

Summary of
“Consultation with Early Childhood and Daycare Groups”
Community Engagement

September 6, 2018

SD 71 – Comox Valley – Consultation with Early Childhood and Daycare Groups – September 6, 2018

Below is a summary of answers to three different discussions that took place within two focus groups.

1. Discussion of current status of daycare in the community and schools:

- Shortage of spaces, especially infant/toddler and the staff to work in that area
- Appropriate spaces
- Serving the needs of all ages of children
- Spaces need to be dedicated spaces
- Not enough spaces and dedicated spaces
- Issues of quality need to be addressed
- More than a renter relationship
- The use of school space when the school is closed
- School districts don't have the mandate for childcare
- In some communities, there is no formal care
- Build on the relationships between ECE's and kindergarten teachers
- Higher needs of children
- More children with higher needs
- Higher risk for childcare operators
- Less qualified ECE's
- Quality is not consistent – only meeting minimum licensing
- Challenges about being inclusive
- Not-for-Profit vs. Private
- Childcare is not a lucrative business
- Huge waitlists
- Having space for support (i.e., childcare hub)

2. What does the school district need to consider in their planning of the daycare at Lake Trail (space and types of spaces)?

- Needs assessment
- Community dynamics
- Policy of inclusion
- Plan for 2% population increase
- Not minimum standards
- Appropriate space
- Parking spaces
- Fences, licensing regulations
- Transportation

- All 3 levels of childcare: under three, three to five, and out of school
- Space for staff offices, staff room
- Communicate clearly with licensing officers and Early Childhood Educators
- Outdoor space, nature programs

3. What does the school district need to consider as issues that affect daycare operators in our school and in the community?

- Dedicated space for 52 weeks of the year
- Non-traditional hours
- Connection with the school, be a part of the school, a real school community
- Be aware of other childcare programs
- Access
- Parking
- Quality
- Cultural safety
- Who gets priority spaces in the childcare?
- Not having care means parents can't work
- Partner with other community agencies so that the School District does not have to bear the whole burden
- Lack of human resources
- Space
- Opportunity for partnership with school district, between centre and school staff (I.e., Advisory Committee)
- Use examples of other School Boards/Districts in B.C. where the childcare needs are working well
- Transportation from school to childcare
- Investing in 0-5, lifelong learning
- Bell schedule staggered among schools