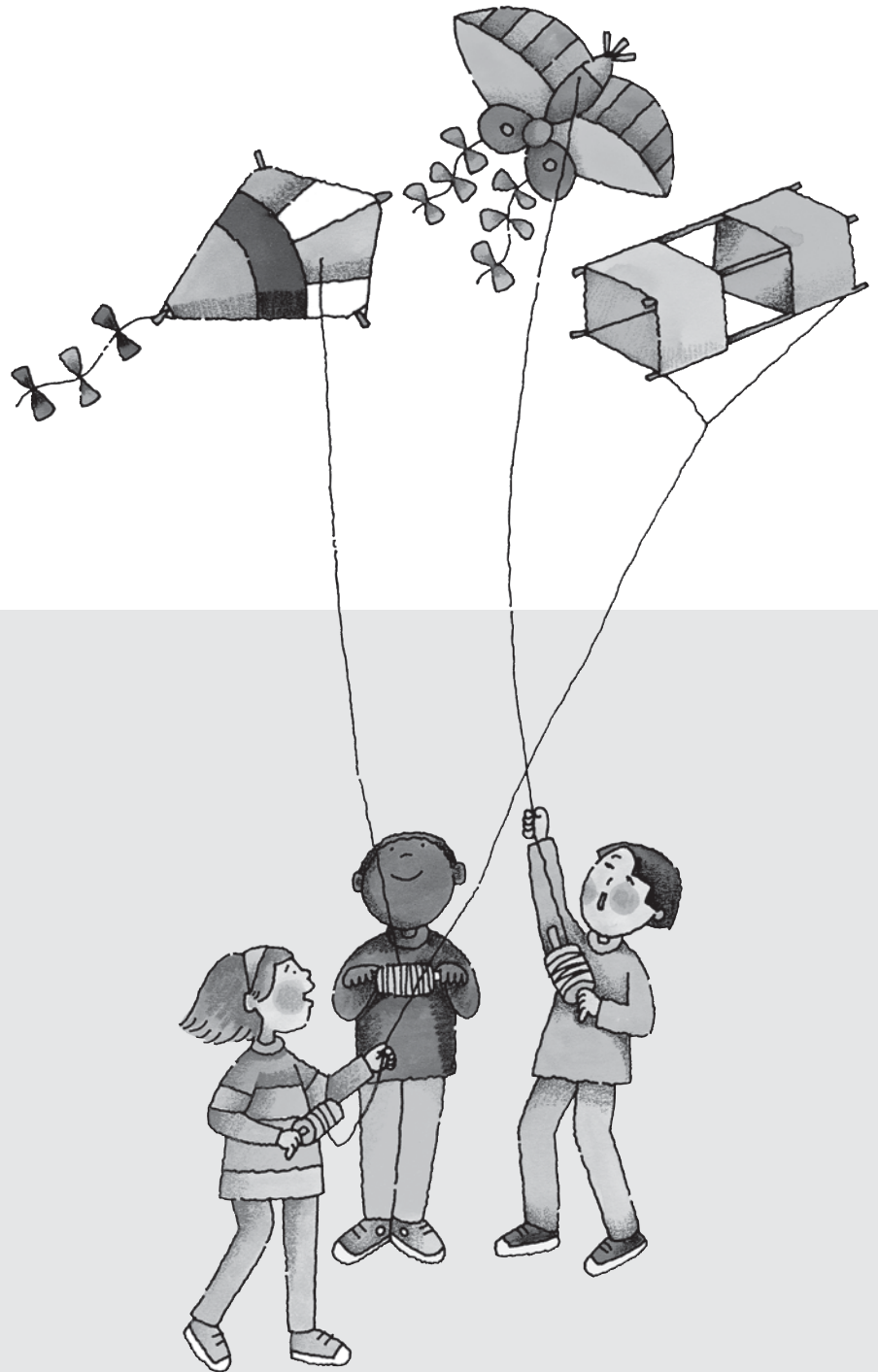
	Province	York Region	Total
Resource Centre	80%	20%	100%
Ontario Early Years Centre	100%	0%	100%
AOK Sites	0%	100%	100%

Table 25

Service Contract and Program Relationship

	Province	York Region
Resource Centre		✓
Ontario Early Years Centre	✓	
AOK Sites		✓

7. The Current Community Capacity to Increase Access to Child Care Spaces by March 2006



7. The Current Community Capacity to Increase Access to Child Care Spaces by March 2006

7.1 The Number of Vacant Spaces in Existing Programs

Centre-Based

In December 2004, child care operators reported 604 vacancies in programs that could be filled by junior kindergarten and senior kindergarten children and children 0 - 4 years.

Home-Based

If all the remaining approved home capacity began operating in York Region (97 homes), with a continued average of 2.4 children per home, an additional 233 home child care spaces would result.

7.2 The Existing Child Care System's Capacity to Add Additional Licensed Spaces Quickly

7.2.1 Potential Child Care Spaces in Schools

The School Boards are developing a long-term capital plan to be submitted to the Ministry of Education in October. The plan will contain several elements including plans

for new facilities, plans to implement 20:1 class size reductions, plans for facility renewal and potential Best Start locations.

The availability of space in schools will be affected by the Ministry of Education requirement of a 20:1 class size, as well as changing population and immigration patterns. The contents of the following tables are estimates only. Refer to Tables 26 and 27.

Physical Space Inventory

Table 26

Schools with Potential for Additional Child Care Spaces if a Community Need is Identified

Existing Schools – York Region District School Board

School	Planning Area	CEC	Rooms	Child Care Space Capacity	Year	Child Care Centre in the School
426	Markham-North	East	2	44	2005/6	Yes
432	Markham-Thornhill	West	1	22	2005/6	No
233	Vaughan-Thornhill	West	2	44	2005/6	Yes
333	Richmond Hill	Central	1	22	2005/6	Yes
134	East Gwillimbury	North	1	22	2005/6	Yes
147	Newmarket	North	2	44	2005/6	Yes
149	Newmarket	North	1	22	2005/6	No
456	Markham-Centre	East	1	22	2005/6	Yes
173	Newmarket	North	1	22	2005/6	Yes
375	Richmond Hill	Central	2	44	2005/6	No
225	Richmond Hill	Central	1	22	2005/6	Yes
385	Vaughan-Thornhill	West	2	44	2005/6	Yes
384	Vaughan-Thornhill	West	1	22	2005/6	Yes
388	Vaughan-Thornhill	West	2	44	2005/6	Yes
133	Georgina	North	3	66	2006/7	Yes

Table 27**Existing Schools – York Catholic District School Board**

School	Planning Area	Rooms	Child Care Space Capacity	Year	Child Care Centre in the School
337	Vaughan	2	48	2005/2006	Yes
103	Georgina	2	48	2005/2006	No
126	Newmarket	2	48	2005/2006	No
337	Markham	2	48	2005/2006	No
316	Stouffville	2	48	2005/2006	No
212	Richmond Hill	2	48	2005/2006	Yes
102	Aurora	2	48	2005/2006	No
140	Newmarket	2	48	2005/2006	No
143	Vaughan	2	48	2005/2006	Yes
462	Vaughan	2	48	2005/2006	No
360	Markham	2	48	2005/2006	No
432	Vaughan	2	48	2005/2006	No
163	Newmarket	2	48	2005/2006	No
353	Markham	2	48	2005/2006	No
435	Vaughan	2	48	2005/2006	No
227	Richmond Hill	2	48	2005/2006	No
442	Vaughan	2	48	2005/2006	No
104	Georgina	2	48	2005/2006	Yes
349	Markham	2	48	2005/2006	No
221	Markham	2	48	2005/2006	No
241	Richmond Hill	2	48	2005/2006	No
223	Richmond Hill	2	48	2005/2006	No
229	Vaughan	2	48	2005/2006	No
211	Richmond Hill	2	48	2005/2006	No
331	Markham	2	48	2005/2006	No
173	Aurora	2	48	2005/2006	Yes
452	Vaughan	2	48	2005/2006	No
192	Aurora	2	48	2005/2006	No
105	King	2	48	2005/2006	No
177	East Gwillimbury	2	48	2005/2006	Yes
272	Richmond Hill	2	48	2005/2006	Yes
151	Newmarket	2	48	2005/2006	No
324	Markham	2	48	2005/2006	No

The above potential available spaces in existing schools are subject to:

- Public consultation
- Board approval
- Ministry of Education approval of the Boards' Long Term Plan.

7.2.2 School Board Plans to Build New Schools

School board plans to include child care centres when building new schools are dependent on Provincial approval of infrastructure plans and funding allocations through the Best Start Strategy. They are also subject to public consultation, board approval and Ministry of Education approval. Refer to Table 28.

Table 28**York Region District School Board**

School	Planning Area	CEC	Child Care Space Capacity	Year
Greensborough #2	Markham - North	East	24 – 72	2006
Oak Ridges West #1	Oak Ridges	Central	24 – 72	2006
Bayview Northeast #1	Aurora	Central	24 – 72	2007
Cornell #2	Markham – Centre	East	24 – 72	2007
Markham F1 – Cathedral	Markham – North	East	24 – 72	2007
Block 18 #1	Vaughan – Maple	West	24 – 72	2007
Block 10 #3	Vaughan – Maple	West	24 – 72	2007
Stouffville Northeast	Whitchurch - Stouffville	East	24 – 72	2007

York Catholic District School Board

School	Planning Area	Year
St. Padre Pio	Vaughan - West Woodbridge	2005/6
St. Julia Billiard	Markham	2005/6
Ste. Marguerite d'Youville	Richmond Hill	2005/6
St. Jerome	Aurora	2005/6
Vellore Village #3	Vaughan – West Woodbridge	2006/7
Wismer Commons #1	Markham	2006/8
Valeta Lifford	Vaughan - Maple	2006/8

7.3 Child Care Infrastructure Plan for Renovations / New Spaces, by March 31, 2006 According to Provincial Priorities

Focus on JK/SK Children

Child care operators of new preschool spaces funded through Best Start, will be required to ensure that a minimum of 60% of these spaces are useable by junior kindergarten / senior kindergarten children.

7.3.1 First Priority - Renovations/Retrofits in Schools

The availability of space in existing schools will be affected by the Ministry of Education requirement of a 20:1 class size, as well as rapidly changing population and immigration patterns. The content of Table 29 is subject to Ministry of Education approvals and/or School Boards approvals.

Child care operators will be required to meet Ministry requirements for Infrastructure Funding before being approved for funding for renovations/retrofits in schools. Refer to Table 29.

7.3.2 Second Priority - New Child Care Spaces in New School Buildings

School Board plans to include child care centres when building new schools are dependent on Provincial approval of infrastructure plans and funding allocations through the Best Start Strategy. Where child care operators have already entered into negotiation or signed leases for space in new schools, Provincial approval will be sought for their eligibility for Best Start Infrastructure Funding. Child care operators will be required to meet all Ministry requirements before being approved for infrastructure funding for new spaces in new schools. Refer to Table 30.

Table 29

Proposed Renovations/Retrofits in Schools

School	0 - 30	2 ½ - 5	Renovation /Retrofit	Start-Up	Project Completion Date
St. Joseph the Worker	0	48 (30 JK/SK)	\$400,000	\$50,000	March 31, 2006
Lorna Jackson YMCA	0	20 (JK/SK)	\$30,000	\$25,000	November 1, 2005
Randall - Family Day	0	16 (10 JK/SK)	\$8,000	\$8,000	November 1, 2005
Doncrest - Family Day	0	10 (JK/SK)		\$9,000	November 1, 2005
Christ the King - Upper Canada	0	10 (JK/SK)	\$10,000	\$15,000	March 31, 2006
Our Lady of the Annunciation - Upper Canada	0	24 (14 JK/SK)	\$250,000	\$35,000	March 31, 2006
St. Gabriel	10	24 (14 JK/SK)	\$180,000	\$80,000	March 31, 2006
Flowervale - York Professional	0	24	\$38,000	\$35,000	November 1, 2005
Subtotal	10	176	\$916,000	\$257,000	

Table 30

Proposed New Child Care Spaces in New Schol Buildings

School	0 - 30	2 ½ - 5	Construction	Start-Up	Project Completion Date
St. Jerome YMCA	0	72	\$800,000	\$140,000	January 2006
Father Padre PTO - Upper Canada	0	72	\$738,300	\$125,000	September 2005
Subtotal	0	144	\$1,538,300	\$265,000	

7.3.3 Third Priority - New Child Care Spaces within an Existing Licensed Centre-Based or Home-Based Child Care Program within Close Proximity to a School

Child care operators will be required to meet all Ministry requirements before being approved for Infrastructure Funding for new child care spaces within an existing licensed centre-based or home-based child care program within close proximity to a school. Where identified child care operators complete new child care spaces prior to the Ministry's approval of the Transition Plan, Ministry approval will be sought for their eligibility for Best Start Infrastructure Funding. Refer to Table 31.

Rationale

These programs are near schools and there are insufficient spaces in schools at the present time to meet the Provincial target of 535 new spaces by March 31, 2006.

7.3.4 Fourth Priority - Establish New Child Care Facilities Within Close Proximity to a School

Child care operators will be required to meet all Ministry requirements before being approved for Infrastructure Funding to establish new child care facilities within close proximity to a school. Refer to Table 32.

Rationale

These programs are near schools and there are insufficient spaces in schools at the present time to meet the Provincial target of 535 new spaces by March 31, 2006.

7.4 "Soft Costs" for 2006/2007

Where child care operators have already entered into negotiation, paid deposits or signed leases for new spaces in new schools, provincial approval will be sought for their eligibility for Best Start Infrastructure Funding. Refer to Table 33.

7.5 Identification of Programs / Spaces to Receive Subsidies

York Regional Council has approved that child care fee subsidy be administered to families on a "first come - first served" basis. Fee subsidies are assigned to individual children within eligible families and not to operators, programs or spaces.

York Region will enter into Purchase of Service Agreements with all operators of new spaces funded through Best Start to enable child care fee assistance to be accessed by eligible families.

7.6 Capacity of Proposed Sites to Meet DNA Requirements

It is the responsibility of the Ministry local area office to determine the capacity of a site to meet the requirements of the Day Nurseries Act. The ministry is responsible for licensing of child care centres under the Day Nurseries Act. York Region works in collaboration with local Ministry staff to provide joint information sessions for individuals planning to open new child care spaces/centres.

Table 31

Proposed New Child Care Spaces within an Existing Licensed Centre-Based or Home-Based Child Care Program Within Close Proximity to a School

Agency	0 - 30	2 ½ - 5	Renovation /Retrofit	Start-Up	Project Completion Date
KOLTS Seneca	7	8	\$20,000	\$10,000	March 1, 2006
PHDC Family Day Care Services	22	31		\$8,000	November 1, 2005
Children are Unique - York Professional	20	16	\$340,000	\$45,000	March 31, 2006
Victoria Education Centre	5	24	\$236,000	\$16,000	October 1, 2005
Sisters of the Sacred Heart	40	0	\$151,407	\$16,000	September 1, 2005
Wee Watch Markham	16	20	0	\$22,213	November 1, 2005
Wee Watch Trothen Circle - Richmond Hill	16	20	0	\$22,213	November 1, 2005
Wee Watch Terrace Woods	11	15	0	\$7,019	November 1, 2005
Subtotal	137	134	\$747,407	\$146,445	

Table 32

Proposed New Child Care Facilities Withing Close Proximity to a School

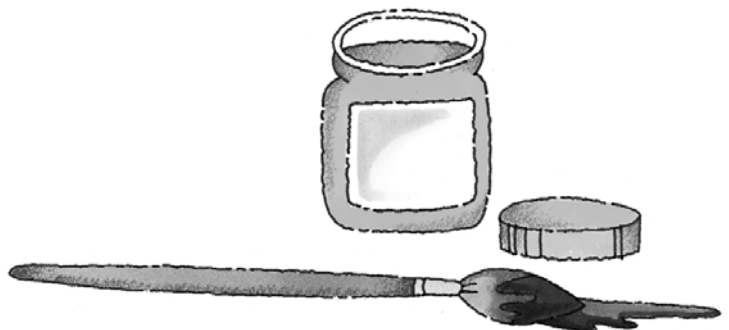
Agency	0 - 30	2 ½ - 5	Construction	Start-Up	Project Completion Date
Our Lady of Grace	25	30	\$610,000	\$100,000	March 15, 2006
Subtotal	25	30	\$610,000	\$100,000	

TOTAL (Table 29 to 31)	172	484	\$3,811,707	\$768,445	
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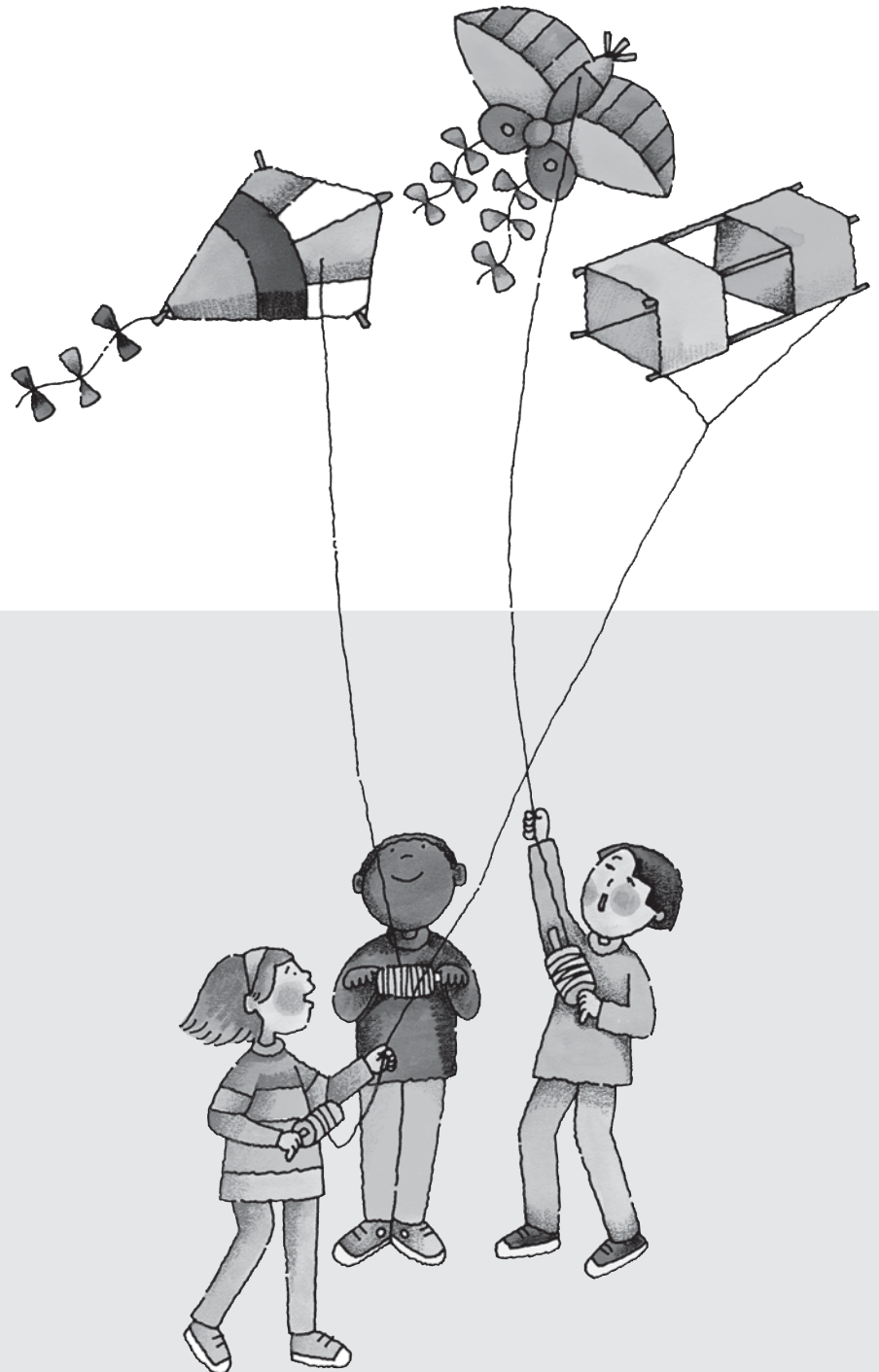
Table 33

“Soft Costs” for 2006/2007

Agency	0 - 30	2 ½ - 5	Amount	Costs
Oak Ridges - Upper Canada	16	72	\$42,8000	Deposit
			\$1,000	Legal Fees
Total	16	72	\$43,800	



8. Workplan Summary



8. Workplan Summary

8.1 Service Targets for Transition Plan Components March 31, 2006

Service targets include 800 new children receiving subsidy and 661 additional child care spaces.

Refer to Tables 34 through 38.

8.2 Strategies Used to Meet the Child Care Expansion Targets

Fee Subsidy

- All child care representatives will be assigned to intake during September / October 2005.
- Information posters concerning the availability of subsidy will be provided to all child care operators to post in their centres.
- Staff will be hired to manage the increased caseload.

New Spaces

- A Child Care Operator Survey to determine those operators interested in expanding was administered in April and August 2005.
- A meeting was held in August 2005 with operators able to expand by March 2006 to outline eligibility criteria for infrastructure funding.

Table 34

Number of New Children Receiving Fee Subsidy by March 31, 2006, by Age Group

Infant	Toddler	Preschool 2.5 - 3.8 Years	Junior Kindergarten	Senior Kindergarten	Total
40	80	200	240	240	800

Table 35

Number of New Licensed Centre-Based Spaces In/Adjacent or Near to Schools, by Age Group

	Infant	Toddler	Preschool 2.5 - 3.8 Years	Junior Kindergarten	Senior Kindergarten	Total
In/Adjacent to Schools	0	10	106	107	107	330
Near Schools	10	44	47	48	48	197
Total	10	54	153	155	155	527

Table 36

Number of New Homes Added to Home-Based Child Care Agencies

Number of New Homes
57

Table 37

New Enrolment in New or Expanded Homes Added to Home-Based Child Care Agencies, by Age Group

0 - 30 Months	Preschool	Junior/Senior Kindergarten	Total
53	18	58	129

Table 38

Number of FTE Staff to be Hired to Address the Increase in the Child Care System

Program	Number of FTEs
Early Intervention Services	8
Child Care Fee Assistance and Wage Subsidy	8
Infrastructure and Planning	3
Total	19

- The Child Care Expansion Task Force, including both School Boards and CMSM, meets regularly to identify opportunities for expansion.
- Infrastructure Project Manager will be assigned October 2005.
- Home child care operators encouraged to operate all approved homes.

Wage Subsidy

- Program surveys administered to all child care operators June 2005.
- Level of wage subsidy eligibility determined for each child care operator and site by September 2005.
- New contracts executed and current contracts amended to include Best Start funding adjustment, November 2005.
- Current contracts with those child care operators who receive approval to expand child care spaces by March 31, 2006 amended to include Best Start funding adjustment.

Special Needs Resourcing

- Staff hired to address the wait list of 102 children, November 2005.
- Increase in the service time per child implemented, January 2006.
- Information posters prepared for distribution identifying the availability of Early Intervention Services.
- Preschool Speech and Language therapist hired to support child care centres, January 2006.

8.3 Number of Infrastructure Projects, Licensed Spaces and Fee Subsidies Currently in Development and Operational by March 31, 2006

Table 39

Infrastructure Projects	
Renovation in schools	8
New spaces in new schools	2
Renovation near schools	8
Construction near schools	1
Total Infrastructure Projects	19
Licensed Spaces	
In schools	330
Near schools	197
Home-Based child care	129
Total Licensed Spaces	656
Ministry Target	535
Fee Subsidies	800

8.4 Number of Programs / Spaces That Will Receive Fee Subsidies by Priority and Date of Implementation

York Regional Council has approved that child care fee subsidy be administered to families on a "first come - first served" basis. Fee subsidies are assigned to individual children within eligible families and not to operators, programs or spaces.

All operators of new spaces funded through Best Start will be required to enter into Purchase of Service Agreements with York Region to enable child care fee assistance to be accessed by eligible families.

8.5 Initial “Soft Costs” (Construction) Related to Renovation and/or New Construction in Development to March 31, 2006 for Construction / Renovation by March 31, 2007

The School Boards are developing a long-term capital plan to be submitted to the Ministry of Education in October. The plan will contain several elements including plans for new facilities, plans to implement 20:1 class size reductions, plans for facility renewal and potential Best Start locations.

Until the School Boards’ Capital Plans have been approved, initial “soft” costs (construction) cannot be determined.

8.6 Number of Land Purchases and Costs Related to Purchase of Land and/or Buildings That Will Be Built and Operational by March 31, 2007

The School Boards are developing a long-term capital plan to be submitted to the Ministry of Education in October. The plan will contain several elements including plans for new facilities, plans to implement 20:1 class size reductions, plans for facility renewal and potential Best Start locations.

Until the School Boards’ Capital Plans have been approved, initial “soft” costs (construction) cannot be determined.

8.7 Demonstrate that the Increased Service Levels for Child Care Expansion will be Completed within the Infrastructure and Program Allocations to March 2006

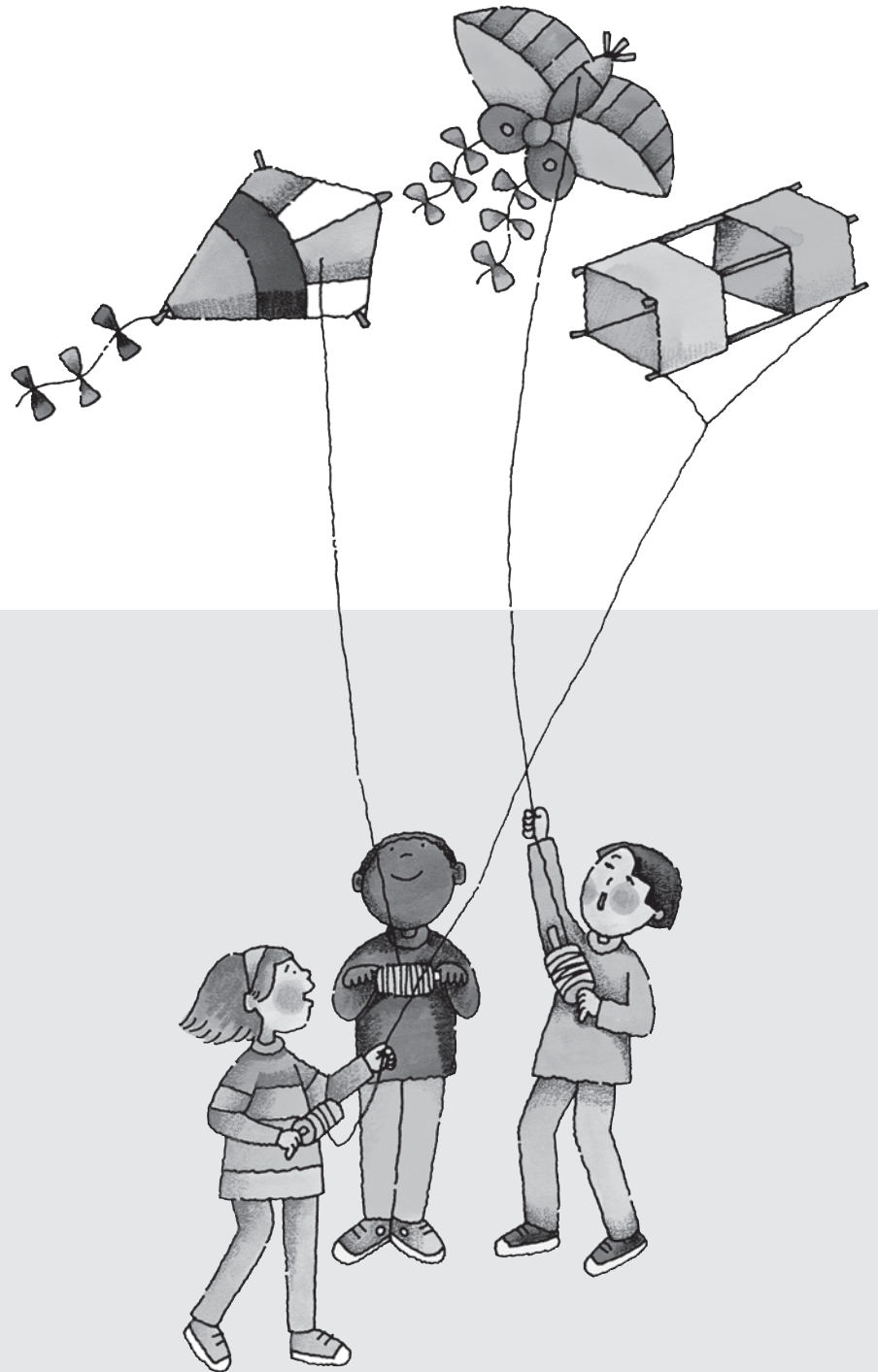
Refer to Table 40.*

** It is expected that more spaces will be renovated in schools once School Board plans have been approved by the Ministry of Education. Additional start-up costs and wage subsidy would be required for these spaces.*

Table 40

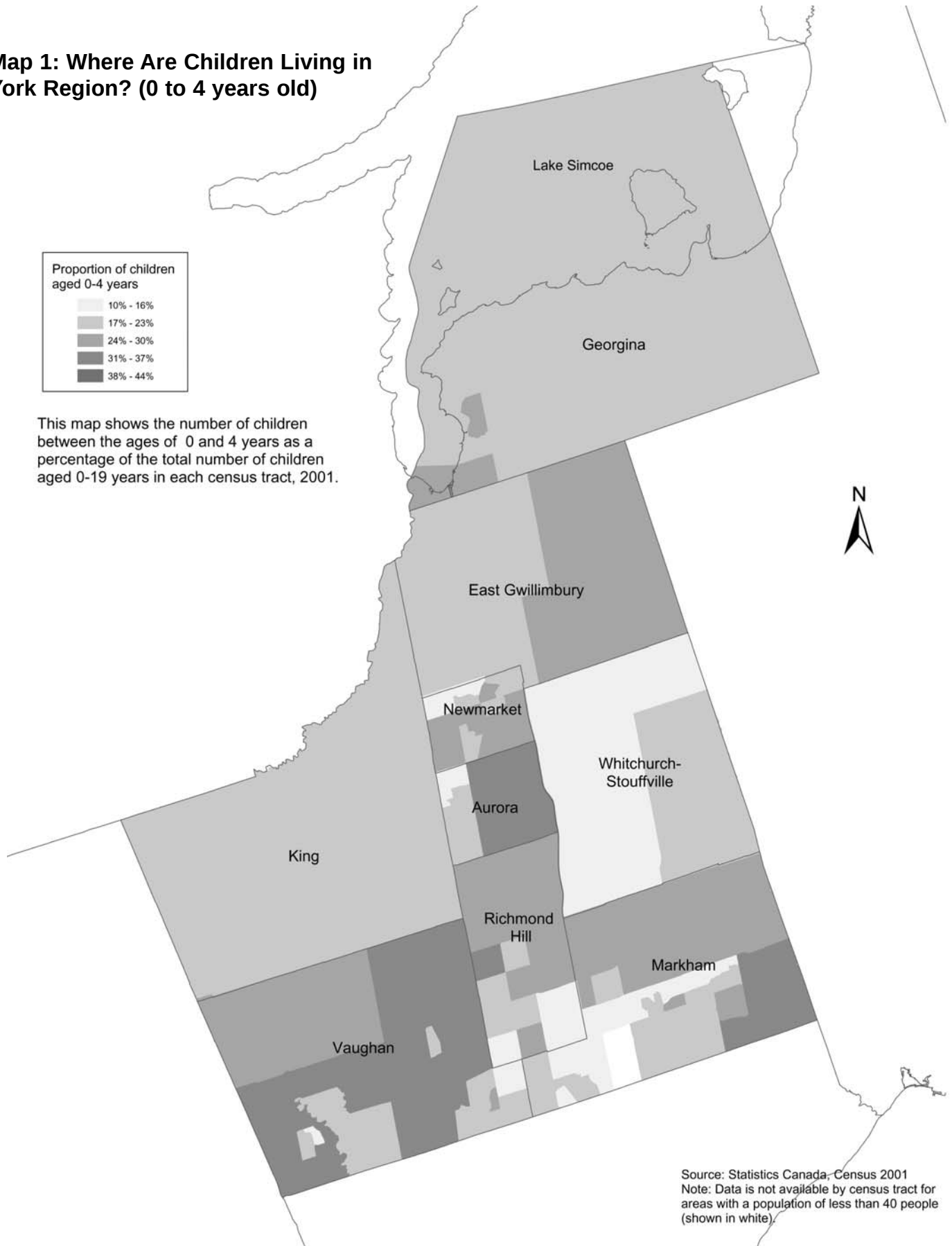
	000s
Infrastructure Allocation to March 2006	\$8,100.00
Construction Costs	\$2,148.3
Renovation Costs	\$1,663.4
Total	\$3,811.7
Variance	\$4,288.3*
Program Funding Allocation to March 2006	\$7,402.2
Start-Up Costs (furnishings and equipment)	\$768.4
Operating Costs (wage subsidy) for new spaces	\$500.3
Fee Subsidy	\$4,733.5
Child Care Special Needs Resourcing	\$1,400.0
Total	\$7,402.2
Variance	\$00
Wage Enhancement Allocaton to March 2006	\$1,025.2
Implementation Costs for Current Operators	\$1,025.2
Variance	\$00

Appendices

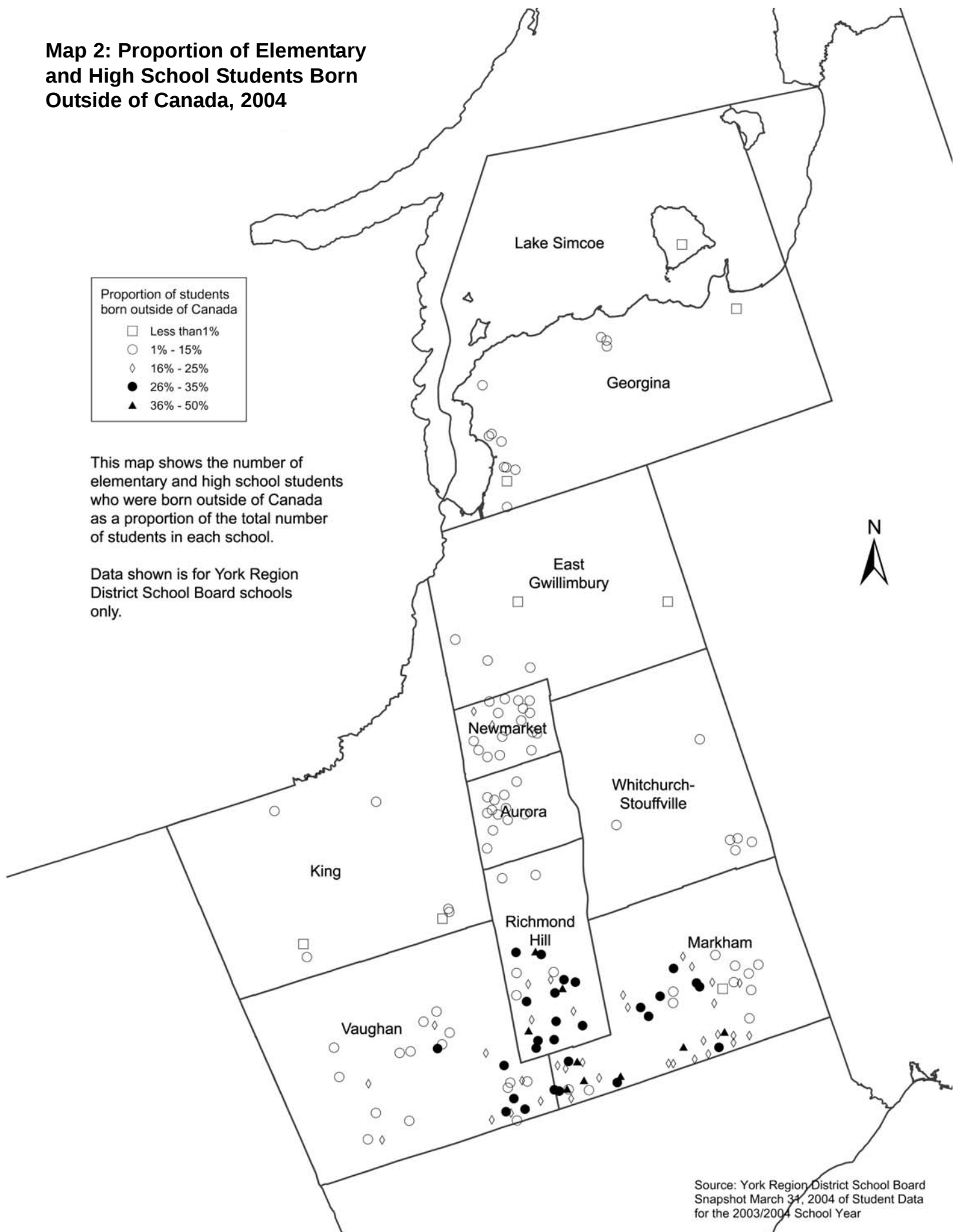


Appendix I: Maps

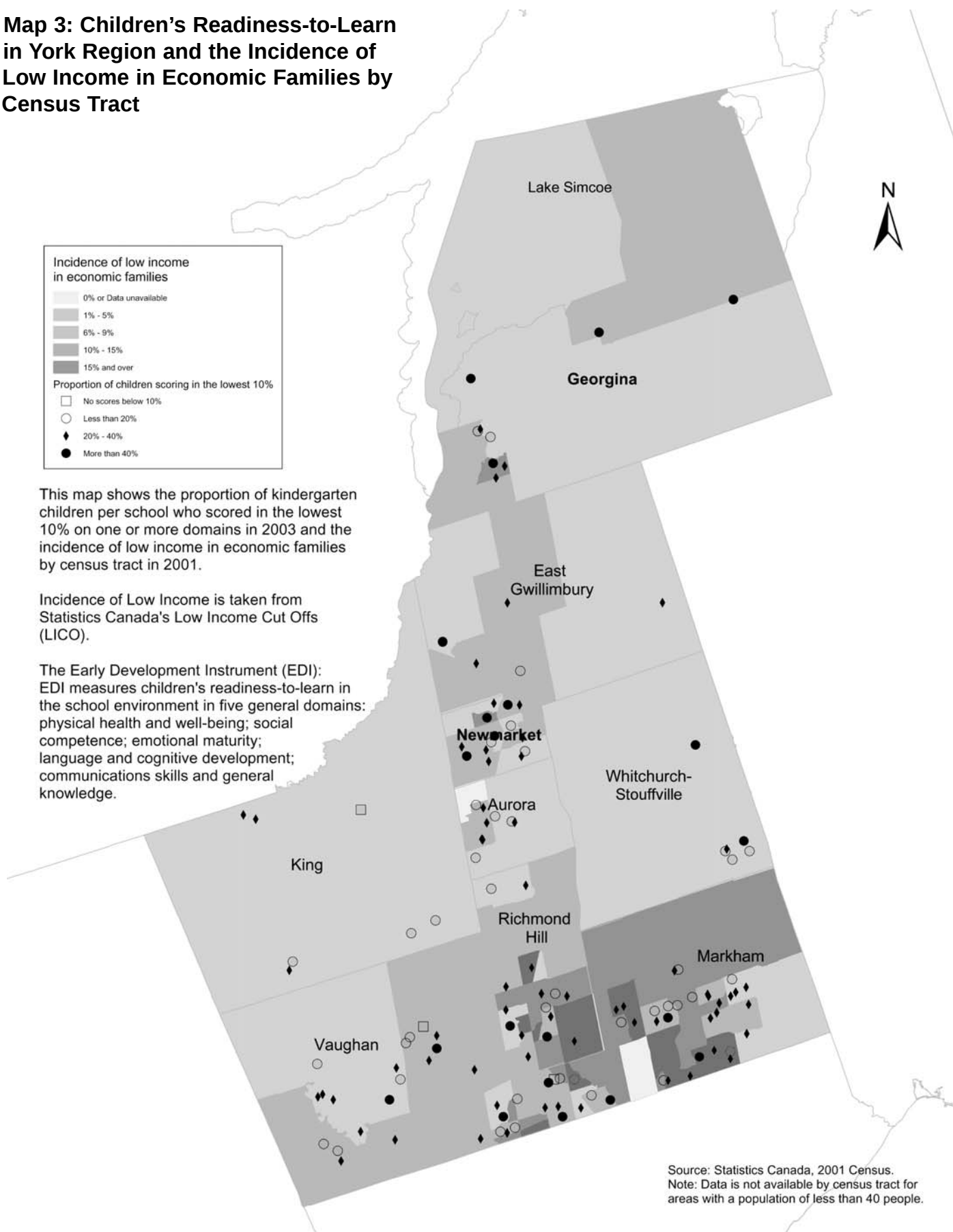
Map 1: Where Are Children Living in York Region? (0 to 4 years old)



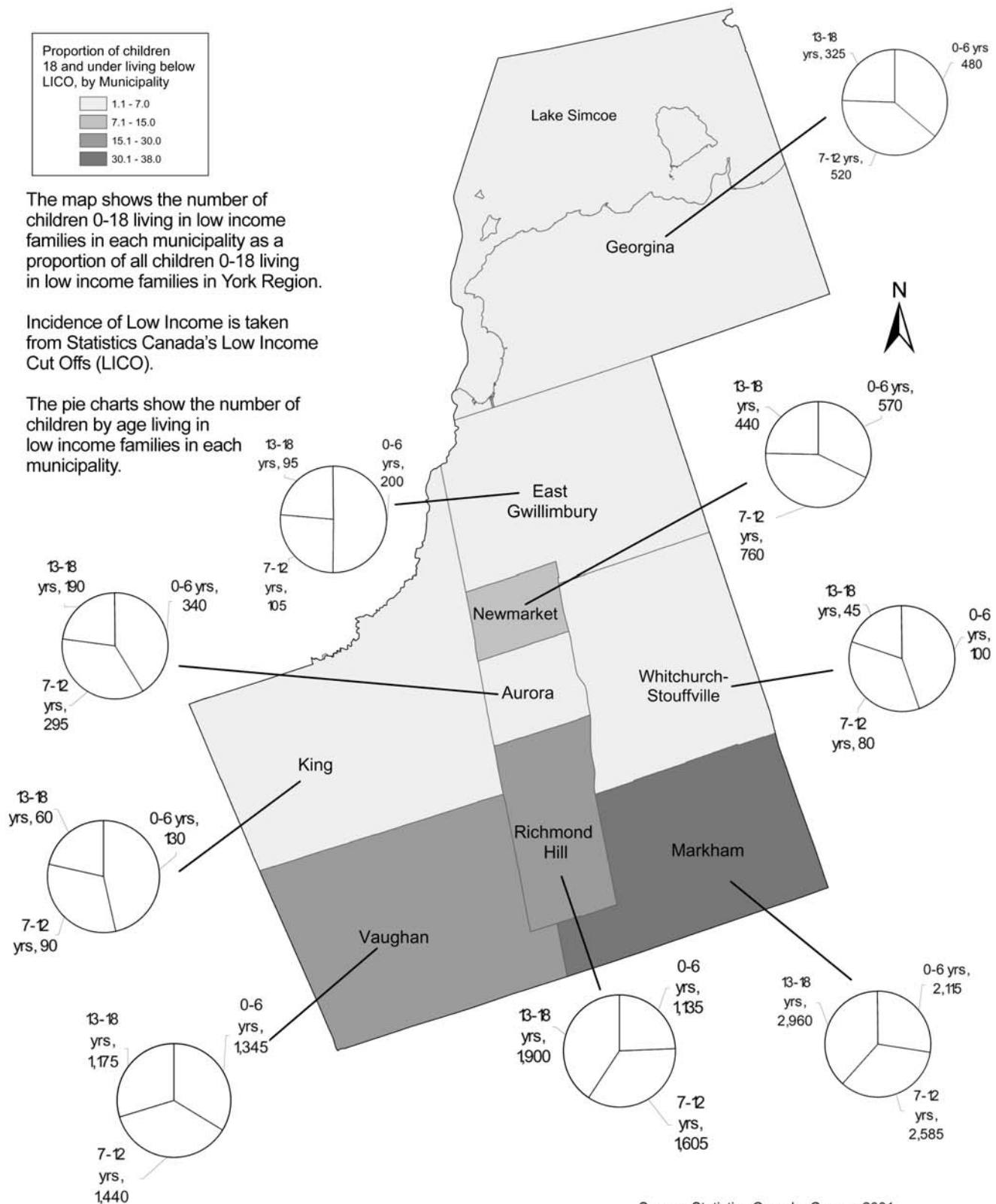
Map 2: Proportion of Elementary and High School Students Born Outside of Canada, 2004



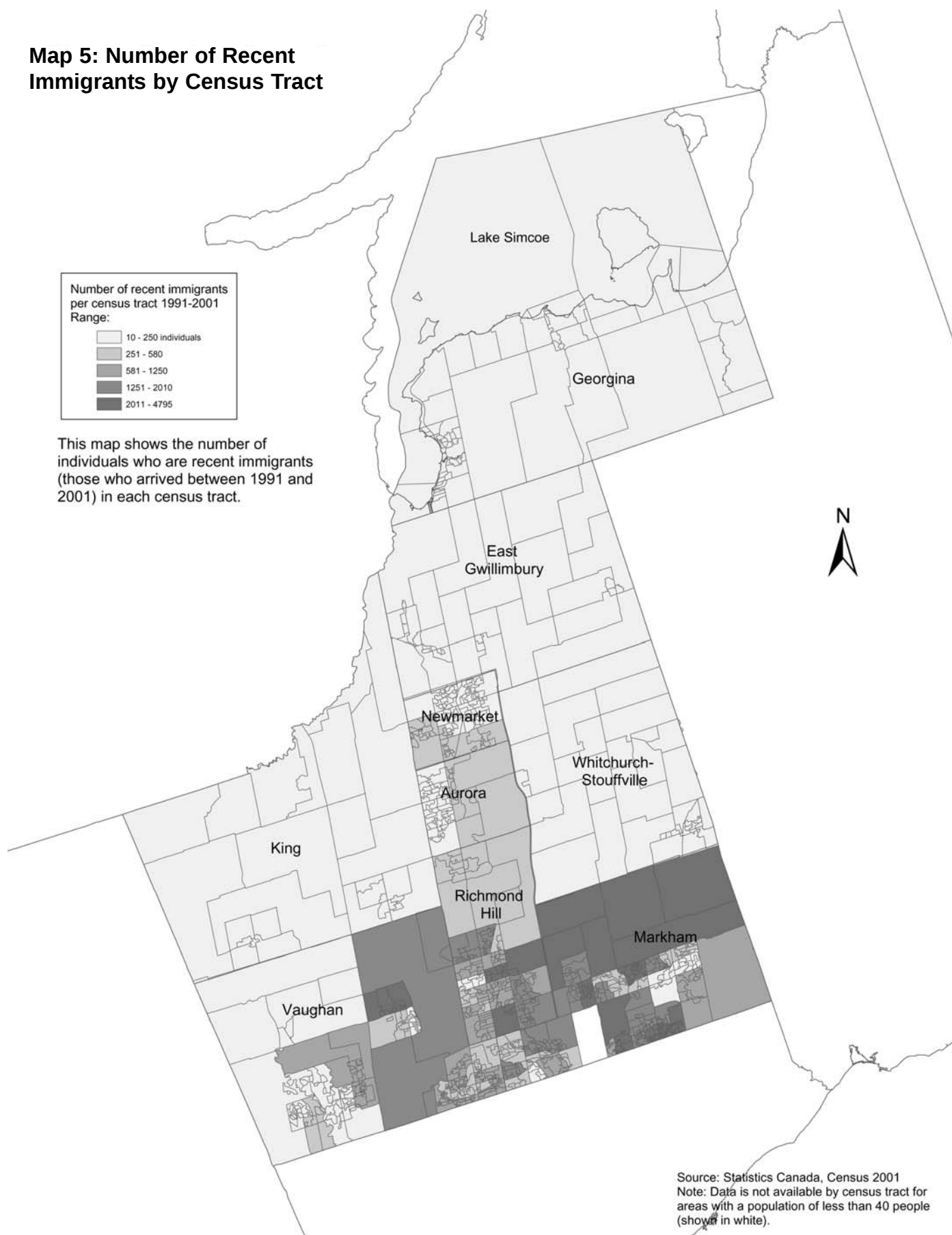
Map 3: Children's Readiness-to-Learn in York Region and the Incidence of Low Income in Economic Families by Census Tract



Map 4: Children 0 to 18 Years Living in Low-Income Families



Map 5: Number of Recent Immigrants by Census Tract



Map 6: AOK and Ontario Early Years Centres in York Region

Legend

- ◆ OEYC Main Site
- OEYC Satellite or Outreach Site
- OEYC Program in Elementary School
- * AOK Program in Elementary School
- ✻ AOK Program Other Site

