

Preschool Education Program

NEW

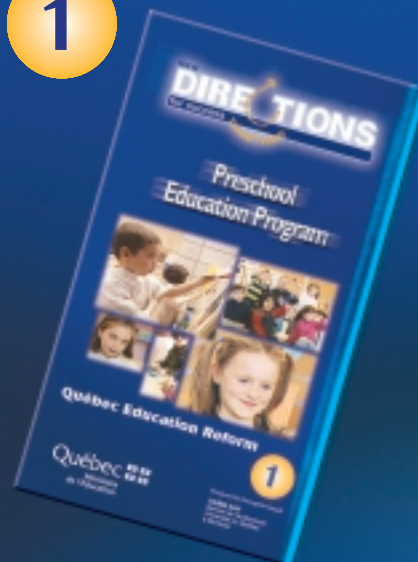
DIRECTIONS

for success

TOGETHER

Workshop Guide

1



Québec  
Ministère
de l'Éducation



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INTRODUCTION TO THE VIDEO



The video *The Preschool Education Program* looks at the main aspects of the program through first-person accounts by teachers and scenes from everyday life in kindergarten classrooms in Québec.

The video is divided into three parts. Part 1 describes the basic elements of the Preschool Education program: the mandate of preschool education, the integrated nature of learning activities in kindergarten, and the importance of play and culture.

Part 2 presents the six competencies of the Preschool Education program:

- To perform sensorimotor actions effectively in different contexts
- To affirm his/her personality
- To interact harmoniously with others
- To communicate using the resources of language
- To construct his/her understanding of the world
- To complete an activity or project

Part 3 deals with pedagogical practices and the role of the teacher. It also covers the role of parents.

2

ACTIVITIES FOR TEACHERS

The kindergarten class may be their first experience of group learning in a school setting.

Andrew Aitken, The Preschool Education Program video

Kindergarten is a special place.

Lynn Travers, The Preschool Education Program video

The workshop is a half day long. Activities in the whole group and small groups are proposed to help teachers learn more about the Preschool Education program and think about its implementation. Depending on the type of group and the time allotted, the workshop leader may have the participants do all or only part of the activities.

Supporting documents that may be copied are found in the Appendixes. Large sheets of paper or a board are also needed.

The workshop leader may display on the wall the definitions of important terms such as *competency*, *integrated learning* and *play*.

Definitions that may be displayed

Integrated learning: Going beyond a single subject. In preschool education, subjects such as mathematics or written and oral communication are tools or means to foster children's overall development.

Competency: A set of behaviours based on the mobilization and effective use of a set of resources (Québec Education Program, page 5).

Types of play: Exercise games, symbolic play, building games, rule-based games.

The Preschool Education program "wheel of competencies" may also be displayed (see Appendixes 1 and 2).



2.1 PREPARATION

Introduction

Inform the participants that the purpose of the video *The Preschool Education Program* is to make them aware of the basic elements of the Preschool Education program and give them an opportunity to reflect on their pedagogical practices in relation to the competency-based approach and the integrated learning approach used.

Briefly introduce the three parts of the video.

In the whole group

Ask the participants to share their thoughts on the characteristics of the Preschool Education program, the competencies the children are expected to develop, the importance of play as a way of learning, and pedagogical practices in preschool education.

Instructions to participants

- A** Describe the basic characteristics of:
 - preschool education
 - the competency-based approach
 - play
 - pedagogical practices in preschool education
- B** Drawing on your practices in the classroom, give one or more concrete examples of activities that contribute to the development of one of the six competencies of the Preschool Education program.

• On the board or on large sheets of paper, write the main ideas and key words provided by the participants on each point.

2.2 VIEWING THE VIDEO

- Before showing the video, review the definitions displayed on the wall.
- Give the participants copies of the worksheets provided in Appendix 3 for them to use to write down their thoughts and questions while watching the video.



2.3 DISCUSSION

Ask the participants to form six groups, if possible. Assign one of the six competencies of the program to each group, and give them each a worksheet (see Appendix 4).

In small groups

Ask the participants to share their thoughts on the characteristics of preschool education, the competencies the children are expected to develop, the importance of play as a way of learning and pedagogical practices in preschool education.

Instructions to the participants

Think about the following questions in relation to the competency assigned to you as you understand it and write your thoughts on the worksheet provided.

- **What pedagogical practices foster the development of this competency?**
- **What conditions in a rich and varied environment are conducive to the development of this competency?**
- **What types of play contribute to the development of this competency?**
- **How can parents play a part in developing this competency?**

In the whole group

Ask each group to give its answers. Summarize the answers on large sheets of paper on which you have written the competencies, one competency per sheet.

Once each group has presented its ideas, have the participants analyze them and establish links between the competencies in relation to pedagogical practices, the environment, play and parent participation.



3

ACTIVITIES FOR PARENTS

3.1 PREPARATION

Inform the parents that the purpose of the video *The Preschool Education Program* is to familiarize them with the program and give them an opportunity to think about their role as parents in their child's preschool education.

Briefly present the three parts of the video.



3.2 VIEWING THE VIDEO

Give the parents each a worksheet on which to write their thoughts (see Appendix 5).



3.3 DISCUSSION



A After showing the video, discuss with the parents their thoughts and questions. Review basic concepts such as integrated learning and competency.

Review the six competencies of the program in order to make sure the parents understand them well.

Have the participants discuss their role as parents of children in kindergarten.

OR

B After showing the video, ask the parents to break up into groups of six to eight and write down their thoughts and questions about the video.

In the whole group, have the participants discuss their thoughts and questions. Then, looking at each competency in turn, ask the parents how they can contribute to its development, and discuss what is expected of them.

APPENDIXES



APPENDIX 1

SUMMARY OF PART I OF THE VIDEO *THE PRESCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAM*

The mandate of the Preschool Education program:

- To give children a liking for school
- To foster children's overall development
- To lay the groundwork that will prepare children for their future schooling

Areas of child development:

- Psychomotor development
- Affective development
- Social development
- Language development
- Cognitive development
- Methodological development

Integrated learning in the Preschool Education program:

- Learning in preschool education goes beyond specific subjects.
- Subjects such as mathematics or written and oral communication are tools or means to foster children's overall development.

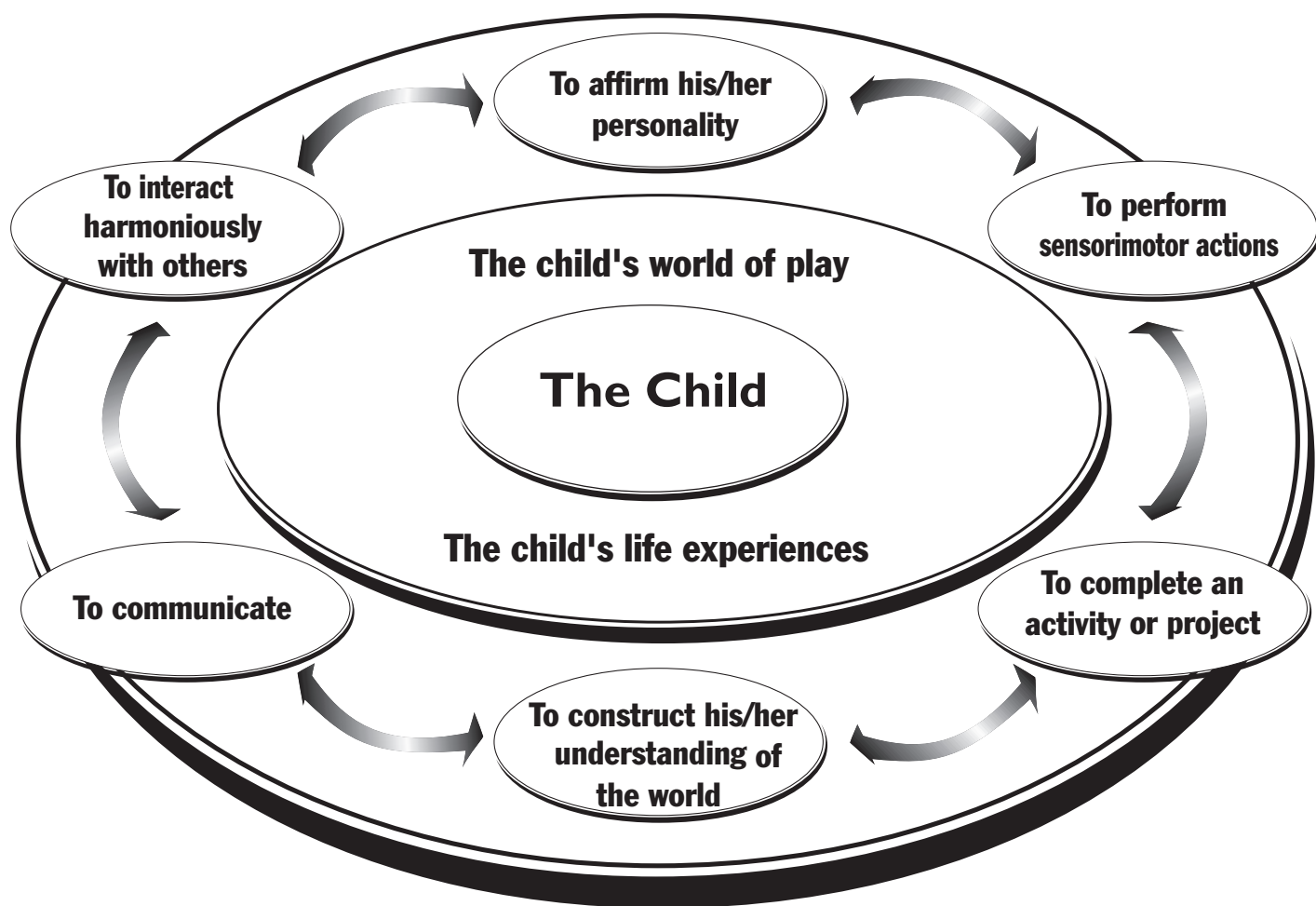
Types of play for children:

- Exercise games
- Symbolic play
- Building games
- Rule-based games

The importance of culture in preschool education:

"Children should be exposed to a rich variety of cultural experiences." (Céline Michaud, coordinator of the Preschool Education program)





APPENDIX 3

WORKSHEET FOR USE WHILE WATCHING THE VIDEO *THE PRESCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAM*

General Comments (Parts 1 and 3 of the video)	
Elements I find significant	My questions

APPENDIX 3

(cont.)

WORKSHEET FOR USE WHILE WATCHING THE VIDEO THE PRESCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Competency 1: To perform sensorimotor actions effectively in different contexts

Elements I find significant

My questions

Competency 2: To affirm his/her personality

Elements I find significant

My questions

APPENDIX 3

(cont.)

WORKSHEET FOR USE WHILE WATCHING THE VIDEO THE PRESCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Competency 3: To interact harmoniously with others

Elements I find significant

My questions

Competency 4: To communicate using the resources of language

Elements I find significant

My questions

APPENDIX 3

(cont.)

WORKSHEET FOR USE WHILE WATCHING THE VIDEO THE PRESCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Competency 5: To construct his/her understanding of the world

Elements I find significant

My questions

Competency 6: To complete an activity or project

Elements I find significant

My questions

APPENDIX 4

WORKSHEET ON COMPETENCIES

COMPETENCY 1: TO PERFORM SENSORIMOTOR ACTIONS EFFECTIVELY IN DIFFERENT CONTEXTS

1. What pedagogical practices foster the development of this competency?

2. What conditions in a rich and varied environment are conducive to the development of this competency?

3. What types of play contribute to the development of this competency?

4. How can parents play a part in the development of this competency?

WORKSHEET ON COMPETENCIES**COMPETENCY 2: TO AFFIRM HIS/HER PERSONALITY**

1. What pedagogical practices foster the development of this competency?

2. What conditions in a rich and varied environment are conducive to the development of this competency?

3. What types of play contribute to the development of this competency?

4. How can parents play a part in the development of this competency?

APPENDIX 4

(cont.)

WORKSHEET ON COMPETENCIES

COMPETENCY 3: TO INTERACT HARMONIOUSLY WITH OTHERS

1. What pedagogical practices foster the development of this competency?

2. What conditions in a rich and varied environment are conducive to the development of this competency?

3. What types of play contribute to the development of this competency?

4. How can parents play a part in the development of this competency?

APPENDIX 4

(cont.)

WORKSHEET ON COMPETENCIES

COMPETENCY 4: TO COMMUNICATE USING THE RESOURCES OF LANGUAGE

1. What pedagogical practices foster the development of this competency?

2. What conditions in a rich and varied environment are conducive to the development of this competency?

3. What types of play contribute to the development of this competency?

4. How can parents play a part in the development of this competency?

APPENDIX 4

(cont.)

WORKSHEET ON COMPETENCIES

COMPETENCY 5: TO CONSTRUCT HIS/HER UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

1. What pedagogical practices foster the development of this competency?

2. What conditions in a rich and varied environment are conducive to the development of this competency?

3. What types of play contribute to the development of this competency?

4. How can parents play a part in the development of this competency?

APPENDIX 4

(cont.)

WORKSHEET ON COMPETENCIES

COMPETENCY 6: TO COMPLETE AN ACTIVITY OR PROJECT

1. What pedagogical practices foster the development of this competency?

2. What conditions in a rich and varied environment are conducive to the development of this competency?

3. What types of play contribute to the development of this competency?

4. How can parents play a part in the development of this competency?

APPENDIX 5

WORKSHEET FOR USE WHILE WATCHING THE VIDEO

THE PRESCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Elements I find significant	My questions

