

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ABECEDARIAN MODEL EXPANSION

BACKGROUND

The Abecedarian approach is an evidence-based early childhood intervention that is proven to improve developmental and learning outcomes for children in high-risk communities. Emphasizing language as the core of early learning, the approach believes that strong language skills allow for greater cognitive, social and emotional development in children. The curriculum of the Abecedarian approach is rooted in a strong set of teaching and learning strategies implemented through intentional adult-child interactions.

The Abecedarian approach was first piloted in the Lord Selkirk Park Child Care Centre in 2011/12, and has successfully demonstrated improved outcomes for children.

ABECEDARIAN MODEL EXPANSION

Due to the successful implementation of the Abecedarian approach in the Lord Selkirk Park Child Care Centre and as part of Manitoba's commitment to increasing diversity, inclusivity and quality of care, the department is seeking four additional child care centres for the expansion of the Abecedarian model.

As part of the expansion, facilities will provide full-day, year-round, centre-based programming that incorporates the four main components of the Abecedarian approach – Learning Games[®], Language Priority, Enriched Caregiving, and Conversational Reading.

Staff training and mentoring are vital components of this approach. Child care centres will partner with Red River College Polytechnic for ongoing training, mentoring, and observation in the delivery of the model. Additionally, facilities will strive to provide additional programming to support parenting skills and foster parent-child relationships.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED OUTCOMES?

The overarching goal of the program is to level the playing field for children in terms of physical, social, cognitive and emotional health and well-being. The projected outcomes of the program are:

- Improved developmental outcomes for children with regards to literacy and verbal language, physical, cognitive and social emotional skills leading to increase in school readiness;
- Increase in inclusive practices in the child care facility;
- Improved parent-child attachment and family well-being through positive parenting practices and family support.

WHAT SUPPORT WILL YOU RECEIVE?

Costs

Funding will support operational and programming costs needed to implement the approach using a tiered approach which is as follows: up to \$362K for 50 spaces or less; up to \$742K for 51 to 100 spaces; up to \$1,106M for more than 101 spaces. Funding will be based on the number of licensed spaces, an approved budget, and available financial resources.

The funds will be allocated towards staff salaries, the purchase of Abecedarian training materials and supplies, costs associated with enhancing the nutrition component of the program, and the provision of resources and supports for parents whose children are enrolled in the centre.

Mentorship

Selected child care centres will partner with Red River College Polytechnic to have an assigned faculty member provide ongoing professional support and mentorship in the areas of programming, training, and direct instruction.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Criteria for selection includes licensed non-profit child care centres in higher needs communities (e.g. low-income, Indigenous, newcomer) and sites in rural, remote and northern communities.

If you are interested in implementing the Abecedarian approach in your child care facility, please submit an expression of interest indicating:

- Facility name and number
- Location address
- Contact name, title, phone number, email address
- Proposed budget detailing expenses to fully implement this model
- Rationale for implementing the Abecedarian Approach at your centre. Please include information on the following:
 - Prior knowledge of, or training on, the Abecedarian Approach;
 - Facility's ability to develop and implement child-centred curriculum;
 - Description of the community and families you serve (e.g. low-income; newcomer, Indigenous, Francophone and/or underserved);
 - Expected impact on families and the community.

Please send your expression of interest to:

Abecedarian Model Expansion
Attention: Diversity and Inclusion Unit
Early Learning and Child Care Division
Department of Education and Early Childhood Learning
210-114 Garry St
Winnipeg, MB R3C 4V4
Fax: 204-948-2625
ELCC-ISP@gov.mb.ca

Deadline: March 1, 2023

Early Learning and Child Care will contact selected centres to confirm their acceptance before March 31, 2023.