



Nova Scotia Pyramid Model

2020 Executive Summary

The Pyramid Model Program in Nova Scotia

The Pyramid Model is a three-tiered, evidence-based, positive behaviour support framework for early childhood educators to promote social and emotional development and address challenging behaviour.

Nova Scotia (NS) began implementing the Pyramid Model in 2018 across the province at select Regulated Child Care (RCC) centres. In 2019, the province broadened the implementation to include select Pre-primary Programs (PPP).

Since Pyramid Model implementation began across the province, there has been ongoing evaluation of the initiative by the Early Childhood Collaborative Research Centre (ECCRC) at Mount Saint Vincent University. This infographic of the executive summary highlights findings from the evaluation which were guided by two evaluation questions.



Question 1: How does the Pyramid Model infrastructure in Nova Scotia influence implementation in Regulated Child Care and Pre-primary Program systems?



Throughout the three tiers of the Pyramid Model, data-based decision making is critical. Data-based decision making refers to the ongoing collection and use of data by the Pyramid partners to inform future decision-making for implementation in NS. This allows for active participation of partners and ensures that Educators and programs receive the support and resources they need to better support children and their families overtime.

Overall, the data collected for the 2020 evaluation reflects that specific elements related to initial implementation were more in place than elements related to sustainability. These findings are not surprising as the implementation is still in it's initial stages.

"I am very comfortable receiving data. I feel you can always learn from data and this can lead to more success in your room." [Educator]

"Feedback is always given in a clear, concise manner so I fully understand!" [Educator]

Question 2: How is the Pyramid Model being implemented in Regulated Child Care and Pre-primary Programs in Nova Scotia?

Pyramid Model implementation in NS involves a practice-based coaching approach. Practice-based coaching is a cycle-based approach that involves **collaborative partnerships**, **shared goals and action planning**, **focused observations**, and time for **reflection and feedback**.

Coaches and Educators work together to set goals using objective information from data-based tools.

Overall, the 2020 evaluation indicated that Coaches are coaching Pyramid Model practices in similar ways across RCC and PPP. In addition, educators have similar strengths and limitations of practice at their baseline observations.

"We work together collaboratively to work towards the goals we have set for our class." [Educator]

"I have very good communication with my coach and [they] help me pick goals that I can achieve." [Educator]



Considerations for Sustainability and Moving Forward

The following considerations for implementing the Pyramid Model have been collaboratively developed between the evaluation team and Provincial Leadership Team in response to the evaluation findings. These key areas will prioritize the focus for the upcoming year of the Pyramid Model initiative in NS:



- Enabling data-based decision making
- Enhancing roles and communication
- Fostering engagement
- Aligning with NS early childhood initiatives
- Ensuring access to appropriate and responsive resources
- Using an implementation science approach

For more information regarding the evaluation of the Pyramid Model, please contact the ECCRC: pyramid.eccrc@msvu.ca

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