

Kanata, West Carleton and Stittsville Best Start Plan



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The development of the Kanata, West Carleton and Stittsville Best Start Plan was made possible from the combined efforts of the following community partners. With special thanks to:

Karen Beiles, Ottawa Public Library
Cathy Curry, OCDSB Trustee
Christine DeSouza, Ottawa-Carleton Ontario Early Years Centre
Nicole Fillion, Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre
Lindsay Hayes, Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre
Cheryl Heywood, Community Child Care
Kim Hiscott, Kanata Research Park Family Centre
Judy Karwowski, Katimavik Preschool Resource Centre
Roxy McCarthy, Ottawa Public Health
Maria Matthews, Best Start Community Developer
Christie May, Parent Resource Centre
Esther Seaman, Kanata Research Park Family Centre
Dinah Sloan, Ottawa Public Health
Colleen A. Taylor, Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre

INTRODUCTION

The Kanata, West Carleton and Stittsville Best Start Plan is intended to provide an overview of the *provincial* Best Start initiative and how it evolved to encompass *local* planning in this community. The Plan has been designed to present a framework for the community to engage in collaborative planning to ensure that ALL children have equitable opportunities to achieve their fullest potential.

This document includes the following:

- Linkage to ***Ontario's*** vision for Best Start
- Linkage to ***Ottawa's*** vision for Best Start
- ***Kanata, West Carleton and Stittsville*** Best Start Plan
- *Kanata, West Carleton and Stittsville* Best Start Planning Group **Terms of Reference**

ONTARIO'S VISION FOR BEST START

Background Information

Best Start is the *Ontario* government's early learning and care strategy, designed to help give children the best possible start in life. Throughout its ten-year plan, *Ontario's Best Start* aims to create an integrated system of services that seamlessly supports families and children from birth through their transition into grade one – right in their own communities. The Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) has a vision to create "...an Ontario where children and youth have the best opportunity to succeed and reach their full potential" (2007).

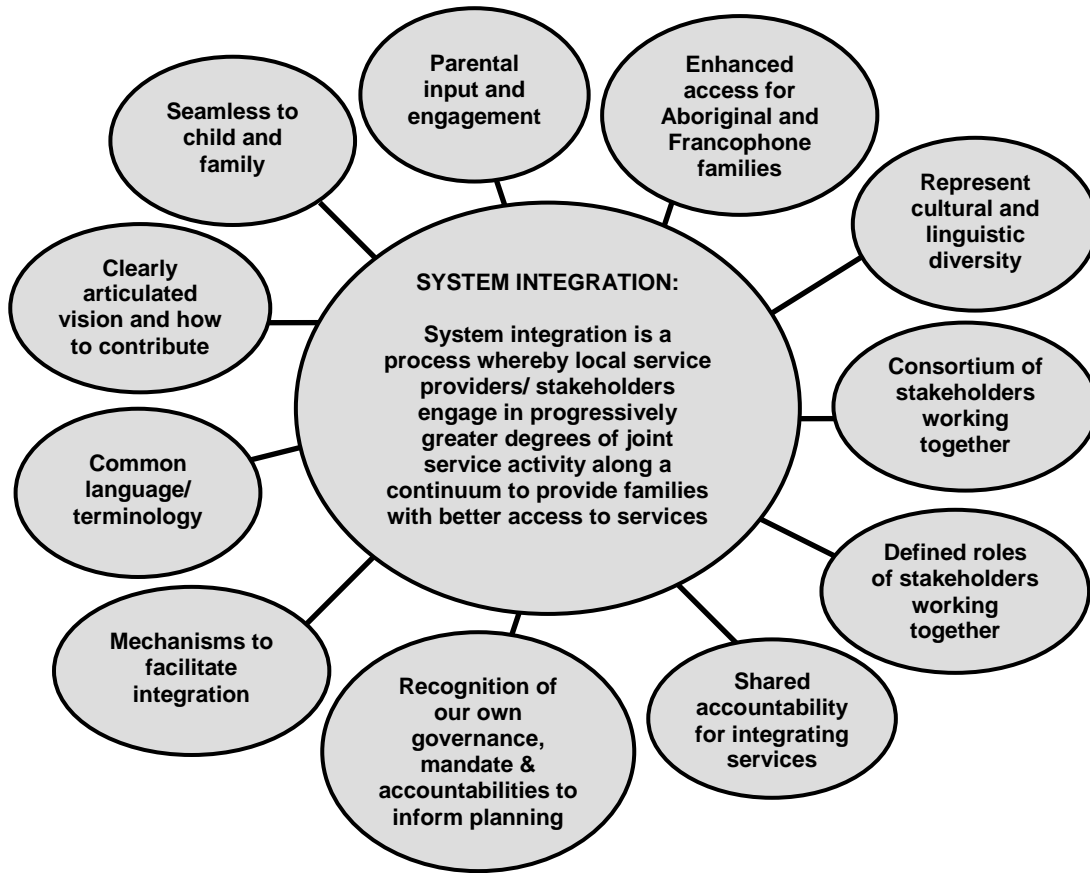
Phase I of Best Start:

- affordable and quality child care was expanded
- three provincial demonstration sites were established to accelerate the implementation of the full Best Start vision in order to share their findings and lessons learned across Ontario
- a new income-tested eligibility model for subsidized child care was introduced in 2007
- wage improvements for Early Childhood Educators were introduced
- the College of Early Childhood Educators was established
- key early identification and intervention programs were enhanced:
 - *Infant Hearing Program*
 - *First Words Preschool Speech and Language*
 - *Blind/Low Vision Program*
 - *Healthy Babies Healthy Children*
- MCYS commissioned three expert panel reports to provide the long-term framework for moving Best Start forward:
 - "Getting it Right at 18 Months... Making it Right for a Lifetime" (report of the Expert Panel on the 18 Month Well Baby Visit, September 2005)
 - "Investing In Quality. Policies, Practitioners, Programs and Parents. A Four-Point Plan to Deliver high Quality Early Learning and Care Services in Ontario" (report of the Expert Panel on Quality and Human Resources, March 2007)
 - "Early Learning for Every Child Today: A framework for Ontario early childhood settings" (report of the Expert Panel on Early Learning, December 2006)

(Adapted from "Ottawa Network for Children 2007 – 2008 Best Start Community Plan", June 2007)

Phase II of Best Start is currently in the implementation stage, with a focus on *system integration*, "...an ongoing process whereby service providers and stakeholders engage in progressively greater degrees of joint service activity (across sectors) along an integration continuum to provide families with better access to services locally."

(adapted from MCYS, "Building on the Foundation – Moving Forward", November 15, 2006)



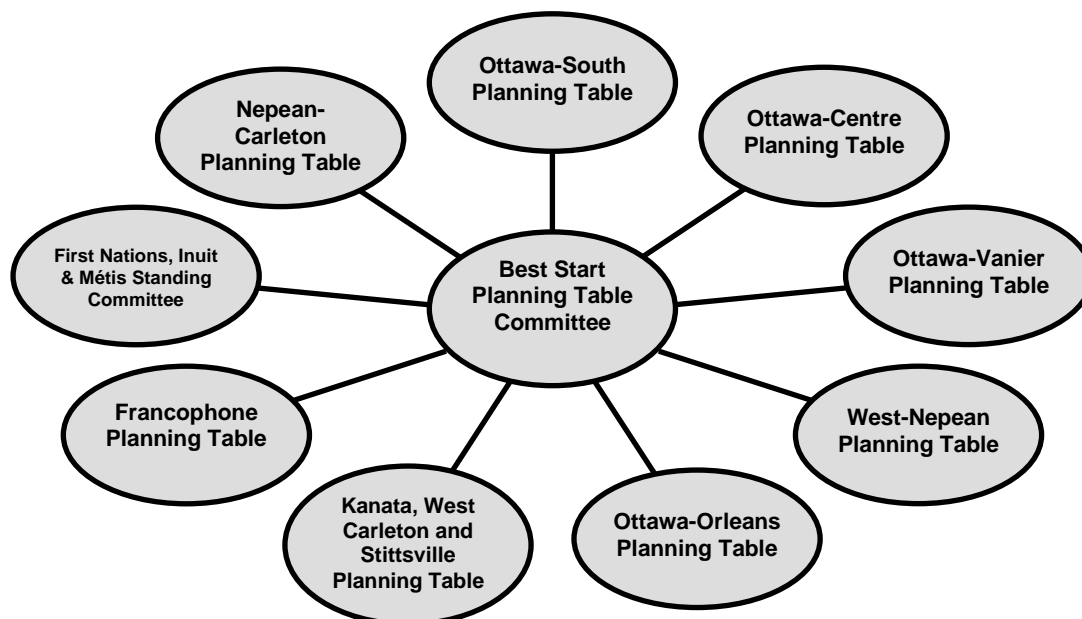
(City of Ottawa, 2008)

OTTAWA'S VISION FOR BEST START

Background Information

The *City of Ottawa* has embraced Best Start by creating the vision for a "...collaborative community engaged in ensuring that ALL children have the best and equitable opportunity to achieve their full potential" (2007). To achieve the Best Start vision, *Ottawa* relies on the leadership and direction provided by the Ottawa Network for Children (ONC). *Ottawa* strives to bring together local government, school boards, and community agencies serving families and young children together with parents to plan and deliver quality early learning and child care services.

A Best Start Steering Committee (BSSC) guides the overall system-level implementation while a city-wide Best Start Planning Table Committee (BSPTC) supports the neighbourhood-level initiatives. The BSPTC structure includes seven geographic-based planning tables, led by the local Ontario Early Years Centres (OEYC), along with two city-wide cultural/linguistic-based planning tables, led by a First Nations, Inuit and Métis Standing Committee and the Francophone organization, services à l'enfance Grandir ensemble. In addition, the City of Ottawa, Success By 6, and MCYS provide resources and support. For more *Ottawa* Best Start information, including neighbourhood descriptions and who to contact for each planning table, see Appendix 1.



The aim of each planning table is to increase system integration at the local level while ensuring links to the broader city-wide level, with the ultimate goal of improving the outcomes for ALL children.

KANATA, WEST CARLETON AND STITTSVILLE BEST START PLAN

Background Information

The *local* Best Start plan has been established as one of the seven geographic-based planning tables in Ottawa. Three community consultations have provided the following feedback:

- March 2007 Kanata, West Carleton and Stittsville meeting:
 - Introduction to Best Start
 - Setting priorities for Kanata, West Carleton and Stittsville

- June 2007 city-wide meeting:
 - Community information and sharing session
 - Where do we go from here?

- January 2008 Kanata, West Carleton and Stittsville meeting:
 - Community profile presentation
 - Outcomes and strategies developed for each of the seven previously identified priorities

(To access minutes: http://www.successby6ottawa.ca/uey/best_start.htm)

To move these outcomes and strategies forward, the *Kanata, West Carleton and Stittsville* communities have identified the existing Access committee as the proposed steering body. The Access Committee, in existence for more than ten years, has a multi-sectoral membership with a mandate to "...improve our capacity as service providers to support children and their caregivers, and service providers of children 0-12, and to improve the coordination of services to this group in the communities of Goulbourn, Kanata, and West Carleton" (2006).

Members of the Access committee and interested community partners were consulted in March 2008 regarding the possible merging of existing Terms of Reference and Best Start objectives. A subcommittee of Access conducted a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Strengths (SWOT) analysis and with the results, developed this draft community plan.

KANATA, WEST CARLETON AND STITTSVILLE BEST START PLANNING GROUP

Terms of Reference

Mandate: The Kanata, West Carleton and Stittsville Best Start Planning Group will undertake to empower our local community in offering comprehensive, flexible, integrated and seamless services for children, parents, and caregivers at familiar neighbourhood locations, so that ALL children will experience increased readiness to learn at school.

Philosophy: We believe that the following guiding principles, along with community leadership and engagement, are essential elements in achieving system integration that supports families with young children in our community.

Guiding Principles:

- Supports and services are planned and provided in a manner that is seamless to the child and his/her family.
- Parental input through parental engagement strategies is foundational to the planning, implementation and success of all aspects of Best Start.
- All planning for integration must incorporate better and equitable access to services for all families and their children, ensuring a linkage with the two city-wide cultural/linguistic-based planning tables.
- Supports and services represent cultural and linguistic diversity in all of Kanata, West Carleton and Stittsville.
- The Kanata, West Carleton and Stittsville Best Start Planning Group is a consortium of programs/agencies and relevant stakeholders that work together to help give young children the opportunity for healthy development and the best start in life.
- Each program/agency and relevant stakeholder has a role within Best Start that should be clearly articulated, accepted by the Kanata, West Carleton and Stittsville Best Start Planning Group, and locally implemented to meet the overall vision for Best Start.
- The consortium of programs/agencies and relevant stakeholders will assume shared accountability for integrating services and making sure that they work together to achieve local Best Start goals.
- The members of the Kanata, West Carleton and Stittsville Best Start Planning Group recognize that programs/agencies and relevant stakeholders have their own governance, accountabilities, and mandates which mutually inform and support the planning processes.
- Clearly articulated mechanisms to facilitate system integration exist among the consortium of programs/agencies and relevant stakeholders.
- Community members work from a common language and use mutually accepted terminology.
- The consortium of programs/agencies and relevant stakeholders can clearly articulate the Best Start vision in its community and how programs/agencies contribute to the actualization of the vision.

(Adapted from MCYS, "Addendum to the Implementation Planning Guidelines for Best Start Networks – System Integration", November 2006)

Membership: To ensure diverse community representation for comprehensive service planning, we will work towards individuals and organizations from the following sectors participating in the work of the Planning Group:

- Parents and caregivers
 - Health and Specialized Intervention Programs
 - Early Identification and Intervention Programs
 - Early Learning and Care
 - Family Support and Parenting Programs
 - Representative of community served
 - Child Welfare
 - Education
 - Income Security Programs
 - Community Services
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- **Length of commitment:** 2 years

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE KANATA, WEST CARLETON AND STITTSVILLE BEST START PLANNING GROUP MEMBERSHIP

The Kanata, West Carleton and Stittsville Best Start Planning Group is accountable to the children and families in this community and to the larger Ottawa Best Start Plan. As such, the Kanata, West Carleton and Stittsville Best Start Planning Group is responsible:

1. To determine the planning group structure, including the chairing model, roles and responsibilities of members, decision-making process, etc.
2. To ensure adequate representation in the Planning Group membership
3. To consult the city-wide Best Start Planning Table Committee for support and guidance regarding communication plans, reporting processes, and other city-wide common elements to enhance consistency and avoid duplication
4. To ensure a reporting/communication mechanism between Kanata, West Carleton and Stittsville Best Start Planning Group and the city-wide Best Start Planning Table Committee
5. To establish a process to determine and identify neighbourhood leaders/champions for each of the seven neighbourhoods:
 - a. Beaverbrook/Marchwood
 - b. Bridlewood
 - c. Glen Cairn
 - d. Katimavik/Hazeldean
 - e. South March
 - f. Stittsville
 - g. West Carleton
6. To determine roles and responsibilities of neighbourhood leaders/champions
7. To support neighbourhood committees in developing their individual workplans
8. To support neighbourhood work plans in the evaluation and implementation of system integration by assisting in identifying baselines along with measurable outcomes and deliverables.
9. To determine common elements for neighbourhood planning
10. To identify resources and create a tool kit to assist neighbourhood committees in their planning and implementation of system integration
11. To share in the establishment of a community-owned system integration plan, both short and long-term

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

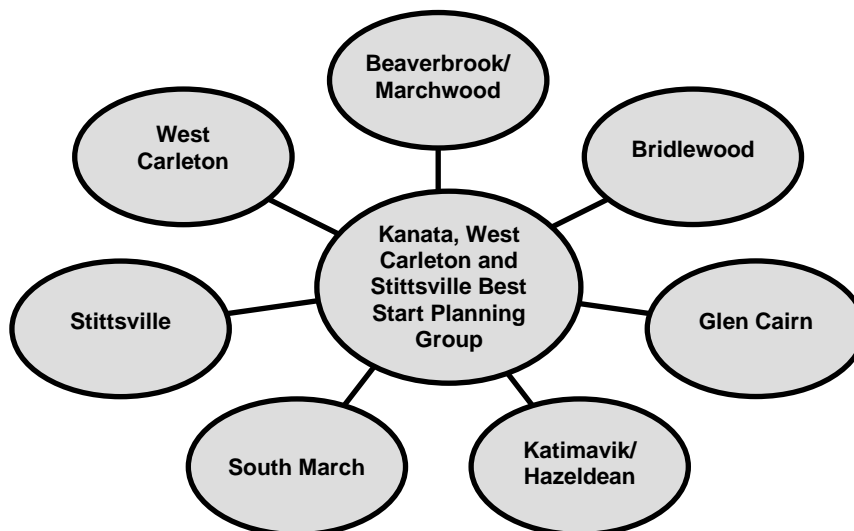
Stay tuned... new structure and membership of Best Start Steering Committee currently being developed.

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ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SEVEN NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEES

Each of the seven Neighbourhood Committees is accountable to the children and families in this community. As such, each of the seven Neighbourhood Committees are responsible:

1. To determine neighbourhood committee structure, including the chairing model, roles and responsibilities of members, decision-making process, etc.
2. To determine and ensure adequate representation at the neighbourhood committee.
3. To increase knowledge and awareness of services and supports among all community partners in the neighbourhood, regardless of participation levels
4. To integrate community profile information at all levels of planning
5. To identify local neighbourhood priorities according to a baseline evaluation
6. To integrate existing priority outcomes and strategies developed at previous local community consultations
7. To develop a workplan for implementation, including timelines, deliverables, and measurable outcomes
8. To share in the establishment of a community-owned system integration plan, both short and long-term
9. To ensure a reporting/communication mechanism between the Neighbourhood Committee and the Kanata, West Carleton and Stittsville Planning Group



LINKS TO ADDITIONAL BEST START INFORMATION

Ontario Best Start

Blind/Low Vision Early Intervention Program

http://www.gov.on.ca/children/graphics/stel01_136524.pdf

Child Care

<http://www.gov.on.ca/children/english/programs/beststart/care/index.html>

First Words Preschool Speech and Language Program

http://www.pqhcs.com/firstwords/about_us.htm

Healthy Babies, Healthy Children

http://www.ottawa.ca/residents/health/support/hbhc/index_en.html

Infant Hearing Program

http://www.pqhcs.com/firstwords/infant_hearing.htm

Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Best Start

<http://www.gov.on.ca/children/english/programs/beststart/index.html>

- Best Start Phase I: Laying the Foundation (Implementation Planning Guidelines for Best Start Networks, June 2005) [not yet online]
- Building on the Foundation – Moving Forward (Addendum to the Implementation Planning Guidelines for Best Start Networks – System Integration, November 2006) [not yet online]

Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Expert Panel Reports

- “Early Learning for Every Child Today: A framework for Ontario early childhood settings”
http://www.gov.on.ca/children/graphics/stel02_183342.pdf
- “Getting it Right at 18 Months... Making it Right for a Lifetime”
http://www.gov.on.ca/children/graphics/stel02_183343.pdf
- “Investing In Quality. Policies, Practitioners, Programs and Parents. A Four-Point Plan to Deliver high Quality Early Learning and Care Services in Ontario” http://www.gov.on.ca/children/graphics/stel02_183340.pdf

Nipissing District Developmental Screen

<http://ndds.ca/ontario/home.html>

Ottawa Best Start

City of Ottawa, Best Start

http://ottawa.ca/residents/childcare/beststart/index_en.html

Community Services Inventory (CSI)

<http://successby6ottawa.ca/CSI/>

Early Development Instrument 2005/2006: “School Readiness to Learn in Ottawa”

http://www.successby6ottawa.ca/pdfs/Ottawa_EDI_Report_2005_2006_Print_Design_English.pdf

OttawaKids.ca

<http://www.ottawakids.ca/ottawakids.php>

Ottawa Network for Children 2007-2008 Best Start Community Plan

[not yet online]

Parent Resource Centre

<http://www.parentresource.on.ca/>

Success By 6 Ottawa: Understanding the Early Years/Best Start

http://www.successby6ottawa.ca/uey/best_start.htm

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Stay tuned... being developed by the city-wide Best Start Planning Table Committee

Appendix 1

CITY OF OTTAWA BEST START CONTACT INFORMATION

Best Start Planning Table	Lead	Contact Information
First Nations, Inuit and Métis Standing Committee	Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre and Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health	Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre 613-744-3133 Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health 613-748-0657
Francophone Planning Table	services à l'enfance Grandir ensemble	613-789-3020
Kanata, West Carleton and Stittsville Planning Table	Ottawa-Carleton Ontario Early Years Centre	613-591-3686
Nepean-Carleton Planning Table	Nepean-Carleton Ontario Early Years Centre	613-825-5990
Orleans-Cumberland Planning Table	Ottawa-Orleans Ontario Early Years Centre	613-830-4357
Ottawa-Centre Planning Table	Ottawa Centre Ontario Early Years Centre	613-728-1839
Ottawa-South Planning Table	Ottawa South Ontario Early Years Centre	613-737-3716
Ottawa-Vanier Planning Table	Ottawa Vanier Ontario Early Years Centre	613-744-2892
West Nepean Planning Table	Ottawa West Nepean Ontario Early Years Centre	613-820-4925

- **Neighbourhood descriptions** of Planning Table areas are currently being developed in partnership between Success By 6 and Parent Resource Centre. For more information:

http://www.successby6ottawa.ca/uey/best_start.html