

Impact of 4-year-old kindergarten for the ECC

To date, the current government has made it a priority to integrate all 4-year-olds into school. These 2 programs (Daycare or Kindergarten) have the same goals and developmental objectives for the child.

This decision calls into question the viability of our 4-year groups in daycare, from year to year for each of our 2 facilities (Luskville and Shawville) there are impacts.

Financial impacts:

- Lower funding for 4-year-old children compared to other age groups.
- Lower funding if we do not have the ratio of 1 adult to 10 children.
- A lot of time in management because of the difficulty of filling the spots. The children are no longer on the waiting list because the parents believe they can no longer have a spot in a daycare center and therefore do not renew their registration on La place 0-5.

Logistics impacts:

- To date parents have the choice between the two 4-year programs, but schools generally only confirm places towards the end of the summer. This prevents the daycare from registering children early and integrating them at the beginning of the summer, when possible.
- Group formation ex: which child changes groups or not depending on the availability in spots in the next group.
- The parent may feel caught between the schools; because they do not provide the necessary information within a reasonable timeframe and the daycare who does not want to put pressure but who, for the good management of the daycare, must nevertheless move forward in the process, to fill its spots efficiently and thus avoid financial losses.

Organizational impacts / educational program:

More specific school preparation activities are planned in the rainbow group (4 years). In the planet group (3 years old), this group can be made up, for example: of 6 children who will stay at daycare until they start the 5 year old kindergarten program, while 2 children may go to the 4 year old kindergarten. It is then difficult to incorporate 2 different programs in the same planet group.

Also, children 3 years old can find themselves in a 3rd group (rockets). So the impacts affect more than half of the daycare groups (3/5).

- School preparation: lunch box and pencil box program, pre-reading and writing activities, school visit, bus visit and rules, reduction of the nap period in the summer months, graduation, etc.
- Different rooms / layout, different educational materials, different style of intervention, animation and supervision.

Therefore, for all these reasons, the daycare must annually question keeping this age group in the daycare, despite the choice (still possible) and the parents' interest in keeping their child in the daycare.

For now, we will ask parents to let us know as soon as the contract is signed in September if they intend to enroll their child in kindergarten 4 years old in January. The daycare reserves the right to set a deadline for the parent's final decision for the proper functioning of the daycare.