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

**Student Handout**

Since 1997, Québec’s social policy regime has supported families by offering an affordable childcare program. With Canada’s new childcare plan in development, in 2022, many experts are citing Québec’s childcare network as a successful model to follow.

Dr. Sophie Mathieu, Senior Program Specialist at the [Vanier Institute of the Family](https://vanierinstitute.ca/), explains [in this video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-S0aDrLsLI&feature=youtu.be) *how Québec’s childcare network works, what it gets right, and what should be improved upon* as Canada develops it’s national childcare program.

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**Learning Activity**

After watching the video, fill in this table. Assess the affordability, quality, and accessibility of each type of childcare in Québec as high or low.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type** | **Affordability** | **Quality** | **Accessibility** |
| 1. Subsidized, Non-profit CPE
 |  |  |  |
| 1. Subsidized, for-profit garderies
 |  |  |  |
| 1. Unsubsidized, for-profit garderies
 |  |  |  |

**Questions from the Video:**

1. What lessons can be learned from Québec’s childcare model for the rest of Canada?
2. What would be different for children (and parents) who use a CPE, instead of an unsubsidized or subsidized for-profit garderie?
3. To your knowledge, is Québec’s inability to meet the demand for childcare unique?
4. How does reliable, affordable childcare support women’s employment?
5. What are the equity implications of childcare?

**Further Reading:**

Cleveland, G., Mathieu, S., & Japel, C. (2021, February 18). What is “the Quebec model” of early learning and child care? *Policy Options*. <https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/february-2021/what-is-the-quebec-model-of-early-learning-and-child-care/>

Fortin, P. (2017) Quebec’s Childcare Program at 20. *Inroads*, (42). <https://inroadsjournal.ca/quebecs-childcare-program-20-2/>

Macdonald, D. & Friendly, M. (2021) Sounding the Alarm: COVID-19’s impact on Canada’s precarious child care sector. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives <https://policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2021/03/Sounding%20the%20alarm.pdf>

Mathieu, S. (2021, May 1). Four lessons from Quebec’s early child care model. *Policy Options.* <https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/april-2021/four-lessons-from-quebecs-early-child-care-model/>

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[Link to video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-S0aDrLsLI). **Please cite as:**

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>