



2004 FACT SHEET

CHILD CARE AND CHILDREN IN NOVA SCOTIA

- There are approximately 65,000 children under the age of six in Nova Scotia.
- Approximately 70% of Nova Scotian children, 0 - 6 years old (that's **45,300** children), have mothers in the paid workforce¹.
- There are currently only enough regulated child care spaces in Nova Scotia to accommodate 27% of those children.
- An estimated 9,500 Nova Scotia children are in licensed full or part-time child care programs².
- High quality child care, provided by quality child care practitioners, has been shown to lower the rate of school drop-out and failure; reduce the need to admit children into special education programs; lower juvenile delinquency rates; and increase the detection and treatment of health problems³.
- Quality child care enhances children's development and school readiness and rectify and prevent effects of poverty and disadvantage for children at risk⁴.
- Research has found that for every public dollar spent on quality child care, the public gains \$2 worth of benefits⁵.
- This return is even greater when at-risk children receive high-quality child care. Research shows that for every dollar spent on high quality child care for children living in poverty there is an estimated \$7 return⁶.

¹ Nova Scotia Baseline Report: Building an Early Childhood Development System for Nova Scotia. (2002). Nova Scotia Department of Community Services.

² See note 1.

³ Canadian Child Care Federation (1999) *Partners in Quality*; Cleveland and Krashinsky (1998) *The Benefits and Costs of Good Child Care*; Doherty (1998) *Zero to Six: The Basis for School Readiness*. Human Resource Development Canada; Connor and Brink (1999) *Understanding the Early Years: Community Impacts on Child Development*. Human Resource Development Canada; and Kyle (1999) *Why is Quality Important?* Canadian Child Care Federation.

⁴ See note 1.

⁵ Cleveland, G., Krashinsky, M. (1998). The Benefits and Costs of Good Child Care: The Economic Rationale for Public Investment in Young Children. Department of Economics, University of Toronto, ON.

⁶ Schweinhart, L.J., et al. High-Quality Preschool Program Found to Improve Adult Status. High/Scope Educational Research Foundation, MI.