

PART VII – GRANTS
DIVISION 3 – INCLUSION GRANTS
INCLUSION GRANTS

SECTION 93

In accordance with this Division, the minister may make grants to licensees to assist with the additional costs associated with the provision of services for children with diverse needs and children with exceptionally high diverse needs.

22 May 2015 cC-7.31 Reg 1 s93.

INTENT

The Child Care Inclusion Program provides support to families and child care facilities to include children with diverse needs in child care programs.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Inclusion program is guided by the following principles:

- Families require child care services that meet their needs;
- Child care facilities need support to respond to the child care needs of families of children with diverse needs;
- Every child has the right to a program that meets that child's needs;
- Early provision of support services and program planning contributes to each child's optimum development;
- Families, child care professionals and referring professions must work as a team; and
- Parents maintain the right and the responsibility to make program choices for their children.

Because the *Inclusion Program* replaces the old *Child Development Program*, the natural inclination is to equate Inclusion with special needs, just as Child Development came to mean programming for children with special needs. However, to do this would be to focus on only a tiny portion of what Inclusion really is.

“Inclusion means that children are welcomed, supported and valued. It means that the activities of playing, learning and growing happen in a way in which all children feel that they belong. It does not mean that there are no challenges - rather it means that the child is in the best environment to experience success. It does not mean that every child does exactly the same thing at the same time. All children have different abilities and aptitudes; an inclusive setting accommodates and builds on those. Effective inclusion is a process.” *Meunier, Mary Ellen. Preparing for Inclusion: An Introductory Course for Child Care Providers and Parents. British Columbia: Ministry of Advanced Education Training and Technology, 1999. Level I, Session 2.*

“What is an Inclusive Child Care Setting? One in which all children, those with and without disabilities, have an opportunity to play and learn together. One in which the special needs and interests of each child, including those with disabilities, are addressed.” *SpecialCare Curriculum and Trainer’s Manual: A resource for training child caregivers. Norge, VA: Child Development Resources, 1993.*

Quality child care programs have the resources (personnel, equipment) to provide an inclusive program for most children. They often have difficulty, however, providing an inclusive program for children with greater or unique needs because they lack the necessary resources. The Inclusion Grants are meant to provide the necessary resources to facilitate inclusion for these children.

POLICY

Number of Inclusion Grants a Facility May Receive

- *Centres:*
Licensed child care centres are approved to apply for Individual Inclusion and Enhanced Accessibility Grant funding for children in 15% of their licensed spaces. Approval for an increased number of Inclusion grants may be requested to a maximum of 25% of licensed spaces.
- *Homes:*
Licensed child care homes are approved to apply for funding for one Individual Inclusion or Enhanced Accessibility Grant for a child with diverse needs enrolled in their home. Approval for an increased number of Inclusion grants may be requested to a maximum of 2 Inclusion grants in family child care homes and teen student support family child care homes and a maximum of 3 in group family child care homes.

GUIDELINES

Approval for increased Inclusion grants in child care centres and homes is based on the resources and capabilities of the facility, including:

- Staffing
- Program
- Space within the facility to meet the increased needs (including square footage and quiet/private space)
- Parent involvement
- Involvement of other professionals