

Wings of Discovery® Early Years Adopt-a-Centre Initiative: 1-4.

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The Wings of Discovery program for early learning was launched by Let's Talk Science in 2004: in the Adopt-a-Centre initiative, Let's Talk Science provided Wings of Discovery Early Years resources and professional training to ten "financially challenged" child care and family resource centres. Evaluation showed that the Wings of Discovery program had a strong impact on the frequency with which participating centres offered science experiences for their children, while also changing the beliefs of the educators and boosting their confidence in the capability to teach science. The program had a positive effect on the children who participated, appearing to have the greatest impact on the development of language skills, social skills and problem-solving skills: the program helped the children build their general knowledge base and increase enthusiasm for science and learning

Abstract:

In 2004, Let's Talk Science (LTS) launched an innovative program to address the need for quality early learning programs in Canada and build the confidence of early years, educators to engage young children in science and technology with a goal of fostering their lifelong interest in those fields and developing critical skills and attitudes. Wings of Discovery is a whole child approach to early learning, which enables educators to engage young children's natural curiosity about the world. By using science and technology as the context to integrate language, mathematics, art and music, Wings of Discovery develops children's skills, knowledge and positive attitudes. Published only four years ago, it is now in over 950 childcare centres across Canada. During 2007/08, the Andersen Corporate Foundation supported a project called Adopt-a-Centre, which allowed LTS to adopt ten financially challenged child care and family resource centres and provide them with Wings of Discovery -Early Years resources and professional training. In so doing, our study shows that we fostered early learning and improved the early learning environment for 523 children in the London region.