

**EARLY CHILDHOOD OPTIONS PROGRAM
YEAR END REPORT
2007-2008**

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

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| Children Served (Active files) | 177 |
| Number of Intakes YTD | 118 |
| School Age Assessments YTD | 19 |
| Number of children currently funded by ECO | 32 |
| Number of children referred to quality child care centers / family day homes YTD | 165 |

PROGRAM INSIGHT

Early Childhood Options (ECO) began the 2007–2008 program with a nine-month contract for the period July 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008. The three-month reduction in service was created by the determination of Childcare Services, Edmonton and Area Child and Family Services Region 6, to put the inclusive childcare contract out to tender. The ‘Request for Tenders’ was governed by a restrictive timeline. In spite of this, *Community Options’* proposal was timely submitted - having been prepared with efficient and sincere effort by our newly appointed Executive Director. As a consequence of this submission we were given a three-month extension to the existing contract.

At this time of reporting, negotiations are still underway to develop a ‘*delivery model*’ which will adequately and effectively serve the specifications of the contract. Changes in delivery are an inevitable result and the specifics of those changes are unknown at this time. Although uncertainties linger, the new contract will likely be forthcoming in July 2008.

In October we bid farewell to ECO coordinator, Lisa Gill. She was drawn to another career opportunity by the promise of new and exciting challenges. Collectively, ECO and Community Options staff bid Lisa farewell and thanked her for her dedication to the inclusive childcare program.

In summary, the anticipation of new and exciting prospects within a revamped program does provide staff with some reassurance that strides and improvements will be made toward the practice of inclusive childcare. *Stay tuned for further news!*

Report Submitted By:

Early Childhood Options Staff