**Childcare in Québec, Featuring Dr. Sophie Mathieu**

**Lesson Guide**

This lesson guide supports Higher Education instructors working with Dr. Sophie Mathieu’s [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZKZBQa4HjEE), and its complementary Student Handout, PowerPoint Slides, and video transcript (available on the [Reimagining Care/Work Policies](https://rcwproject.ca/) website).

This guide fosters teaching family policy, as part of the dissemination of research produced by the SSHRC funded project, [Reimagining Care/Work Policies](https://rcwproject.ca/). It is aimed at lower-level undergraduate students in the social sciences studying outside of Québec. For higher-level courses, or to extend this lesson, consider adding a comparison to other Canadian provinces/territories, or other countries.

## **Preparation Before Class**

* Watch the video
* Adapt the PowerPoint Slide Template and Student Handout to suit your course and learners
* Consider assigning a reading. The Further Reading list on the Student Handout provides suggestions (see also the Video Transcript endnotes)
* Consider how you will assess student learning (see below)

## **Suggested 1-Hour Lesson Plan**

1. **Topic Orientation: Thinking and Sharing (15 minutes)**

Start the class by introducing the topic of childcare at an individual level, linking it to social systems. Use the ‘think-pair-share’ class activity: ask students to consider the following questions individually, then share with the person next to them. After 5-6 minutes, facilitate a class discussion identifying common answers. Provide the following instructions to the class:

* Reflect on your childhood. How did your guardians/parent(s) care for you while earning money?
  + Did you attend a childcare centre? Or were you cared for by relatives or a neighbour?
  + What was the quality of care you received?
  + What is the likelihood that the care arrangement is common today? Why or why not?
* What do you know about childcare today in your location? Is it expensive? Available? Good quality?

Note that some students may have had a poor experience, and may find this reflection triggering.

1. **Background (5 minutes)**

Use the first four introductory PowerPoint slides to set the stage for watching the video, by explaining the significance of this topic and two French terms to know.

* Slide 3: To inform the class that the federal government announced [a Canada-wide Early Learning Child Care Plan in 2021 with a goal of $10/day childcare by 2026](https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-canada-wide-early-learning-and-child-care-plan.html), following 1997 Québec family policy
* Slide 4: To introduce students to the two French language terms used in the video
* Centres de la petite enfance (CPE) = Early Childhood Centres (pre-school, subsidized, non-profits)
* Garderie = Daycare (a generic term, including before-and-after school care)

1. **Video: Active Watching, Thinking, and Using the Student Handout, and Play the 3:30-minute Video (15 minutes)**

* Allow 2 minutes for students to review the Student Handout
* Instruct students to fill in the table on the Student Handout during or right after watching the video
* Play the Video of Dr. Sophie Mathieu
* Use the ‘think-pair-share’ class activity again: remind them to fill in the table individually, then share with the person next to them. After 5-6 minutes, facilitate a class discussion, identifying common answers

Below are answers to the table:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Type** | **Affordability** | **Quality** | **Accessibility** |
| 1 | Subsidized, non-profit CPE | High | High | Low |
| 2 | Subsidized, for-profit garderies | High | Low | Low |
| 3 | Unsubsidized, for-profit garderies | Low (only with tax return) | Low | Low (Rising) |

While students are doing this activity, walk around the room. It is designed to get them to think. High/low is stark—ideally, this activity will spark conversation and students will add nuance, such as recognizing that category three (unsubsidized, for-profit garderies) is expensive initially, but low in cost after receiving a tax return.

1. **Content Delivery and Discussions (25 minutes)**

Go through the remaining slides. Encourage students to change anything they wrote in the table based on the slides. Then, ask students to work in pairs to answer the Student Handout questions. If you desire more prompts, here are a few:

* What is affordable? Calculate how much would it cost to have two children in childcare in Québec for a year using the following variations:
  + At the subsidized rate in Québec
  + At the unsubsidized rate in Québec imagining no tax rebate
  + At 2020 rates in your city, using the data on Slide 9
  + At $10/day, under the new federal plan
* In the video, Dr. Mathieu critiques the Québec childcare system, yet concludes it by saying, “It’s good to be a parent in Québec.” Discuss how we can both see benefits and critique public policy at the same time

To conclude the lesson, we suggest inviting speculation on whether your province will adopt some or any of the Québec model of childcare in implementing the federal government’s Early Learning Child Care Plan.

1. **Assess Learning**

Finally, to assess learning, you may want to require students to complete a written assignment for submission. This could be as simple as submission of the table and answers to questions on the Student Handout. It could be a “one-minute paper” (everything they can remember and write in one-minute), answering one of the questions submitted at the end of the class. Alternatively, it could be a 1-page essay or test question due at a later date.

This Lesson Guide, and accompanying learning materials, was created by team members working on the **Reimagining Care/Work Policies (RC/W)** project, funded by a SSHRC Partnership Grant (PI Andrea Doucet), to support teaching and learning of Canadian family policy. We appreciate knowing about your use of our work, and welcome your comments; contact lmckay@tru.ca.

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**PowerPoint Slide Deck:**

Thompson, K., Mathieu, S., McKay, L., & Sasso, M.(2022) *Childcare in Québec, Featuring Dr. Sophie Mathieu* [PowerPoint Slide Deck]. Reimagining Care/Work Policies. <https://rcwproject.ca/>

**Student Handout:**

Thompson, K. Mathieu, S., McKay, L., & Sasso, M. (2022). *Childcare in Québec, Featuring Dr. Sophie Mathieu* [Student Handout]. Reimagining Care/Work Policies. <https://rcwproject.ca/>

**Video/Video Transcript:**

Mathieu, S. (Speaker), Sasso, M., McKay, L., & Thompson, K. (2022) *Childcare in Québec, Featuring Dr. Sophie Mathieu* [Video]. Reimagining Care/Work Policies. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-S0aDrLsLI>