

## 4-year ECC program versus 4-year kindergarten program

	<b>Early Childhood Centre</b>	<b>4 year-old Kindergarten in the School system</b>
<b>Financial Aspect</b>	\$45.50 week + \$60-70/year for special activities and educational outings.	Annual registration fee, childcare fees, school lunches, school supplies, summer day camp fees, summer holidays and spring break.
<b>Continuity of Service</b>	Ongoing service year-round (except 13 holidays) over a 10 hour day	Continuous service all year (except during the summer, pedagogical days, 2 weeks during Christmas holidays, spring break) over an 11.5 hour day, including 5 hours in four year old kindergarten.
<b>Stability and bond with adults</b>	Everything is in place for the child to have a significant attachment with stable adults and a safe schedule. Always with the same, small team (6 to 8 people in total).	Bus driver, school, daycare, teachers & lunch supervisors
<b>Family Link</b>	The ECC allows siblings to have moments together, such as experiencing the departure of their parents in the morning or to live experiences together during the day in a small environment.	Pre-K children are often isolated in the school (different recess, separate yard, etc...)
<b>Food</b>	2 snacks and 1 hot meal which follows the food guide and is served in a climate conducive to good eating habits and respecting the rules of personal hygiene.	Lunch box preparation at home, provided by the parent.
<b>Expertise</b>	3 years of specialization in child development. Collegial and specialized training in the overall development of children in early childhood (0-5ans). Recognized system proven for many years. Several professional studies confirm the benefits of this system.	45 hours of courses specializing in child development. University training not specialized in the overall development of children in early childhood. This system in the early stages. Evaluation of the system in the medium to long term is to come.
<b>Human Ressources</b>	Challenge.	Absent.
<b>Criminal Background Checks</b>	All employees are checked to make sure they have no existing record every 3 years: educators, food manager, management, janitorial manager and board of director parent members.	School staff members get record checks. For most school boards it is done once, when the person is hired.
<b>Communication</b>	Daily communication between parents and ECC personnel about the child's day, either verbal or written.	Daily or weekly communication by preschool teachers and childcare team. Occasional or nonexistent communication with lunch supervisors and bus driver.
<b>4 Year Old Ratio</b>	10 children for 1 adult. Adults have more <b>freedom</b> and time in their activity schedule to meet the needs of a child or a group of children. Ex: spend more time outside because children need to move more that day. There is more time for emotional support: conflict management, autonomy and emotional management while respecting the stage of development of the child. An adult can support the learning of basic <b>physical care</b> of a 4-year-old child. Ex: Wipe well after having a bowel movement.	17 to 20 children for 1 adult. A special education technician may be assigned to the group with children who have special needs.

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<b>Education Program</b>	The education program 'Accueillir la petite enfance' was founded on the 'play to learn' principles (0 to 5 years old). The educators provide the necessary tools and attention to the children so they can learn at his/her own pace. There are no obligations for the children to fit in a predetermined mould. The schedule for the day is based on each individual child's needs and adapted to the group's routine.	This is a new program for most of the region (however, a few pre-kindergarten (4 years old) programs already exists in some disadvantaged communities.
<b>Child's Rhythm &amp; Development</b>	There is a total of 5 years difference between the youngest and oldest groups of children. The additional year of daycare allows the children to acquire the maturity and self-confidence they need to face the "big kid" world. It also allows them to continue learning important social skills and independence (for example: they acquire the skills needed to deal with inappropriate language and behaviour in the bus or school yard)	Some children will be just barely past the '3 years old stage'. There is a large difference (8 to 9 years) between the youngest and the oldest students at the school. For example, a 4 year old child is exposed and integrated with the 11-12 year old students at the school.
<b>Vulnerabilites</b>	2.5 times less risk of vulnerability	0
<b>Detection</b>	Learning difficulties (physical, language, cognitive, behavior, etc.) are detected earlier for children attending an ECC. The small group environment allows for support and tools to be dedicated to all children struggling with a learning difficulty.	Learning difficulties (physical, language, cognitive, behavior) are detected when the 4 year old enters into the school system. Support and tools are offered to the child, however this occurs in a larger group environment with a ratio of 17 to 20 children to one adult.
<b>Parental support</b>	Staff are accessible, flexible and offer personalized parental support, including advice for resources and tools, at all times.	Staff are accessible, flexible and offer personalized parental support, including advice for resources and tools, at all times.
<b>Environment</b>	Safe environment that is adapted to the needs of children aged 0 to 5. Exterior play structures are regularly inspected and are consistent with regulations for 4 years old, specialized educative material, bathrooms that are adapted to small ones.	Some preschool programs benefit from a separate outdoor play areas, size appropriate bathrooms and unique education material.

