Hélène Potvin is not worried about child care service quality evaluations. However, the President of the Association québécoise des centres de la petite enfance (AQCPE – Quebec Association of Child Care Centres) thinks that, for fairness’ sake, we need to look at developments leading up to the evaluation.

The Government of Quebec introduced its family policy in 1997. One of the policy’s goals was to develop child care and education services for young children. The cornerstone of this reform was, without a doubt, five-dollar child care. According to the President of the AQCPE, “The reform is a vast visionary building ground.”

It has paved the way for an educational program in child care facilities that focuses on children’s overall development through play, and consolidates practices already adopted by all child care workers.” The family policy was accompanied by an increase in wages and the introduction of a pension plan. Potvin feels that these initiatives represent more than just better working conditions: “The government recognized how important our mission was, and showed that it shared our beliefs, our vision.”

Today, the President of the AQCPE is philosophical about the findings of the study on the quality of the province’s child care services conducted by Dr. Richard E. Tremblay and his team. “We would like to have seen better performance results for all child care centres (CPEs). Nevertheless, I think the findings are encouraging. They show that there have been several improvements in the services provided by CPEs, and by the family child care services supervised by CPEs.”

Potvin believes that these evaluations are essential points of reference. “What weak points or strong points can we work on to improve services? The evaluation is an essential tool to keep going in the right direction.”

She is determined to do what it takes for all child care workers to obtain their college degrees, and for them to receive ongoing training. She also intends to work hard to improve the quality of educational child care services, and hopes that the government will come on board: “I am worried about how the government will deal with the evaluation’s findings. I hope our politicians will use them first and foremost to support our efforts, so that we can increase the accessibility and quality of services.”