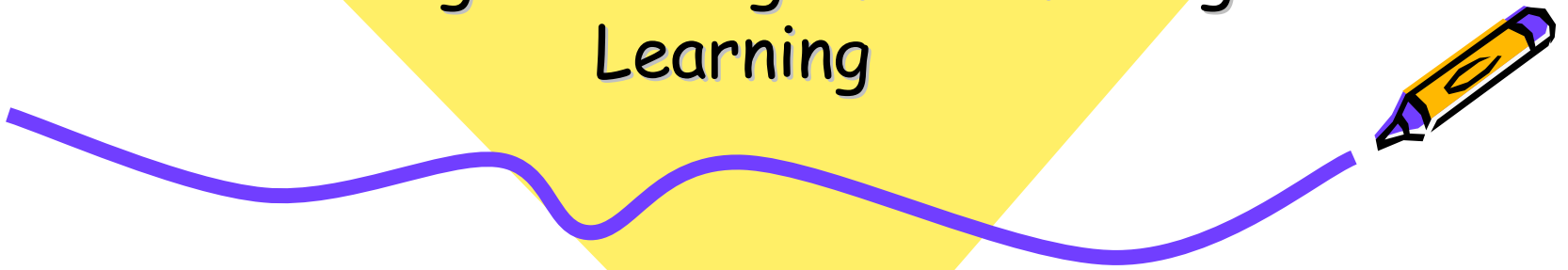


# Early Learning and Child Care

Setting the Stage for Lifelong  
Learning



# Setting the Stage

Current research in brain development tells us that the first five years are crucial in setting the stage for life long learning.



# Setting the Stage

Experts have demonstrated a strong link between participation in quality child care\* settings and subsequent success in school. These positive effects can last well into adulthood.



# Setting the Stage



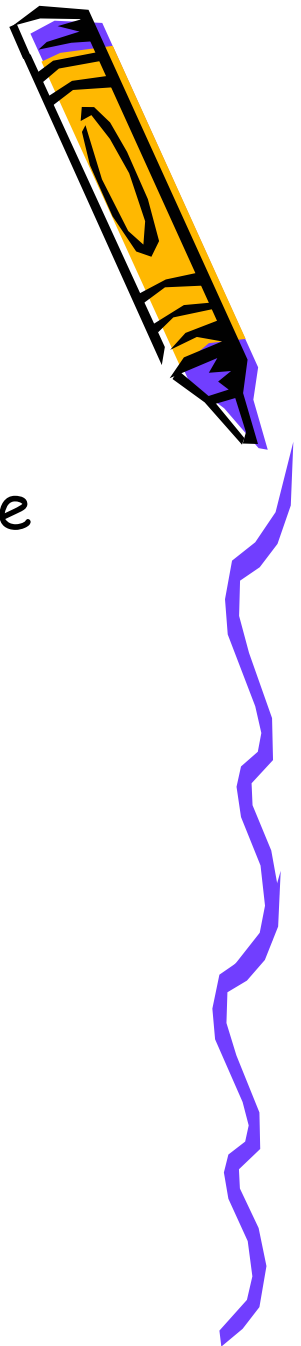
According to research highlighted by the Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development, participants of high quality child care programs are:

- More likely to graduate from high school and achieve higher education.
- Have greater motivation to learn and are more ready to learn at school entry.
- Score higher on IQ and achievement, reading and mathematical tests .....



# Setting the stage

- Have lower rates of drop-out in comparison to similar individuals who have not attended these programs.
- Benefit from the lasting effects of higher educational attainment and higher lifetime earnings and savings.



# So...what is meant by "quality child care programs?"



High Quality child care programs:

- employ staff who are well educated for their work;
- have decent working conditions and wages;
- work with groups of children of manageable size;
- provide non-didactic, creative, enjoyable, age-appropriate activities for children; .....

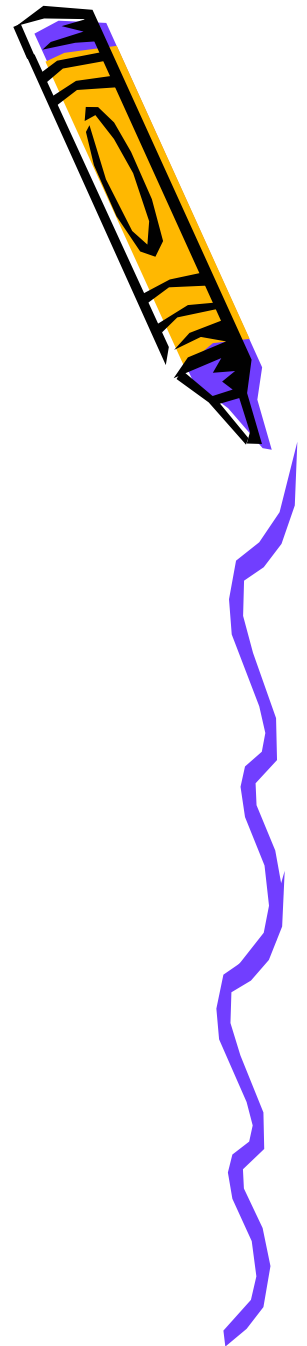




- .....ensure consistent adults and peer groups;
- offer stable social and physical environments;
- responsive to diverse populations of children and parents;
- include children with disabilities in a meaningful way; and
- are adequately supported by infrastructure like regulation and funding. (CRRU website)



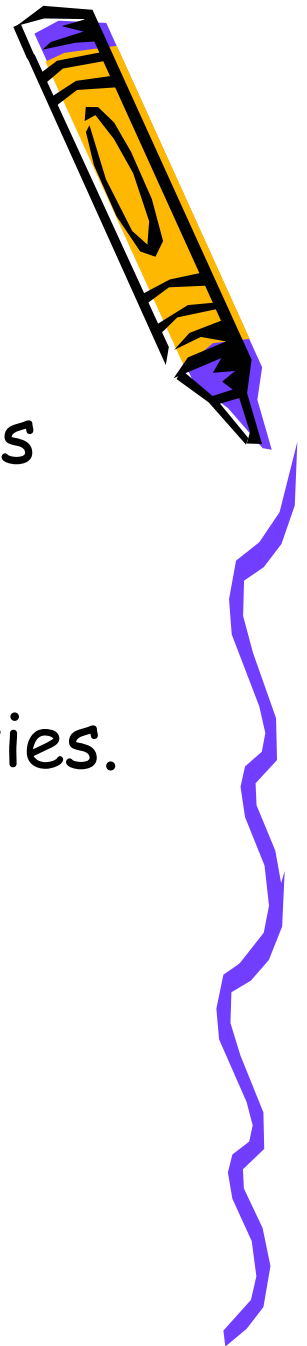
# And how do these programs prepare a child for success in school?



The most relevant child attributes for success in kindergarten are:

- Social awareness,
- Social skills, such as an ability to make friends,
- Self regulation,
- Knowing how to resolve conflicts constructively....





- The ability to communicate needs, wants and thoughts, and
- An enthusiastic approach to new activities.

(Doherty, 2005)



...and in this province...

Child care is regulated by the Child Care Services Act and accompanying regulations.

Regional Health Boards are responsible for licensing, inspecting and monitoring programs.



# ...and in this province...

Recent government initiatives are aimed at:

- making child care more affordable for parents;
- improving quality of child care programs;
- improving the inclusive practices of child care programs;
- Building capacity in rural and remote areas to offer early learning and child care programs;
- improving wages and working conditions for the Child Care Workforce.

