

Fall 2022 to Spring 2023

# Professional Learning Opportunities *in your* Community

We are pleased to offer a mixture of webinars, in person sessions and live streamed sessions to meet your comfort level.



eccdc

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# In this issue

## Implementing Ontario's Early Learning Frameworks in Early Learning Settings

### Incorporating *How Does Learning Happen?* in Your Program

- 5 Re-Energizing Your Team by Returning to Our Roots of *How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years* - A New Series!
- 7 Building Connections, Knowledge, and Strong Early Learning Communities - A Spring Virtual Learning Institute
- 9 Building Connections, Knowledge, and Strong Early Learning Communities: A Winter Virtual Learning Institute
- 11 Exploring the Impact of Transition Times in Our Early Learning Environment
- 12 *How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years* for Non-Registered Early Childhood Educators
- 13 Back to the Foundations of Early Literacy Development
- 14 Pedagogical Documentation in the Early Learning Classroom
- 15 Taking Emergent Literacy Outdoors
- 16 Back to the Foundations of Early Math Development
- 17 Setting the Stage for Summer Fun and Learning

### Increase knowledge/refresher on early child development

- 18 Power Relations in Early Childhood
- 19 Behaviour Awareness and Self-Regulation
- 20 "What to Do, When it Feels Like a Zoo!"
- 21 Reconceptualizing Early Learning Materials and Environments Post Pandemic - A New Series!
- 23 FLIP IT: Supporting the Social and Emotional Development of Young Children and Reducing Their Instances of Challenging Behaviours
- 24 Bullying within Early Learning Classroom: Why it Happens and How to Manage It

## Strengthening Diversity and Inclusion within Early Learning Settings

- 26 Raising Children's Awareness about Residential Schools in Canada
- 27 Strengthening Our Relationships with Children and Families through Gaining an Awareness and Understanding of Sexual and Gender Diversity
- 28 Supporting Children in the Early Years with Learning Disabilities
- 29 Métis 101 and Early Learning and Child Care Programs and Services
- 30 Diversity in the Early Childhood Environment: More Than a Book on the Shelf
- 31 Indigenous Cultural Appreciation vs. Appropriation
- 32 A Look at Disabilities from the Inside Out
- 33 Reaching IN...Reaching OUT: *Promoting Resilience in Adults & Young Children Since 2002*

## Engaging Families in Authentic Ways

- 35 Delving into Children's Social Worlds
- 36 The Ripple Effects of Loss
- 37 Engaging Families with Sensitivity and Understanding
- 38 Reflecting on Our Daily Practice of Communication, Diversity & Engagement - A New Series!

## Connecting Children to Nature

- 41 Virtual Outdoor Play Institute: Rethinking the Rules and Practices of Outdoor Play
- 43 Walking A Labyrinth with the Niagara Nursery School Team
- 44 Sharing Ideas to Connect Children to Nature within a Naturalized Playground in the Fall
- 45 Sharing Ideas to Connect Children to Nature within a Naturalized Playground in the Winter
- 46 Sharing Ideas to Connect Children to Nature within a Naturalized Playground in the Spring
- 47 Inspiring New Ideas for Connecting Children to Nature Virtual Series with Christine Brown

# In this issue

## Promoting Health, Safety and Wellbeing within Early Learning Environments

- 49 Nurturing Mindfulness in Early Learning: A Continuum of Learning - A New Series!
- 51 Top 10 Ways to Bring Mindfulness for Children In Your Early Years Environment
- 52 The Healthy, Happy and Mindful Educator Series: Fostering Our Own Wellbeing as Educators
- 54 Cultivating the Love of Food: Inspiring Children's Health and Wellness through Sustainable Food and Nutritional Practices Virtual Institute
- 56 Body and Mind for the Stressed-Out Educator

## Strengthening Early Learning Programs and Small Business Operational Strategies

- 58 Inspiring Staff Performance: Moving from Managing Employees to Supporting their Leadership Development
- 59 "Being the Best Supervisor You Can Be! The Making of a Life-Changing Mentor ... What Makes a Good Leader?"
- 60 From ECE to Childcare Leader- A New Supervisor's Guide
- 61 Simple Strategic Planning for the Busy Not for Profit Leader - A New Series!
- 62 Managing Difficult Phone Calls
- 63 Leadership and Culture: How to Create a Workplace Where People Like to Work

## Inspiring Leadership in Early Learning and Child Care

- 65 Making the Most of Your Professional Learning Experiences - A New Series!
- 66 Celebrating a New Year: How to Create Ten Habits to Support Your Personal Growth and Learning
- 67 Stress Management for Leaders
- 68 Next Steps for Supporting New Graduates - A Conversation Café on Successes, Barriers and Future Opportunities
- 69 Leading for Change: Leadership and Administration of Early Childhood Programs

in Canada, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition - Book Launch and Professional Learning Session (*formerly Administering for Quality: Leading and Collaborating in Canadian Early Childhood Education Programs*)

- 70 Leadership and Integrity: The Leader with Integrity
- 71 "Delight! Excite! Inspire! Teach! – Creating a Fun and Motivating Learning Environment For Children Within Early Learning Environments

## Peer to Peer Book Study Opportunities

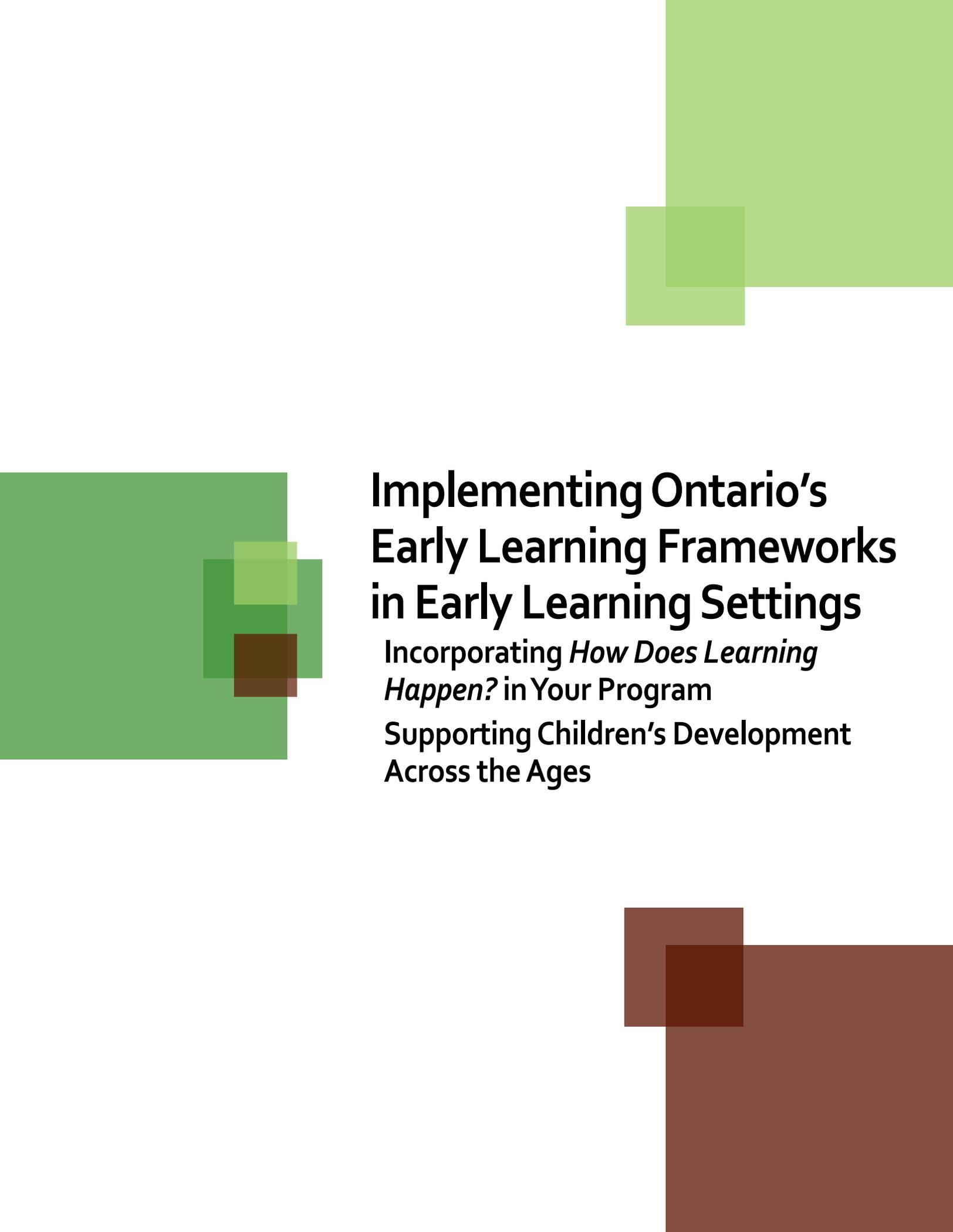
- 73 Love Builds Brains

## Very Special Presentations Featuring Acclaimed Authors, Researchers and Storytellers

- 75 Collaboration, Curiosity and Connection: Why Communication Is the Key to Successful Change Management
- 76 Inspiring Early Childhood Leadership Institute: with Susan MacDonald
- 78 Coping with Challenging Behaviour - A Series by Canadian Author Barbara Kaiser
- 80 Creating a Culture of Reflective Practice: The Role of Pedagogical Leadership in Early Childhood Education Programs - Book Signing and Full Day Institute
- 81 Talking with and Listening to Kids About Truth and Reconciliation with Monique Gray Smith
- 82 Planting and Cultivating Seeds of Mindfulness in Early Learning
- 83 101 Ways to Supercharge Your Professional Development: A Learning Institute with Internationally Respected Researcher and Author Susan MacDonald

## Niagara Communities of Practice Network Meetings

- 86 Engage and Connect with Quality Child Care Niagara
- 87 Fall 2022 Network Meetings
- 89 Winter 2023 Network Meetings
- 91 Spring 2023 Network Meetings

The page features several overlapping squares in shades of green and brown. A large green square is in the top right, a smaller one is below it, and another is to the left. A large brown square is in the bottom right, with a smaller one overlapping it. On the left side, there is a large green square with a smaller light green one and a brown one overlapping it.

# Implementing Ontario's Early Learning Frameworks in Early Learning Settings

Incorporating *How Does Learning  
Happen?* in Your Program

Supporting Children's Development  
Across the Ages



## Re-Energizing Your Team by Returning to Our Roots of *How Does Learning Happen?* Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years - A New Series!

### Session One: Returning to Our Roots of *How Does Learning Happen?*

*How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years* has been our framework in supporting and building relationships with young children and families since 2014. This workshop series presents an opportunity for educators to dig back into the four foundations of belonging, well-being, engagement, and expression in order to rethink, reimagine and realign these foundations within our pedagogy, environments, materials, and curriculum to further develop our early years program.



### Session 1

Presented *In Person in Niagara* (ECCDC Conference Room, 3550 Schmon Parkway, Thorold) and *Via Live Stream* - you choose

**Tuesday September 13, 2022**

6:30 to 8:30 pm

Niagara Educators: \$25/session or \$60 for full series  
(sponsored through funding provided by Niagara Region Children's Services)

Outside Niagara Educators: \$45 per session or \$75 for the full series

## Re-Energizing Your Team by Returning to Our Roots of *How Does Learning Happen?* *Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years* - A New Series! continued

### Session Two: Constructive Disruption of our Early Learning Practices

Constructive disruption is the act of productively challenging inherited wisdom or structures. It supports innovation by opening the space to replace what we have with what we might imagine. If we reflect upon our early learning practices following the pandemic, what might we challenge, innovate, or replace within our daily practice? The session will offer the opportunity to respectfully engage in conversation and consider ways in which we can step back in order to move forward in our practice.

### Session Three: Future Pedagogical Possibilities

The future is full of endless pedagogical possibilities and where you might go is only limited by your energy. As we have moved through *How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years* we have explored the four foundations, environments, materials, curriculum while challenging our daily practices. During the session participants will have an opportunity to create a future path of possibilities for the children, centre, and themselves.



#### Session 2

Presented *In Person in Niagara* (ECCDC Conference Room, 3550 Schmon Parkway, Thorold) and **Via Live Stream** - you choose

**Tuesday October 11, 2022**

6:30 to 8:30 pm

Niagara Educators: \$25/session or \$60 for full series  
(sponsored through funding provided by Niagara Region Children's Services)

Outside Niagara Educators: \$45 per session or \$75 for the full series

#### Session 3

Presented *In Person in Niagara* (ECCDC Conference Room, 3550 Schmon Parkway, Thorold) and **Via Live Stream** - you choose

**Tuesday November 8, 2022**

6:30 to 8:30 pm

Niagara Educators: \$25/session or \$60 for full series  
(sponsored through funding provided by Niagara Region Children's Services)

Outside Niagara Educators: \$45 per session or \$75 for the full series



## Building Connections, Knowledge, and Strong Early Learning Communities: A Spring Virtual Learning Institute

### **9:00 am Morning Keynote Presentation: Keeping the Momentum with our Educator Wellness Practices as We Move Out of the Pandemic**

As we have been navigating the pandemic, we have also been navigating our wellness practices. As we move out of the pandemic what can we consider to keep the momentum? What wellness looks and feels like will be different from educator to educator, and wherever you are in your journey, it's important to remember that you are the creator of your own path. During this session participants will have the opportunity to review their past goals, explore tools and resources that have been shared with the early learning community, and consider new tools and resources.

### **10:15 to 11:45am Morning Presentations** (participants may choose one of the following 3 sessions)

#### **Session One: Sharing Sensitive News with Parents**

Professionals who work with young children often say that one of the hardest parts of their job is sharing sensitive information with parents about their child's development. This session offers specific strategies for sharing information with parents in a way that emphasizes active listening and promotes positive collaboration. When we share the news in a way that is sensitive, family-centred, and respectful of parents' points of view, we greatly improve the chances for successful collaboration. Upon completion of this 2-hour seminar, participants will be able to:

- Identify why information may be difficult for educators to share and difficult for parents to hear.
- Plan ahead for how to effectively share information with parents.
- Clearly share information in a way that actively involves parents in the discussion and is sensitive to their feelings and perspective.

## Spring Virtual Learning Institute continued

### Session Two: What Does Indoor Risk Look like for Child Care? For Educators

*How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years* highlights the importance of providing children with interesting opportunities for a reasonable degree of risk taking. However, much risk taking for children tends to take place during active outdoor play and often focuses on physical risk taking. This session will explore all forms of risk taking during children's play; physical, emotional, and social risk and how educators can facilitate experiences during indoor play for all age groups.

### Session Three: Natural and Found Loose Parts for all Ages

Participants will have an opportunity to consider the who, what, where, when, and why of loose parts while considering what implementing loose parts into the curriculum looks like at different ages. Natural and found loose parts can be incorporated into the curriculum on a daily basis, supporting children's exploration and imagination. We will consider how we communicate to our families and colleagues the importance of loose parts, reflect on how they support the Four Foundations of *How Does Learning Happen?* and how we can utilize their properties to enhance children's developmental skills. A resource listing with loose parts to collect will be provided to participants, as well as resources available for loan or purchase from ECCDC.

### 11:45 to 12:45 Lunch Break

### 12:45 to 2:30 pm Afternoon Sessions (participants may choose one)

#### Session One: Exploring Nature through Creative Experiences

This workshop will explore how educators can incorporate creative opportunities and nature-based experiences into their environments which utilize natural items. The session will support educators to connect with the outdoor environment and minimize the impact that materials, children, and educators have. Participants will have an opportunity to discover how the natural outdoor environment acts as the Third Educator and develop a range of activities that will engage and encourage children to respect the natural world all around them.

#### Session Two: Inclusion in the Early Learning Classroom

This session will focus on how educators can support the needs of children with exceptionalities within an emergent framework. During the session educators will look at how exceptionalities may present in children, developing partnerships, working with families and other professions to facilitate child-focused strategies to support all children, and the benefits of inclusion within the classroom for all. There will also be opportunities to consider how inclusion in the classroom links to early learning frameworks.

#### Session Three: Naturalizing your Indoor Early Learning & Child Care Environment

This workshop will consider how educators can enhance their existing early learning and child care environments by bringing 'the outdoors indoors' to create aesthetically attractive natural environments that spark the curiosity and sense of wonder for children and adults. The session will consider how educators can actively engage children and families in the naturalization of their indoor environments. Participants will have an opportunity to engage in thought-provoking discussions and engage with a variety of natural materials that they can add to their indoor environments.

### 2:30 to 2:45 pm Break



### 2:45 to 4:00 pm Strategies for Promoting an Equitable and Discrimination Free Early Learning Environment

This session is being offered by Dane Marco Di Cesare, PhD, Assistant Professor, Brock University, Faculty of Education. Dane will offer strategies to support early childhood educators in providing an environment free of gender identity and gender expression discrimination through creating gender-inclusive and gender-affirming spaces. The session will introduce gender vocabulary and discuss children's developmental milestones related to gender, speak to strengthening self-awareness to check assumptions and interrupt biases about gender. Dane will offer practical and tangible ideas and strategies for co-creating gender justice curricula in early years' classrooms.

### 4:00 pm Closing



Presented *Via Webinar*

**Saturday May 6, 2023**

9:00am to 4:00pm

Niagara Educators: No Charge  
(sponsored through funding provided  
by Niagara Region Children's Services)

Outside Niagara Educators: \$55



## Building Connections, Knowledge, and Strong Early Learning Communities: A Winter Virtual Learning Institute

### **9:00 am Morning Keynote Presentation: Reflecting Upon Your Work in the Early Years and Re-igniting Your Passion**

This presentation will inspire reflection and deep conversation to support educators in recognizing the valuable contributions they make, the importance of resiliency during times of significant change, and strategies for considering how to include joy, enthusiasm, and fulfillment in our daily practice. The session will also include a fun, interactive quiz - including prizes - and an opportunity to create a self-reflective tool and a go-forward plan for including self-reflection into our work as part of an ongoing motivational and mindfulness practice.

### **10:15 to 11:45am Morning Presentations** (Participants may choose one of the following 3 sessions)

#### **Session One: Exploring Children's Development through Everyday Materials**

This session will offer opportunities for participants to review excerpts of *Early Learning for Every Child Today* (ELECT) to gain an understanding of children's developmental milestones and how to incorporate a variety of everyday, inexpensive materials while working with children and their families. The session will connect participants with the current frameworks and how they can be used in guiding conversations and choices with families. A resource kit of accessible materials will be explored along with extension ideas to help equip Teams with gaining knowledge and strategies to share with families to support their children on their developmental journey.

#### **Session Two: Roles of the Modern Reflective Educator**

Whether the educators are the architects, coaches, or storytellers, this multifaceted approach to early learning plays an important part in planning purposeful and intentional experiences that foster children's development, engages families, and provides opportunities for critical reflection. In this webinar we will look at ways we can strengthen our roles as educators, explore how each of these roles are important in your program, and examine the roles our colleagues and families play. Let's come together to highlight the view of the modern educator, the current roles they play, and the many hats they wear.

# Building Connections, Knowledge, and Strong Early Learning Communities - A Winter Virtual Learning Institute continued

## Session Three: Supporting Children in Developing a Practice of Mindfulness

Mindfulness is a simple technique that emphasizes paying attention to the present moment in an accepting, nonjudgmental manner. As we reflect upon *How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years* and the foundation of well-being, it speaks to lifelong learning habits. Habits formed early in life will inform behaviours in adulthood; with mindfulness we have the opportunity to give children the habit of being peaceful, kind, and accepting. At each developmental stage, mindfulness can be a useful tool for decreasing anxiety and promoting happiness. Mindfulness equips children with tools to build self-esteem, confidence, manage stress, and skillfully approach challenges. The earlier they learn it, the greater the opportunity to help them cultivate resilience and develop and refine their mindfulness practice as they mature. This session will offer resources and experiences that will highlight the benefits of mindfulness and enhance your curriculum for children of all ages.

### 11:45 to 12:45 Lunch Break

### 12:45 to 2:30 pm Afternoon Sessions (participants may choose one)

#### Session One: Taking Care of Me to Take Care of You Wellness Session

Participants will have an opportunity to explore the key aspects of workplace wellbeing that can support not only their own wellbeing but that of their staff team. Together we will engage in discussions on returning to the workplace post-pandemic, sharing your journey, and tips and tricks you have discovered. We will review the reasons for burnout and understanding ways to avoid it. Links will be made throughout the session to Ontario's Early Learning Frameworks that can be shared. To finish off the session, a large group brainstorm will take place exploring ways to share this information with your team and implement and track success.

#### Session Two: Sensory Play for Children

Sensory play includes any activity that stimulates a young child's senses. Providing opportunities and experiences for children to actively use their senses as they explore their world is crucial to brain development. Sensory play supports children's self-regulation and builds skills for mindfulness. This leads to a child's ability to complete more complex learning tasks and supports cognitive growth, language development, gross motor skills, social interaction, and problem-solving skills. The session will provide interactive experiences and identify links to other curriculum areas and focus on how educators can incorporate daily sensory experiences within their program while reflecting upon the four foundations of *How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years*.

#### Session Three: Positive Interactions through Connecting versus Directing

How much time do we spend Connecting, Directing, and Correcting? What is your C:D:C ratio? Seeing children as co-collaborators and supporting them to explore and learn using positive interactions rather than managing or directing their behaviour is important as educators. During this session we will explore the impact of positive interactions on children and link these interactions to healthy brain development. Join us as we expand on simple strategies that we can incorporate throughout our day and understand how the flow of the day allows children to make choices that support responsive relationships and promote reflection on our professional practice.

### 2:30 to 2:45 pm Break

### 2:45 to 3:45 pm Local Panelists Sharing Perspectives for Each Theme

Mindfulness • Teambuilding/Wellness • Sensory Play

### 3:45 to 4:00 pm Closing



Presented *Via Webinar*

**Saturday January 28, 2023**

9:00am to 4:00pm

Niagara Educators: No Charge  
(sponsored through funding provided by Niagara Region Children's Services)

Outside Niagara Educators: \$55



## Exploring the Impact of Transition Times in our Early Learning Environment

Transitions within our early learning environments can be moments of joy, chaos, learning, and stress. How do you see the impact of transitions within your early learning environment? In this session participants will have the opportunity to consider how creating meaningful and personalized routines for children can support the transformation of transitions from moments of challenge into opportunities for connection and relationship building. The session will offer reflection upon our intentionality and individualizing experiences, as well as tools and techniques that can be incorporated into your early learning environment to support the well-being of both the child and educator.



Presented ***In Person in Niagara*** (ECCDC Conference Room, 3550 Schmon Parkway, Thorold) and ***Via Live Stream*** - you choose

**Tuesday October 4, 2022**

6:30 to 8:30 pm

Niagara Educators: No Charge  
(sponsored through funding provided by  
Niagara Region Children's Services)

Outside Niagara Educators: \$25



## ***How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years*** **for Non-Registered Early Childhood Educators**

I'm not an RECE so what does *How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years* look like for me?

*How Does Learning Happen?* Is a pedagogical resource developed for early learning professionals that promotes a shared understanding of what children need and what can be done to help them grow and flourish. The early learning field is moving away from prescribed checklists of tasks to complete or a template for a "one-size-fits-all" approach which recognizes the uniqueness of programs, children, families, and educators. *How Does Learning Happen?* is meant to promote deeper reflection on how to create places and experiences where children, families, and educators explore, question, and learn together in quality early years programs. This session has been designed to introduce non RECEs to the ideas and theories within *How Does Learning Happen?* and offers opportunities for reflection, discussion, and exploration of the document.

This session is suitable for child care assistants, students, resource consultants, home child care professionals and staff of recreational programs.



Presented ***Via Webinar***

**Wednesday February 15, 2023**

6:30 to 8:00 pm

Niagara Educators: No charge (session sponsored through funding provided by Niagara Region Children's Services)

Outside Niagara Educators: \$45



## Back to the Foundations of Early Literacy Development

Do you wonder about how to get back to the foundations of literacy in your Early Years program? Are you curious about how to support children in their oral development, phonics and phonemic awareness? Join us as we share practical tips and interactive experiences on how to incorporate experiences that support these crucial building blocks of literacy. Through hands-on exploration with manipulatives, outdoor resources and written activities, educators will delve into materials that will inspire students' literacy skills!



Presented *In Person in Niagara* (ECCDC Conference Room, 3550 Schmon Parkway, Thorold)

**Thursday November 17, 2022**

6:30 to 8:00 pm

Cost: No Charge (*sponsored by Niagara Catholic District School Board and District School Board of Niagara*)





## Pedagogical Documentation in the Early Learning Classroom

Pedagogical documentation is a process that invites us into a great story; a place where we get the privilege of capturing, reflecting upon, sharing, and celebrating the incredible brilliance of children. As we strive to be great storytellers, keen observers and thoughtful listeners, we are given the opportunity of exploring more of who we are as we notice more of who children really are. **During Session 1:** Participants will have the opportunity to dig into what pedagogical documentation is and how to engage in the process, as well as learn more about what and how to document. Participants will also engage in a writing exercise to discover more about what to include in a piece of written documentation. **During Session 2:** Participants will be invited to engage in an essential component of pedagogical documentation; studying to make meaning. Participants will be introduced to a few 'protocols' that can be used to guide the process of study as they are engaged in facilitated studies of written documentation and photos. Participants will also learn more about the difference between written documentation and display and how effective displays can be created that invite readers to study and reflect on children's thinking and ideas.



Presented *In Person in Niagara* (ECCDC Conference Room, 3550 Schmon Parkway, Thorold) and *Via Live Stream* - you choose  
**Session One: Wednesday February 1, 2023**  
**Session Two: Thursday April 13, 2023**

6:30 to 8:00pm

Niagara Educators: No Charge (*sponsored through funding provided by Niagara Region Children's Services*)

Outside Niagara Educators: \$45



## Taking Emergent Literacy Outdoors

Since 2014, *How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years* has been encouraging educators to move away from viewing outdoor spaces as places for children to blow off steam and towards seeing outdoor environments as places for discovery and learning. However, research indicates that outdoor experiences afforded to children tend to focus on physical activity, science, and math at the expense of emergent literacy. Although educators are very well-versed in facilitating child-centred, literacy rich indoor environments and they have embraced the move to outdoor pedagogy, it would appear that emergent literacy has not made the move to the great outdoors. If you would like to gain strategies regarding enhancing the outdoor experiences that you offer children to support emergent literacy, then please join us for this interactive, knowledge sharing experience. The session will utilize an emergent literacy theoretical framework to support educators in their intentional planning of literacy experiences outdoors that are fun, motivating, and spark children's curiosity. This session will be facilitated outdoors and educators will have opportunities to Mess About with a variety of innovative experiences that they can offer to children.



Presented *In Person* at the **ECCDC Conference Room and the Glenridge Naturalization Quarry** (3550 Schmon Parkway, Thorold)

**Tuesday May 16, 2023**

6:30 to 9:00 pm

Niagara Educators: No Charge  
(sponsored through funding provided by  
Niagara Region Children's Services)

Outside Niagara Educators: \$25



## Back to the Foundations of Early Math Development

Introducing early numeracy skills to young children can set the foundation for later mathematical understanding. Join Rose Gentilcore and Jennifer Smith to explore practical strategies for incorporating mathematical concepts into your early learning environment. This session will highlight manipulatives and loose parts that can be utilized in play based experiences to support numeracy skills as well as practical activities to introduce with the children in your setting.



Presented *In Person in Niagara* (ECCDC Conference Room, 3550 Schmon Parkway, Thorold)

**Thursday February 16, 2023**

6:30 to 8:00 pm

Cost: No Charge (*sponsored by Niagara Catholic District School Board and District School Board of Niagara*)





## Setting the Stage for Summer Fun and Learning

Come and join us to set the stage for summer fun and learning to re-energize your programs with experiences that are engaging, suitable for multi-age groupings, link to the four foundations of *How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years* and connect children to nature. Educators will have the opportunity to engage in conversations and discussions with fellow educators while exploring new ideas, experiences, materials, and resources that will enhance your summer curriculum.



Presented *In Person* at the *ECCDC Conference Room and the Glenridge Naturalization Quarry* (3550 Schmon Parkway, Thorold)

**Thursday June 8, 2023**

6:30 to 9:00 pm

Niagara Educators: No Charge  
(sponsored through funding provided by  
Niagara Region Children's Services)

Outside Niagara Educators: \$25



## Power Relations in Early Childhood

Join Sandra Della Porta, PhD, RECE, Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Education at Brock University for this interactive seminar. Children grow up as part of multiple systems, distinct familial, cultural, and social systems, developing their identity and learning lifeways. Whether it's interactions with other humans or with the material world, young children gain a sense of theirs and others' power as part of such systems. In this professional learning seminar, participants will be introduced to means through which children's learning is strongly impacted by power dynamics and learn ways in which we can foster positive power solutions in the teaching and learning process. This session focuses on power relations that exist in multiple levels of children's developmental niches in the early years.



Presented *Via Webinar*

**Tuesday September 27, 2022**

6:30 to 8:00 pm

Cost: No Charge (*sponsored by Brock University*)



## Behaviour Awareness and Self-Regulation

Join the Pathstone Mental Health Behaviour Consultant Team for this informative workshop that is back by popular request. In this workshop participants will gain knowledge to identify the function of behaviour, understand the importance of data collection, and develop strategies to help promote student success. This workshop will also cover Self-Regulation: what it is, why it's important, signs of it, and what we can do in child care settings to promote positive self-regulation skills.



**Thursday October 13, 2022**

Presented *In Person in Niagara* (ECCDC Conference Room, 3550 Schmon Parkway, Thorold)

6:00 to 8:30 pm

Cost: No Charge (*sponsored by Pathstone Mental Health*)



## “What to Do, When it Feels Like a Zoo!”

Join us for this interactive online workshop that will address the rise in the negative behaviours we are now likely to see during and following this unprecedented time. We will explore effective, compassionate behaviour management techniques that will promote and maintain a safe, peaceful, and productive place to learn and explore the roots of these behaviours and explore the means to circumvent their triggers. Together we will look at the means to prevent or defuse disruptive behaviours, in order to replace frustration with compassionate and supportive management techniques. A child care program doesn't have to feel like a zoo! This fun, engaging, and invaluable workshop will replace the headache pills in any teaching toolkit with some great and effective behaviour management skills!



Presented *Via Webinar*

**Tuesday January 17, 2023**

6:30 to 8:30pm

Niagara Educators: \$25

Outside Niagara Educators: \$55



## **Reconceptualizing Early Learning Materials and Environments Post Pandemic - A New Series!**

As the restrictions of the past two and half years ease and we move out of Covid towards our 'new norm', educators will have an opportunity to reconceptualize their early learning materials and the environments and experiences offered to children. Educators will consider how to return to a focus on the curriculum, pedagogy, and best practices that were prominent pre-Covid19 in order to set new goals and aspirations to develop a pathway forward. Throughout this series tips, strategies, and resources will be shared to support educators to move 'back to the future'.

Please see full series information on next page

## Reconceptualizing Early Learning Materials and Environments Post Pandemic - A New Series! continued

### Session One: Curating New Learning Materials and Rethinking our Existing Materials

During the first session in the series educators will have opportunities to reflect on the materials that have been sidelined over the past few years, along with the new practices and materials adopted in more recent times and consider how they can mesh together in a new way of being. Dialogue and discussion will be prompted around how educators select, organize and maintain their collections of materials and artifacts to support children's open-ended exploration and self-directed play.

### Session Two: Re-Imagining the Possibilities of Messing About

This session is a continuum from session one. In this workshop educators will spend time re-imagining the experiences they offer children by becoming experts in their own learning. By utilizing the lens of Messing About educators are able to "conceptualize, understand, observe, and interpret children's work as they explore materials" (Hawkins, 2002). The session will also look at how Messing About can be utilized to co-learn and co-construct with children, educators and families, and to guide adults and children's inquiry.

### Session Three: Recognizing the Play Value and Setting the Design Stage

The third session in the series will consider how educators can design environments and experiences to support children's learning and development by following children's interests. Educators will explore how they can assess the play value of the materials and experiences they offer to the children they work with.

### Session Four: Revisiting Documentation and Conversations with Children

The final session in this series will focus on how educators can use documentation as a vehicle to engage in conversations and collaborative decision-making with children about their play. Educators will also explore how they can use pedagogical documentation as a tool to analyse and interpret with the children what is being seen in children's play to support and extend children's learning.



Presented *via webinar*

Session One  
**Tuesday January 10, 2023**

Session Two:  
**Tuesday February 7, 2023**

Session Three:  
**Tuesday March 7, 2023**

Session Four:  
**Tuesday April 4, 2023**

6:30 to 8:00pm - all sessions

Niagara Educators: No Charge (*sponsored through funding provided by Niagara Region Children's Services*)

Outside Niagara Educators: \$45 per session or \$80 for the full series



## FLIP IT®: Supporting the Social and Emotional Development of Young Children and Reducing Their Instances of Challenging Behaviours

The ECCDC Team are trained facilitators in this unique program offered through the Deveraux Centre for Resilient Children. *FLIP IT*® is a strategy that offers a simple, kind, strength-based, common-sense, and effective four-step process to address children's day-to-day challenging behaviour. The four steps are embodied in the FLIP mnemonic which stands for F – Feelings, L – Limits, I – Inquiries and P – Prompts. *FLIP IT*® is nothing new but transforms best practice into a strategy that is easy to remember, applicable in a variety of challenging situations, and portable.



Presented *In Person in Niagara* (3550 Schmon Parkway, Thorold)

**Saturday April 1, 2023**

8:30am to 4:30pm

Niagara Educators: \$15

Outside Niagara Educators: \$35



## Bullying within Early Learning Classroom: Why it Happens and How to Manage It *with Carolyn Hadcock*

Bullying is a serious societal concern. Early Childhood Educators need to be proactive in their approach when they encounter a child who has been bullied, as well as assisting the child who is the bully. During this webinar you will examine why bullying happens, the characteristics of the child who is a bully, and the reasons why certain children are the targets of the bullies. You will also explore many different, interesting action plans to manage and prevent bullying. Join me in discovering how you can be the catalyst for changing behaviours that can encourage children to act cooperatively.



Presented *Via Webinar*

**Tuesday May 30, 2023**

6:30 to 8:00pm

Niagara Educators: \$25

Outside Niagara Educators: \$55



# Supporting Diversity and Inclusion



**Raising Children’s Awareness about Residential Schools** *presented by Willow Shawanoo-Kechego, Pow Wow, Outreach and Fundraising Coordinator, Niagara Regional Native Centre and Danielle Longboat and Michaela Kills Enemy, Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre*



Presented *In Person in Niagara*  
(ECCDC Conference Room, 3550 Schmon Parkway, Thorold)

**Tuesday September 20, 2022**

6:30 to 8:30pm

Cost: No charge (*sponsored by Niagara Regional Native Centre*)

Orange Shirt Day (September 30) is a day when we honour the Indigenous children who were sent away to Residential Schools and learn more about the history of these schools. It has become a National Campaign to raise awareness and provide education about Residential Schools. Educators are invited to join this session to gain an understanding and strategies for sharing learning experiences with children of all ages. Attend this session to understand the significance of Orange Shirt Day. *Participants will have an opportunity to purchase a kit of culturally appropriate children’s books.*



For more events leading up to Orange Shirt Day, visit “Beyond the Orange Shirt Story – Niagara Falls 2022” on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/525686242562854>)



## Strengthening Our Relationships with Children and Families through Gaining an Awareness and Understanding of Sexual and Gender Diversity

Join LGBTQ2+ Support Coordinator Celeste Turner from the Niagara Falls Community Health Centre for this informative presentation that will support Early Childhood Educators with increasing their awareness and knowledge of sexual and gender diversity to support the critical conversations and relationship-building with families of the children enrolled in early learning programs. During this webinar, Celeste will walk us through the following concepts:

- Background on why sexual and gender diversity is important to address
- An overview of key terms (Gender Identity, Gender Expression, Sex assigned at Birth, and Physical and Romantic Attraction)
- Pronouns – what are they and how to use them
- How to be an Ally – recommendations to foster more inclusion in personal and professional life
- Resources and information about the Niagara Falls Community Health Centre



Presented **Via Webinar**

**Thursday October 6, 2022**

6:30 to 8:00 pm

Cost: No charge (*sponsored by Niagara Falls Community Health Centre*)



## Supporting Children in the Early Years with Learning Disabilities

As Educators we have a role in observing and identifying children who require additional support and assistance. Early Childhood Educators are invited to join the Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara to gain strategies for supporting children who are experiencing some learning challenges as well as ideas for communicating with families in sensitive ways.



Presented *In Person in Niagara*  
(ECCDC Conference Room, 3550  
Schmon Parkway, Thorold)

**Thursday November 10, 2022**

6:30 to 8:00 pm

Cost: No charge (*sponsored by the  
Learning Disabilities Association of  
Niagara Region*)



## Métis Nation of Ontario Presents: Métis 101 and Early Learning and Child Care Programs and Services

In this workshop, presented by Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Advisors: Jennifer Boston, RECE and Sherry Lance, we will focus on a brief overview of Métis history, culture and way of life. The session will also include information highlighting MNO ELCC programs and services for Métis children and families.

The ELCC Advisor Team at the Métis Nation of Ontario is dedicated to enhancing relationships with existing early learning and child care centres and programs, home child care, colleges and Métis RECEs across Ontario and strengthening partnerships with regional municipalities and school boards.

We are promoting and fostering these partnerships through community development; building collaborative relationships with ELCC stakeholders to increase awareness of Métis culture and way of life, which can be incorporated into early years programming.

### Session Objectives:

- To build educators' awareness and knowledge of Métis history, culture and way of life.
- Information sharing about MNO ELCC services for Métis children and families



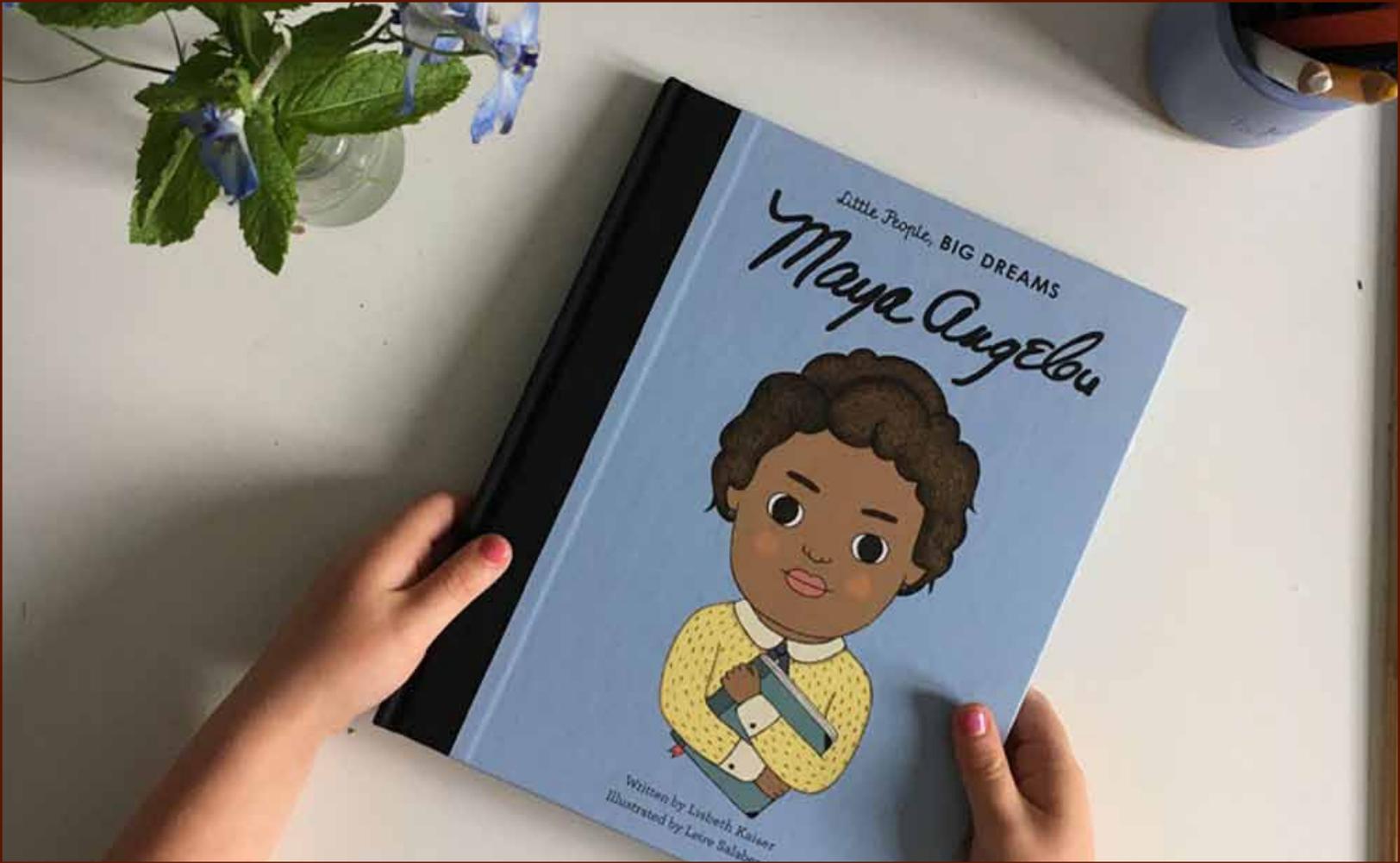
Presented *Via Webinar*

**Tuesday December 6, 2022**

6:30 to 7:30 pm

Cost: No Charge

*The mission of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Early Learning and Child Care Program (ELCC) is to improve access to culturally grounded early learning opportunities for Métis individuals, families, and the Métis community as a whole. We do this by promoting and fostering community development and providing the care and support necessary to meet the fundamental needs of MNO citizens. On March 6, 2019 in Ottawa, Ontario the MNO took a historic step forward in improving the lives of Métis families and children. On this date the MNO signed the historic Canada-Métis Nation Early Learning and Child Care Accord. This Accord, which was co-developed with the Federal Government, invests more than \$45 million over the next 10 years in early learning and child care services through the MNO.*



## Diversity in the Early Childhood Environment: More Than a Book on the Shelf *with* Anisha Angella

Every child deserves to feel heard, welcomed and seen and this starts within our early learning environments. Although we cannot protect children from every form of media, we can ensure the books and materials within our early learning environments are diverse and are representative of many cultures and approaches. Ensuring that our early learning classrooms are diverse is more critical than ever before. This webinar will showcase the many ways diversity may be promoted within your early learning environment. Participants will gain information that will support them in critically thinking about diverse practices in a new way and strategies for promoting more diverse practices in an authentic way.



Presented *Via Webinar*

**Thursday February 2, 2023**

6:30 to 8:30pm

Niagara Educators: \$25

Outside Niagara Educators: \$55

### **The workshop highlights include:**

- Gaining a deeper awareness and understanding of diversity
- Taking a look at the theoretical approaches to diversity
- Dialogue surrounding how to bring diversity into early learning environments
- How to take action



## Indigenous Cultural Appreciation vs. Appropriation *with* Willow Shawanoo-Kechego, Pow Wow, Outreach and Fundraising Coordinator

The Fine Line is helping to navigate the difference between cultural appreciation vs. cultural appropriation to create culturally safe and inclusive spaces. We will look at ways to integrate Indigenous heritage into the classroom. While we learn to grow on Turtle Island, together we will focus on disguising the fine line and walking this journey together.



Presented *In Person in Niagara*  
(ECCDC Conference Room, 3550  
Schmon Parkway, Thorold)

**Wednesday March 8, 2023**

6:30 to 8:30 pm

Cost: No charge (*sponsored by  
Niagara Regional Native Centre*)





## A Look at Learning Disabilities from the Inside Out *with* Simmy Zaret

This workshop will dispel the myths and provide an in-depth overview of some of the most common difficulties faced by so many children in our early learning programs today. Through a variety of interactive activities, participants will have the opportunity to experience first-hand what it's like to actually have a disability of their own! As well, we'll look at a wide range of strategies, accommodations, and alternative approaches that can be used in order to build a child's self-esteem, demystify their challenges, and maximize opportunities for social and academic success.

### In this workshop, we'll look at:

- Visual/Spatial Perception Deficits
- Auditory Language Processing Difficulties
- Conceptual Challenges
- ADD/ADHD Attention Deficit (Hyperactivity) Disorder
- Pervasive Developmental Disorders – Autism and Asperger's
- Childhood Anxiety and other areas related to Mental Health



Presented *Via Webinar*

**Wednesday May 17, 2023**

6:30 to 8:30 pm

Niagara Educators: \$25

Outside Niagara Educators: \$55

Yes, some children develop differently. The more we begin to understand, accept and appreciate challenges for what they truly are, the more opportune a world we can provide for all children.

**Simmy Zaret** has been an educator for both the school and public health systems. She feels privileged to have worked with, taught, counselled, and supported children with special needs and their families over 30 years.



## Reaching In - Reaching Out

RIRO Resiliency Skills Training is an evidence-based, two-part program for educators who work with children from birth to eight years. The training uses a relationship-based, cognitive-behavioural and social problem-solving approach to prevent depression and promote resilience in children under eight years. Adapted from 35 years of research by Dr. Martin Seligman and colleagues at the University of Pennsylvania, the RIRO program is designed to help adults help young children steer through life's inevitable bumps in the road and make use of opportunities for optimal growth and development. Research shows that children as young as two years begin to copy how adults in their lives respond to daily stresses, serious challenges, and opportunities for growth. When adults use the RIRO skill set in their own lives, they become role models for children by demonstrating effective thinking and coping strategies in response to both adversity and opportunity.

**Part 1** - introduces adults to key resiliency research and skills that enhance self-regulation skills and promote a "resilient" perspective and flexible approach to handling conflict, problems and everyday challenges.

**Part 2** - helps adults apply the resiliency skills directly with children by: increasing their understanding of children's thinking and behaviour, supporting children's development of seven critical abilities associated with resilience, introducing child-friendly approaches using children's literature, puppets, and resilience-building activities.



Presented *In Person in Niagara*  
(ECCDC Conference Room, 3550  
Schmon Parkway, Thorold)

**Part 1 - Saturday February 11, 2023**

**Part 2 - Saturday March 25, 2023**

**Attendance at both Part 1 and 2 is required**

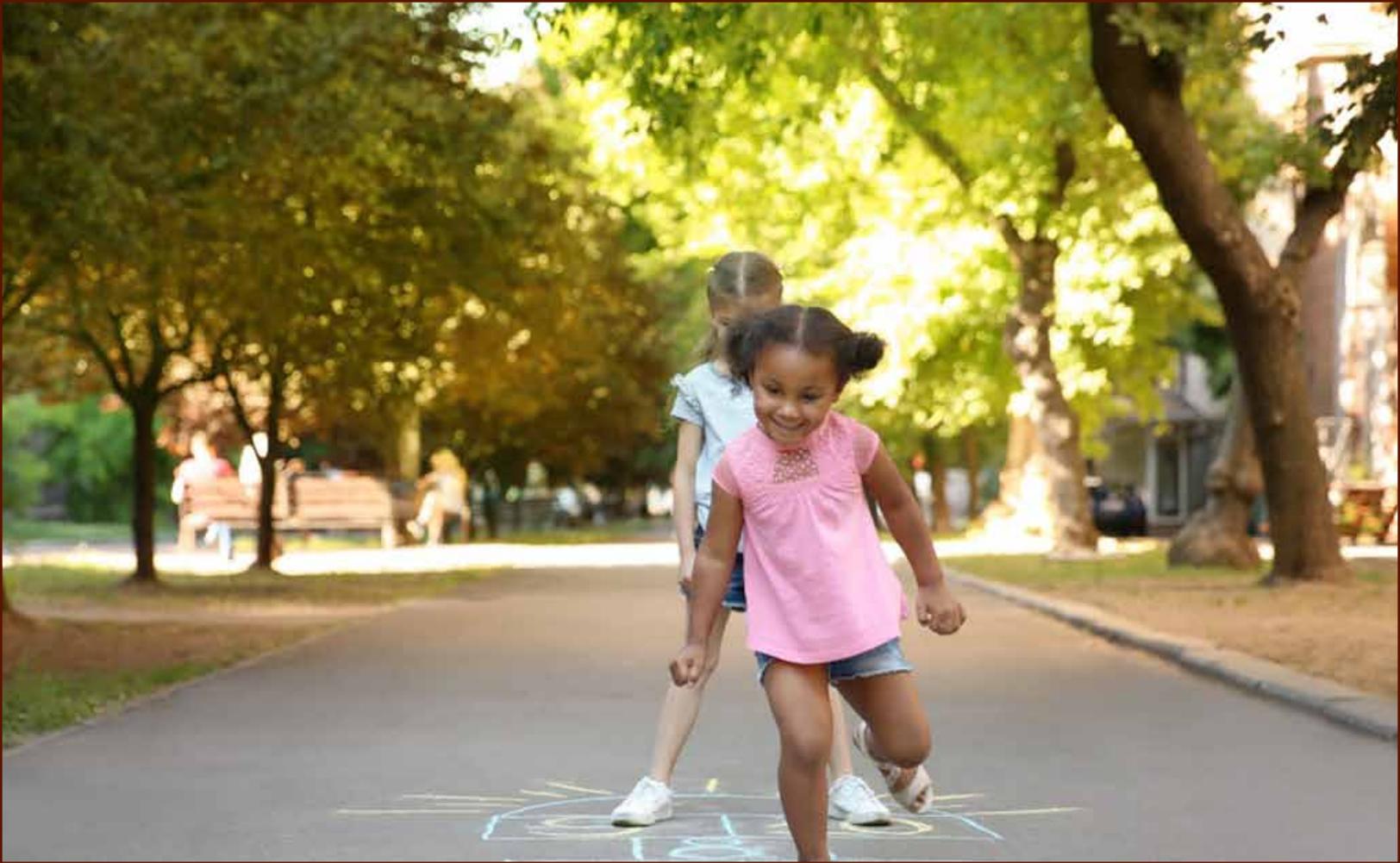
8:30am to 4:30pm (both dates)

Niagara Educators: No charge  
(sponsored through funding provided  
by Niagara Region Children's Services)

Outside Niagara Educators: \$75

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# **Engaging Families in Authentic Ways**



## Delving into Children's Social Worlds

Join Sandra Della Porta, PhD, RECE Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Education at Brock University for this interactive seminar. The home is the first learning environment, but what does that mean? This session will open doors into the mind of a child — a child who is part of a whole: their family. It's not just about what we know or how we teach, but how we learn from children. Join Sandra in exploring children's intricate social worlds and to develop a contextual understanding of what experiences children bring with them to the classroom, informs on their behaviours, and considers cultural contributions to social-emotional skills and development. Sandra will also provide strategies on how to adapt to each child's authentic lived realities through multiliteracy and multimodalities.



Presented *Via Webinar*

**Tuesday November 1, 2022**

6:30 to 8:00 pm

Cost: No charge (*sponsored by Brock University*)



## The Ripple Effects of Loss *with* Angel G. Graham, Clinical Therapist and Registered Social Worker, Angel GG Consulting

This presentation will explore the various secondary losses that arise as a result of a death, with a discussion on the grief and loss that many have endured due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, more than ever, it is important to accept and allow for our grief related feelings. COVID-19 continues to leave a wake of unresolved grief in its path. It is only through acknowledging our collective grief and experiences that we can take steps to heal.



Presented *In Person in Niagara* (ECCDC Conference Room, 3550 Schmon Parkway, Thorold)

**Tuesday November 15, 2022**

6:30 to 8:30 pm

Niagara Educators: No Charge

Outside Niagara Educators: \$15



ANGEL GG CONSULTING



## Engaging Families with Sensitivity and Understanding

Join QCCN Staff for a lively discussion to explore all of the parent engagement tools and strategies for sharing sensitive information offered through the QCCN portfolio of tools. Participants will engage in dialogue and will have critical conversations about children's development, their strengths and areas which could be further supported.



Presented *In Person in Niagara*  
(ECCDC Conference Room, 3550 Schmon Parkway, Thorold)

**Wednesday January 18, 2023**

6:30 to 8:00 pm

Niagara Educators: No charge  
*(sponsored through funding provided by Niagara Region Children's Services)*

Outside Niagara Educators: \$15



## Reflecting on Our Daily Practice of Communication, Diversity & Engagement - A New Series!

Administrators and educators work hard to ensure that their early learning environment is welcoming, engaging, and reflective of the many children and families who call the child care centre their "home away from home". To support the continuous process of thinking about inclusion and diversity, this series will prompt discussion and dialogue about strategies and considerations that are part of the ongoing conversation about ensuring a diverse setting, respectful of all the educators, children, and families who engage within the environment. The professional learning session will provide educator teams opportunities to engage in conversations, linked to guiding frameworks, enhancing communication, diversity, and engagement within their organization. The series is underpinned by the College of Early Childhood Educators' *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice*.

## Reflecting on Our Daily Practice of Communication, Diversity & Engagement - A New Series! continued

### Session 1 – Concepts Rooted in Early Learning

Participants will explore the concept of weaving ethics, diversity, inclusion, and professionalism through authentic engagement approaches that are rooted in respectful, reciprocal, and effective communication strategies with children, families, and colleagues. This session is underpinned by the College of Early Childhood Educators' *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice* and gain new ideas around focusing on Positive Communication and Collaboration Strategies, Work Ethic and Professionalism: Our Role in Work with Children, Families and With Each Other as a Staff Team.

### Session 2 – Creating Awareness to Support Reflection

In early learning it is important for educators to have the knowledge and confidence to implement inclusive practices and understand the why behind the importance of diversity and inclusion. Participants will have an opportunity to reflect upon their beliefs and bias, and to consider how they can influence their daily practice, explore ways to build relationships and communicate across differences, and discuss how to co-create culturally responsive, inclusive learning environments that are welcoming for all children, families, and caregivers. Participants will explore current research around diversity, inclusion, and culture.

### Session 3 – Implementing Practices into the Early Learning Setting

Participants will have an opportunity to co-construct knowledge and reflect upon ways of using current research as well as resources and tools from the College of Early Childhood Educators to redefine their daily practice for communication, diversity, and engagement in collaboration with children, families, and colleagues. Participants will also be encouraged to review any related organizational policies, continuous professional learning goals, discuss their values, and consider working agreements.



Presented *In Person in Niagara* (3550 Schmon Parkway, Thorold) and *Via Live Stream* - participants may choose to attend in person or watch virtually

#### Session 1

**Tuesday April 11, 2023**

6:30 to 8:00pm

#### Session 2

**Tuesday May 9, 2023**

6:30 to 8:00pm

#### Session 3

**Tuesday June 13, 2023**

6:30 to 8:00pm

Niagara Educators: No charge (*sponsored through funding provided by Niagara Region Children's Services*) - all sessions

Outside Niagara Educators: \$45 per session or full series for \$75



# Connecting Children to Nature



## Virtual Outdoor Play Institute: Rethinking the Rules and Practices of Outdoor Play

8:30 to 9:30 am Institute Opening Keynote: Rethinking Rules and Practices for Outdoor Play with Rusty Keeler and door prize draw of Rusty's new book

What if you could reflect on your philosophies of outdoor play and your hopes and dreams for children's experiences and then craft new rules based on things that really made sense for your children, your yard and your program? Join Rusty Keeler, Internationally Renowned Playscape Designer and Author, to re-examine your outdoor rules and practices and to consider how to offer the best experiences for the children in your program.

9:30 to 10:30 am **Debra Harwood**, Professor (PhD), Department of Educational Studies - **Embracing Outdoor Nature Play & Shifting Pedagogies**

Are you curious about the benefits of outdoor nature play and how to shift pedagogies? Outdoor nature play offers opportunities for children to explore, imagine, wonder, create, discover, and respond with infinite possibilities. Ultimately, it is through this cycle of curiosity and creativity that young children develop the confidence, competence, and security to test ideas, learn new skills and ideas. Educators must be purposeful in designing outdoor environments and adopting intentional practices that help sustain children's thinking and engagement in outdoor play spaces. From mud play, dramatic play, STEAM experiences to rowdy dizzy play and more, outdoor environments and practices must support a diverse spectrum of play-learning opportunities for every child.



Presented *Via Webinar*

**Saturday December 10, 2022** from  
8:30am to 4:00pm

Niagara Educators: \$25

Outside Niagara Educators: \$55

# Outdoor Virtual Play Institute: Rethinking the Rules and Practices of Outdoor Play continued

10:30 am to 12:00 pm **Choice of session**

## **A: Canada Through the Seasons with the ECCDC Team**

Studies have shown the importance of providing young children with physical fitness activities, connecting with nature, and the opportunity for engaging in playful experiences outdoors whatever the weather or the season. This session will focus on Canadian Winter including the benefits and inclusion of sensory experiences in planning for young children.

During this session participants will explore ways in which to engage families in Winter experiences and materials and experiences to enhance outdoor play.

## **B. Opportunities for Play in a Forest School Setting with Greenbelt Academy**

Join Greenbelt Academy and Early Learning Centre for this engaging webinar. During this session participants will gain strategies for providing educational experiences through daily access to extended time in nature. Participants will explore the many benefits of outdoor play including physical, mental, social and emotional health, while developing a connection with the environment.

## **C. Extending Your Indoor Curriculum Outdoors with Kimberly Squires, Pedagogical Leader, University of Guelph**

With the many benefits of being outdoors with children, we need to consider how to capitalize on this natural resource. During this session you will explore a variety of strategies for taking your indoor curriculum into the great outdoors. You will also explore ways to take advantage of Canada's four seasons and how to use weather to your advantage. Teaching outdoors does not have to disrupt your curriculum, join us for tips and tricks to make getting outside with children easier!

12:00 to 12:30 pm **Lunch break**

12:30 pm to 2:00 pm **Choice of session**

## **A: Rethinking Outdoor Play Materials with the ECCDC Team**

One of the silver linings of the COVID-19 pandemic has been the emphasis on outdoor play for children. This session will encourage educators to continue their focus on outdoor play and learning post-pandemic, by prompting educators to consider where they are currently at and reflecting on where they can go next, by rethinking the materials they offer in their outdoor spaces. Educators will have opportunities to share their learning and experiences, and to reflect on their outdoor pedagogy.

## **B. Land Art with Links for Greener Learning**

The earth offers endless beauty right in our backyards, parks, and greenspaces. Art is often inspired by this beauty in the natural world. In this workshop participants will explore the origins of land art and share some examples of cultures that have created art with nature. Participants will explore how to support children in creating their own art with the common natural materials they find outdoors.

## **C. Garden Planning, Programming and Play with Garden Jane, Permaculture Designer and Gardener, and Community Developer**

Join Garden Jane for this design workshop, where you can learn about and plan for including young children in food garden design and growing food. Participants will have the opportunity to explore the process behind real world garden development and how children were part of the development, building, and growing processes.

2:00 to 3:00 pm **Inclusion of Children with Special Education Needs in Outdoor Play with Monique Somma, Faculty of Education, Brock University and Rachele Gibbs, RECE**

Outdoor play has overwhelming benefits for all children including the development of their gross motor skills, self-confidence, decision making, risk-taking, communication and collaboration skills, overall wellbeing and more. These abundantly researched benefits are true for all young children, including children with special education needs. This session will highlight how using an inclusive framework through concepts of universal design for learning and differentiated instruction, outdoor play opportunities can be designed to provide access points for all children in your care.

3:00 pm to 3:45 pm **Panel of Speakers with Prompting Questions**

3:45 pm **Formal Closing**



## Walking A Labyrinth with the Niagara Nursery School Team

Have you heard about Labyrinths? Are you wondering what they are? What they do? How to use one? Why they are so popular? Here is your chance to walk one at Niagara Nursery School and find out for yourself what they are all about. Labyrinths are currently being used world-wide as a way to quiet the mind, get clarity on a question or decision, and encourage meditation, insight, self-reflection, and stress reduction.

Groups of people are using the labyrinth for healing, community building, and celebration. Schools, child care centres, and Family Support Service Agencies are using labyrinths with children to help them balance their energy, focus, and reduce behaviour problems. Join the Team at Niagara Nursery School to gain strategies on how to introduce children to labyrinths and use them with the children and families you work with.



Presented *In Person* at *Niagara Nursery School*, 14 Anderson Lane, Niagara-on-the-Lake

**Wednesday September 14, 2022**

**6:00 to 7:30pm**

Cost: No charge (*sponsored by Niagara Nursery School*)



Niagara Nursery School  
& Child Care Centre



## Sharing Ideas to Connect Children to Nature within a Naturalized Playground in the Fall

Join the Team of St. Thomas' Day Care to play in their naturalized playground and learn how the Team continue to engage the children enrolled in their program with loose parts and extended experiences in the outdoors.



Presented *In Person* at *St. Thomas' Day Care*, 99 Ontario Street, St. Catharines

**Wednesday October 12, 2022**

6:00 to 7:30 pm

Cost: No charge (*sponsored by St. Thomas' Day Care*)



## Sharing Ideas to Connect Children to Nature within a Naturalized Playground in the Winter

Join the Team of A Child's World Woodlawn to play in their naturalized playground and learn how the Team continues to engage the children enrolled in their program with natural loose parts and extended experiences in the outdoors. Time will be spent indoors and outdoors. Please dress for winter play outdoors.



Presented *In Person* at ACW Woodlawn Child Care, 100 Niagara College Blvd., Welland

**Saturday February 4, 2023**

10:00 to 11:30am

Cost: No charge (*sponsored by ACW Woodlawn Child Care*)





## Sharing Ideas to Connect Children to Nature within a Naturalized Playground in the Spring

Join the Team of North End Co-operative Preschool to play in their naturalized playground and learn how the Team continue to engage the children enrolled in their program with loose parts and extended experiences within the outdoors. Please dress for outdoor play.



Presented *in person* at *North End Co-operative Preschool, 677 Niagara St, St. Catharines*

**Saturday April 29, 2023**

10:00 to 11:30 am

Cost: No charge (*sponsored by North End Co-operative Preschool*)



North End  
Co-Op  
Preschool



## Inspiring New Ideas for Connecting Children to Nature Virtual Series *with* Christine Brown

### Session One: Risky Play Benefits and Using Tools

This webinar will discuss the premise and benefits behind risky play and how to safely incorporate it into your classroom and/or outdoor space. We will go beyond “climbing things” and discuss how to encourage students to find their potential and how to individualize risky play to each of your students. Furthermore, we’ll discuss tools and how to incorporate these into your weekly plans.

### Session Two: Setting Up Your Outdoor Play Space and Bringing Nature Inside

This webinar will discuss appropriate ways to set up your outdoor space without hindering the students’ learning or exploration.

When we create a space that is too manipulated by an adult, it actually discourages creative and exploratory play. We know not every day is perfect for outdoor play, but predictability of outdoor play is beneficial for children at this age. We will discuss how to bring the outdoors inside your classroom to keep a consistent “nature time” in your daily/weekly schedule.

### Session Three: Macro-Modelling - Using the Children’s Interests to Build Games and Activities Outdoors

Macro-modelling is a concept created by outdoor educators to incorporate learning into daily play. This doesn’t hinder passion-driven and interest-based learning but rather enhances it and provides a deeper learning experience. We will discuss how to quickly take an interest and macro-model and also how to follow up on the interests in a deeper way.



Presented *Via Webinar - all sessions*

**Session One: Thursday April 6, 2023**

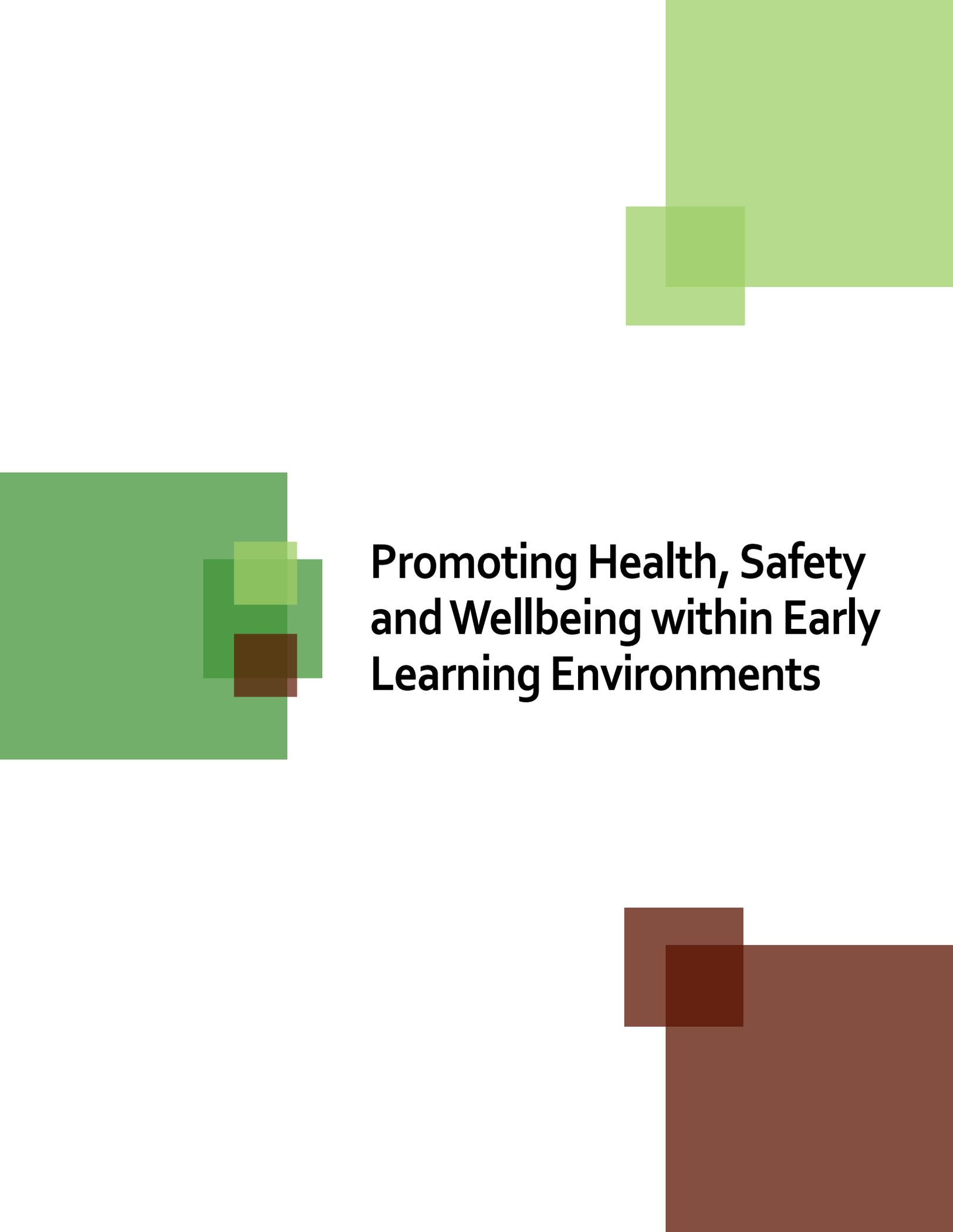
**Session Two: Thursday May 18, 2023**

**Session Three: Thursday June 15, 2023**

6:30 to 8:00 pm - all sessions

Niagara Educators: \$15/session or \$35 for the full series

Outside Niagara Educators: \$25/session or \$60 for the full series



# **Promoting Health, Safety and Wellbeing within Early Learning Environments**



## **Nurturing Mindfulness in Early Learning: A Continuum of Learning - A New Series!**

Mindfulness is a simple technique that emphasizes paying attention to the present moment in an accepting, nonjudgmental manner. As we reflect upon How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years and the foundation of well-being it speaks to lifelong learning habits. Habits formed early in life will inform behaviours in adulthood, and with mindfulness we can give our children the habit of being peaceful, kind, and accepting. At each developmental stage, mindfulness can be a useful tool for decreasing anxiety and promoting happiness. When we teach mindfulness to children, we equip them with tools to build self-esteem, confidence, manage stress, and skillfully approach challenges. The earlier we do so in their young lives, the greater the opportunity to help them cultivate resilience and develop and refine their mindfulness practice as they mature. This session will offer resources and experiences that will highlight the benefits of mindfulness and enhance your curriculum for children of all ages.

**Participants are invited to attend the Educator Session as a start to their mindfulness journey and then choose their age group pathway. You may choose more than one age group pathway if desired.**

## Nurturing Mindfulness in Early Learning: A Continuum of Learning - A New Series! continued

### Session One: Taking Care of Ourselves as Educators

As we have been navigating the pandemic, we have also been navigating our wellness practices and as we move out of the pandemic what can we consider to keep the momentum? What wellness looks and feels like will be different from educator to educator, and wherever you are in your wellness journey, it's important to remember that you are the creator of your own path. By recognizing this and choosing to stay in the present, you can grow more confident in your wellness choices and keep the momentum going on your personal journey. During this session participants will have the opportunity to review their past goals, explore tools and resources that have been shared with the early learning community, consider new tools and resources that will support keeping the momentum of their journey and map out the next leg of their journey.

### Session Two: Supporting Infants and Toddlers

While infants may not be able to express their feelings with anything but crying, they can recognize voices and the scents of their caregivers. Mindfulness at this age is about connecting to their senses, building your relationship and trust with each child, and consider how they are seeing the world. For our toddlers, mindfulness strategies revolve again around the senses and starting to layer in the ways for children to recognize what they're feeling on the inside, label the feelings, and consider how their body connects to these feelings.

### Session Three: Mindful Experiences for Preschoolers

For preschool children we can start to layer in simple games and experiences that can be highlighted within your curriculum as learning experiences. Current research is showing huge benefits in terms of relaxation, stress relief, and, inevitably, enhanced learning when mindfulness practices are woven into daily practices. We will explore research that has been conducted that proves the many mental benefits of mindfulness as well as the way it promotes self-regulation as well as what this looks like in practice through learning experiences.

### Session Four: Mindfulness for the School Ager

In working with school age children, we can incorporate mindfulness as a useful tool for decreasing anxiety and promoting happiness. School age children today are faced with an unprecedented amount of stress and anxiety. Mindfulness is a powerful tool that as educators we can include in our daily practice to support children in calming themselves, focusing their attention, and interacting effectively with others, all critical skills for functioning well in school and in life. We will explore ways in which to both engage children and families in mindfulness practices.



Presented *In Person in Niagara* (3550 Schmon Parkway, Thorold) and *Via Live Stream* - participants may choose to attend in person or watch virtually - *all sessions*

**Session One: Thursday September 22, 2022**

**Session Two: Thursday October 20, 2022**

**Session Three: Thursday November 3, 2022**

**Session Four: Thursday December 8, 2022**

6:30 to 8:00pm - all sessions

Niagara Educators: No charge  
(sponsored through funding provided by Niagara Region Children's Services) - all sessions

Outside Niagara Educators: \$65 for the full series



## Top 10 Ways to Bring Mindfulness for Children in Your Early Years Environment *with* Lisa Clarke, ERYT-200, RCYT

For children to grow, succeed, and thrive in the care of early childhood professionals, those professionals need to be equipped with tools that allow them to be caring, responsive, explorative, playful and curious. A mindful educator is all of that and more. Using Jon Kabat-Zinn's definition of mindfulness as paying attention, in a particular way, on purpose, in the present moment, non-judgmentally ... we will explore the parallels found in the 4 Foundations of Belonging, Well-Being, Engagement & Expression, and how to bring mindfulness to life in 10 of the best, and most meaningful ways for young children. This session will set the stage for successfully embodying and implementing what it means to be a mindful professional and bring a sense of lightness to the early childhood classrooms that they serve. Educators will leave this session with practical, mindfulness-based tools, resources & inspiration to plan and create experiences for their children across all developmental domains.



Presented *Via Webinar*

**Thursday March 30, 2023**

6:30 to 8:00 pm

Niagara Educators: \$25

Outside Niagara Educators: \$45





## **The Healthy, Happy and Mindful Educator Series: Fostering Our Own Wellbeing as Educators *with* Carolyn Hadcock**

### **Session One: Rejuvenation of Your Spirit**

Do you sometimes feel drained, tired, and stressed at the end of the day? Most Registered Early Childhood Educators experience some, if not all, of these maladies. During this workshop you will explore alternative ways for you to access your inner strength and become rejuvenated. You will have an opportunity to engage in conversations to gain strategies to assist you in a new way of seeing life and yourself. Bring your weary spirits and feel them soar by the end of this session.

### **Session Two: Motivating Self Through Times of Change**

We have just lived through an unprecedented time of change. COVID-19 certainly upended most of our lives. How did you handle it? Is change an ally or foe? Did you find these changes scary, or could you see positive aspects in your new situation? Was there a silver lining? During this session with Carolyn, you will have an opportunity to examine your own feelings and possible causes. She will also assist you in discovering secrets to aid in motivating self to be a Master Change Handler. You will leave this session with the skills to embrace change, being able to view your changing circumstances in the brightest possible light.

## The Healthy, Happy and Mindful Educator Series: Fostering Our Own Wellbeing as Educators *with Carolyn Hadcock* continued

### Session Three: Exploring Healthy Self Esteem

Research has shown that in many cases women exhibit lower self-esteems than men. Since this field is mostly comprised of women it is understandable that we should look at our self-esteem so we can also help children develop their intrinsic healthy self-esteem. This workshop provides early childhood educators an opportunity to define a healthy, intrinsic self-esteem. You will discover your self-esteem level and learn ways to boost your self-esteem to optimum. Come prepared to enjoy interactive sessions filled with fun and laughter.



Presented *Via Webinar* (all sessions)

Session One: Thursday January 26, 2023

Session Two: Thursday February 23, 2023

Session Three: Thursday March 23, 2023

Session Four: Thursday April 27, 2023

Session Five: Thursday May 25, 2023

6:30 to 8:00pm (all sessions)

Niagara Educators: \$20 per session or \$80 for the full series

Outside Niagara Educators: \$35 per session or \$100 for full series

### Session Four: Meditation, Mindfulness and Peace

Are you aware that people who meditate and practice mindfulness are happier, healthier, and more successful than those that don't? During this workshop Carolyn will provide an opportunity to discover the many vast and varied benefits of meditation and mindfulness. Discussion of the various types of meditation and mindfulness will be present. Time is allotted for you to experience firsthand a form of meditation & mindfulness, leaving you with the most awe-inspiring benefits of feeling relaxed and peaceful.

### Session Five: How to Unleash the Power of Positive Thinking

During this session you will learn how to cast any negative thoughts aside in order to rise above their power over you. You will discover techniques to assist in Positive Thinking like positive affirmations and focusing on good thoughts to name a few. You will leave this session knowing you can unleash the power of positive thinking and experience peace of mind and an ability to create the life you desire.



## A New Institute: Inspiring Children’s Wellness through Sustainable Food and Nutritional Practices, Menu Planning, Positive Food Experiences and Food Growing Opportunities

**8:30am Registration**

**8:45 to 10:45am All Participants - Nurturing Children’s Healthy Development**

Presenters: Patricia and Ginette, ECCDC Staff

*How Does Learning Happen? Ontario’s Pedagogy for the Early Years* offers educators guidance and reflection on the importance of incorporating daily practices that nurture children’s healthy development and support their growing sense of self. In this session, participants will have the opportunity to explore ways to set up a positive food environment, consider early experiences that encourage connection to food and conversation, reflect on what this could look like throughout their early learning environment, and how this information can be shared with families.



Presented *Via Webinar* (all sessions)

**Saturday March 4, 2023**

8:30am to 4:00pm

Niagara Educators: No charge  
*(sponsored through funding provided by Niagara Region Children’s Services)* - all sessions

Outside Niagara Educators: \$55

**10:45 to 11:00am - Break**



## **A New Institute: Inspiring Children’s Wellness through Sustainable Food and Nutritional Practices, Menu Planning, Positive Food Experiences and Food Growing Opportunities continued**

### **11:00am to 12:00pm Breakout Room (choose 1)**

#### **Option 1: Educating Children About Healthy Eating**

Presenter: Danielle Medina, Food for Life

Join Danielle Medina from Food for Life to explore skills needed to teach healthful eating habits to children in a fun and playful experience. During this session you will discuss the food groups as highlighted in Canada’s Food Guide (2019) and meal ideas and substitutions to provide engaging experiences with children. Participants will have the opportunity to explore room set-up and recipe ideas for cooking with children.

#### **Option 2: Gardening in Early Learning Environments: Grow, Harvest, Eat!**

Presenter: Garden Jane

Join Garden Jane for an inspiring webinar to learn strategies for creating planters with herbs and edibles with your kids. Learn how to use garden food in your programs and to offer young children an edible experience. Garden Jane will share design ideas and tips for getting started. Jane will walk you through some hands-on gardening activity ideas to use within your early learning and child care program. Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions about their own gardening projects or how to start an edible garden within the context of your own early learning space.

### **12:00 to 12:30pm Lunch and Learn: Cooking Demonstration**

### **12:30 to 1:00pm Lunch**

### **1:00 to 2:00pm Breakout Room (choose 1)**

#### **Option 1: Mindful Eating Experience with Elizabeth Skronski**

Presenter: Elizabeth Skronski, Certified Mindfulness Coach

Elizabeth will share key strategies for setting up an environment and experiences for children that will support a peaceful and calm environment and how to model a positive food experience as educators. The session will culminate with a mindfulness food experience, so participants are asked to bring their favourite snack.

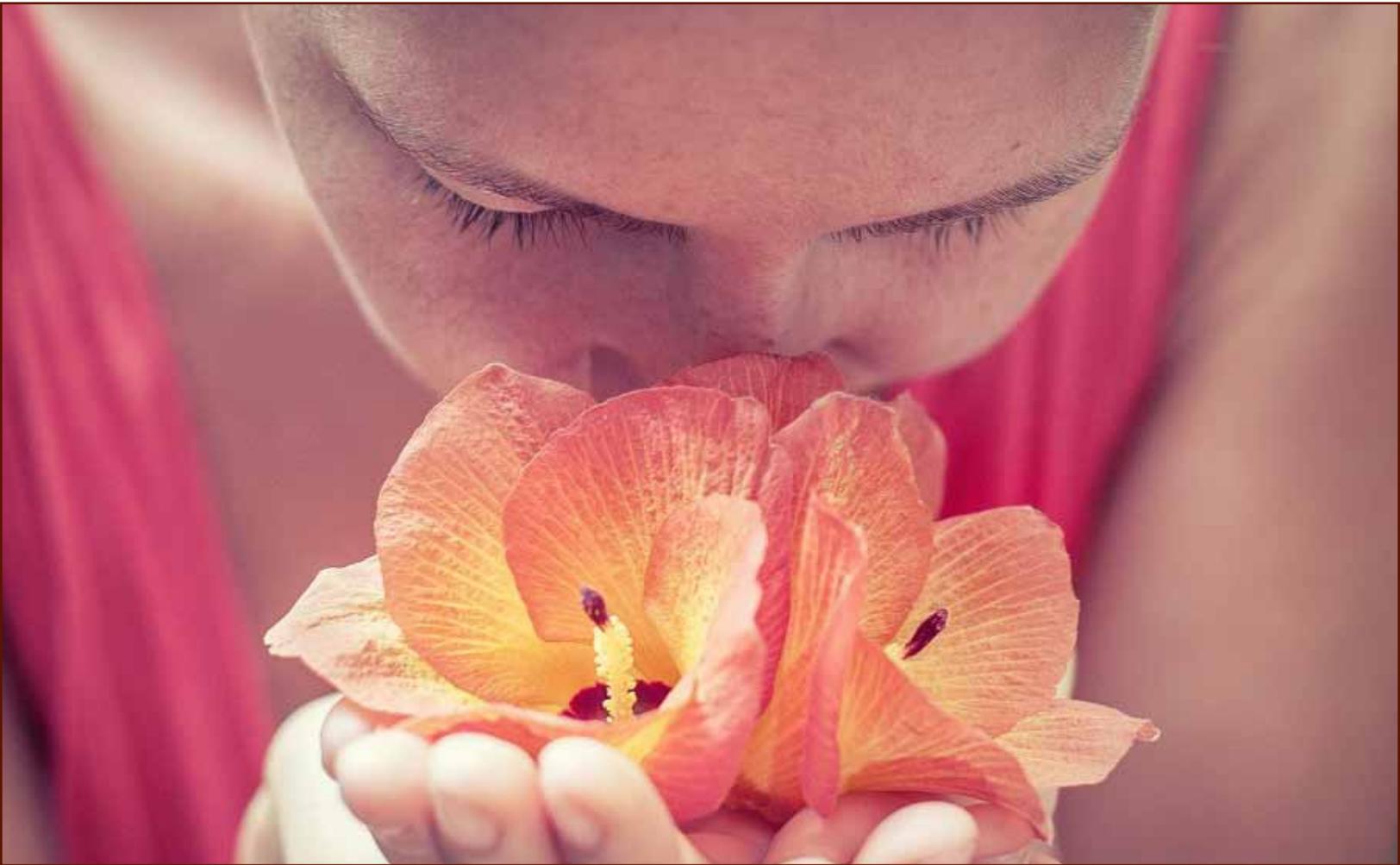
#### **Option 2: Menu Planning Using Canada’s Food Guide**

Participants will gain healthy menu planning strategies which consider all elements of Canada’s 2019 food guide and appropriate food options for children.

### **2:00 to 4:00pm All Participants - Cooking Connections: The Social Justice Implications of the Food We Feed Children**

Presenter: Valerie Trew, University of Guelph Early Learning Centre

Join Valerie Trew, Director of the University of Guelph Child Care and Learning Centre, for this webinar on the social justice implications of food. Learn about how food connects with racial injustice, the role of animal agriculture in environmental racism, how policies are making and keeping us sick and destroying the planet, and the role of early childhood environments in charting a more just and liveable future.



## Body and Mind for the Stressed-Out Educator *with* Ron Shuali

We all get stressed out for a variety of different reasons. That stress affects our minds, bodies, spirit, and all of the relationships that we have in our lives. This kinesthetic keynote is the stress relieving solution for all who attend. Participants will have opportunities to laugh out loud and learn how to increase their energy and relieve their stress through various breathing, stretching, and strengthening movements. Reduce or eliminate pain from your back, neck, knees, sciatic, and ankles gently and easily. Learn at least three different types of breathing exercises for different situations and the keynote will finish with a peaceful and relaxing meditation. Participants will leave the session feeling invigorated and happy.



Presented *Via Webinar*

**Thursday April 20, 2023**

6:30 to 8:30 pm

Niagara Educators: \$25

Outside Niagara Educators: \$55



# **Strengthening Early Learning Programs: Legislation and Small Business Operational Strategies**



## Inspiring Staff Performance: Moving from Managing Employees to Supporting their Leadership Development

Join with your peers to engage in conversations around stepping away from managing our Teams to inspiring them: inspiring them to grow, learn, and be the best professional they can be. This session will touch on how to inspire active change in performance in staff, how to support staff's growth, development, goal setting, and more.

### Conversations will include:

- Discussion on what it means to inspire change in staff performance
- How to support staff growth and learning
- Learn techniques to identify the cause of an employee's poor performance and how to successfully manage their performance
- Goal setting for staff performance management
- Strategies for motivating teams
- Gain knowledge on employee challenges you may face and tips and tricks for managing employee performance



Presented *Via Webinar*

**Wednesday October 19, 2022**

10:00am to 12:00pm

Niagara Administrators: No Charge

Outside Niagara Administrators: \$55



## **“Being the Best Supervisor You Can Be! The Making of a Life-Changing Mentor ... What Makes a Good Leader?” with Simmy Zaret**

*An Interactive Workshop for all Mentors, including Supervisors, Directors, Team Leaders, and anyone aspiring to take on a leadership role. Empowering participants with the critical components that make one a positive, effective, and inspirational leader. A good mentor inspires, a good mentor is unforgettable, a good mentor can make an impact that lasts a lifetime. As the supervisor or manager, you play a key role in the lives of all those with whom you work. You have the capacity to inspire, support, and strengthen those around you, bringing out the very best in each and every member of your team. In this workshop we'll explore the fundamental attributes of a motivational leader in order to best support your staff, build a cohesive team, provide constructive feedback, and foster a positive and productive environment for all. A good leader makes all the difference in the world. Join Simmy Zaret for the opportunity to engage in some fun and enlightening activities and facilitated discussions, as you gain a deeper understanding of the critical role you play and the positive influence you have, in assuring the best in quality care for the children and families coming to your early learning program.*



Presented *Via Webinar*

**Wednesday December 7, 2022**

10:00am-12:00pm

Niagara Administrators: \$45

Outside Niagara Administrators:  
\$55

*Please note the Executive Directors and Administrators Network Meeting will take place after this webinar from 12:00 to 2:00pm at the ECCDC.*



## From ECE to Child Care Leader - A New Supervisor's Guide

Becoming a supervisor for the first time can be an exciting, yet nerve wracking experience. You're in unfamiliar territory and maybe a little lost on where to go from here. Don't worry, you are not alone in feeling that way. All first-time supervisors have been there. This webinar takes an in-depth look at the best practices when starting a new supervisory role and will provide you with some tips and tricks that you won't want to miss. Within the webinar, we will focus on building community with staff, children, and families; leadership growth and development; and effective communication skills. Time will also be devoted to discussing burnout and how to prevent it. This session will provide a range of information you need to know to help prepare yourself for your new supervisor role and rock it!



Presented *Via Webinar*

**Thursday January 19, 2023**

4:00 to 6:00 pm

Niagara Administrators: No charge  
*(sponsored through funding provided by Niagara Region Children's Services)*

Outside Niagara Administrators: \$45

### **The workshop highlights are:**

- The diverse parts of your role, including Administrative, Customer Service, Marketing and Sales, Building Community, Being a Coach and Mentor, and Leadership
- We will look at how to prepare for the role
- The qualities of an exceptional leaders
- Strategies for success



## Simple Strategic Planning for the Busy Not for Profit Leader – A New Series! *with Shannon McMannis and Melanie Mears*

Join Shannon McMannis and Melanie Mears for this new webinar series to gain strategic planning strategies to support your short term or long term strategic plans to help achieve your organizational goals and to support your stakeholder engagement.

### **Day One: The Various Components of Strategic Planning**

Leaders of local early learning programs are invited to join this webinar to begin having conversations about the strategic planning process and the various components that are critical in developing a plan that is inclusive of board, staff and stakeholder engagement. Participants will consider why it is important for organizations to undergo a strategic planning process and will consider several elements that could be coordinated within a strategic planning including; an environmental scan and the development of surveys, interviews and focus groups.

### **Day Two: Developing Overall Strategic Directions and Specific Strategies**

Participants will join a second session to engage in dialogue about how to move through the various stages of strategic planning including the development or reassessment of organizational vision, mission and values and the difference between the development of strategic directions and specific strategies.

### **Day Three: Strategic Director and Strategy Measurement and Evaluating Your Strategic Planning Success**

Discussion will take place about methods and ideas for measuring progress and accomplishments for each strategy and overarching strategic direction. With the culmination of the series, leaders of local early learning programs will gain enhanced confidence in leading the strategic planning process and will have a menu of options to choose from.



Presented *Via Webinar* (all sessions)

**Day One**

**Thursday March 23, 2023**

**Day Two**

**Thursday April 6, 2023**

**Day Three**

**Thursday April 27, 2023**

9:30 to 11:30am (all sessions)

Niagara Administrators: \$55 for full series

Outside Niagara Administrators: \$75 for full series



## Managing Difficult Phone Calls

Handling difficult interactions on the phone is a challenging task, especially if the caller is in a heightened state of emotion. For many, the ability to navigate difficult phone conversations with respect and professionalism is an essential workplace skill. This workshop is designed to provide practical strategies for dealing with clients and customers over the phone who are in a heightened emotional state. Participants will learn over-the-phone techniques for de-escalating anger, resolving conflict, and communicating effectively.

### Some of the topics Include:

- The Complexity of Phone Communication
- Qualities of a Skilled Communicator
- Key Skills for the Phone – Tone, Volume, and Inflection
- Communication Style Test
- Practical Tips for Calming the Distressed Person
- Identifying and Prioritizing Issues Raised
- Delivering Bad News
- Effective Notetaking
- Politely Ending the Conversation

### At the end of this workshop, participants should be able to:

- Apply effective listening skills to enhance understanding
- Support emotionally heightened clients over the phone
- Problem-solve with clients for best outcomes
- Demonstrate a plan for delivering bad news



Presented *Via Webinar*

**Wednesday April 5, 2023**

9:30 to 11:30am

Niagara Administrators: \$45

Outside Niagara Administrators: \$55

*Please note the Executive Directors and Administrators Network Meeting will take place after this webinar from 11:30am to 1:30pm at the ECCDC.*



## Leadership and Culture: How to Create a Workplace Where People Like to Work

Based on the book, *The Culture Question*, this workshop provides a guide for how every organization can become a great place to work. Workplace culture is the most significant factor that influences employee engagement, work relationships, and job satisfaction. Culture determines whether your organization will succeed – or even survive. It profoundly affects both the quality of the products or services you provide and the lives of those who work in your organization. The good news is that culture is something we can influence. By exploring six key elements that make up a healthy workplace culture, participants will learn the answers to two fundamental questions: “How does your organization’s culture impact how much people like where they work?” and “What can leaders do to make it better?”  
*Please note: This workshop is taught by one of the four authors of The Culture Question: Randy Grieser, Eric Stutzman, Wendy Loewen, and Michael Labun.*

### Some of the topics Include:

- The Case for Caring About Culture
- Focus on Culture, Not Perks
- Workplace Cultural Health Assessment
- Communicating Your Purpose and Values
- Providing Meaningful Work
- Focusing Your Leadership Team on People
- Building Meaningful Relationships
- Creating Peak Performing Teams
- Practicing Constructive Conflict Management

### Learning Objectives

At the end of this workshop, participants should be able to:

- Recognize why a healthy culture is essential and a competitive advantage
- Understand the connection between culture and purpose
- Implement strategies for creating peak performing teams
- Incorporate key ideas for creating and sustaining a healthy workplace culture
- Follow a framework to change and maintain culture



Presented *Via Webinar*

**Wednesday June 7, 2023**

9:30 to 11:30am

Niagara Administrators: \$45

Outside Niagara Administrators: \$55

*Please note the Executive Directors and Administrators Network Meeting will take place after this webinar from 11:30am to 1:30pm at the ECCDC.*



# Inspiring Leadership in Early Learning and Child Care



## Making the Most of Your Professional Learning Experiences - New Series!

### Session One: Goal Setting for Your Professional Learning Experience

As educators, engaging in ongoing continuous professional learning is part of the cycle of learning. When educators register for a workshop, how do they plan their goals? In this session, participants will engage in discussions for goalsetting around the topics of self-reflection, strengthening daily practice, increased understanding of current theories and research, encouraging professional communication and collaboration with colleagues, and supporting their personal growth and development. Goalsetting plans, tools, and resources will be shared with participants for consideration and to incorporate within their learning journey.

### Session Two: Strategies for Sharing Learning with Colleagues to Leverage Information within Programs

In this session, participants will explore ways to share their learning from professional development sessions with their colleagues. Both virtual and in person approaches will be shared, as well as strategies that support multiple learning styles. Educators will also have the opportunity to network and reflect on how they share information with their staff teams. Participants will leave with ideas on how and why sharing information with colleagues will benefit their team.

### Session Three: Sharing Learning with Families and Community through Digital Media

In this session, participants will explore ways to share their learning from professional development sessions with families and community partners. Strategies for connecting with families, both virtually and in person, will be shared, as well as a variety of tools and platforms educators can use for daily communication and co-learning opportunities.



Presented *Via Webinar* (all sessions)

**Session One: Tuesday October 18, 2022**

**Session Two: Tuesday November 22, 2022**

**Session Three: Tuesday December 13, 2022**

6:30 to 9:00pm (all sessions)

Niagara Educators: No charge (*sponsored through funding provided by Niagara Region Children's Services*)

Outside Niagara Educators: \$55 for full series



## Celebrating a New Year: How to Create Ten Habits to Support Your Personal Growth and Learning *with* Debbi Sluys

Straight talk. It starts with you, not them. Clear old habits and replace them with ones that serve your purpose and support your Vision for your best life. This session is for those who have busy lives and are seeking to balance (blend) work and home life. Learn how to set goals and value the importance of self-care. Through this participatory workshop discover 10 tips for a better blended life. Uncover toxicity in your life and how to remove it. Find power in understanding the role your thoughts and focus determine your outcome.

### In this webinar, participants will learn:

- to better recognize and embrace the purpose of joy in your life
- uncover a proven framework to identify what you truly want.
- discover the 10 habits to commit to in order to achieve any goal



Presented *Via Webinar*

**Wednesday March 1, 2023**

6:30 to 8:30 pm

Niagara Educators: \$25

Outside Niagara Educators: \$55





## **Stress Management for Leaders** *with* **Natalie Royer**

In the current climate there is a need for staff in leadership roles such as Executive Directors, Supervisors, Program Managers and others who have multiple responsibilities for fulfilling organizational requirements, legislative policies, and overseeing staff to relieve the plethora of stress in their lives. However, stress management starts with a shift in mindset. In this webinar, leaders will engage in lively conversation and will gain strategies on how to start this shift and implement changes that will last a lifetime. Participants will leave the webinar equipped to develop a personalized wellness plan.

- Examine how to manage stress and facilitate these strategies with your team
- Learn how to apply the WAVE skill in your workplace and in your everyday life.



Presented *Via Webinar*

**Wednesday February 8, 2023**

12:00 to 2:00pm

Niagara Administrators: \$40

Outside Niagara Administrators: \$55

*Please note the Executive Directors and Administrators Network Meeting will take place before this webinar from 10:00am to 12:00pm at the ECCDC.*



## Next Steps for Supporting New Graduates - A Conversation Café on Successes, Barriers, and Future Opportunities

This workshop will support Supervisors in learning how to recognize the unique needs of new staff to help mentor and guide the staff member to success within a new Team that is inclusive of setting up environments to meet the needs of children, how to navigate through organizational policies and legislative requirements, team building and building strong relationships with families. Leaders are invited to join to dialogue about educator development and to create a plan to help ensure that new staff thrive within a circle of support and mentorship.



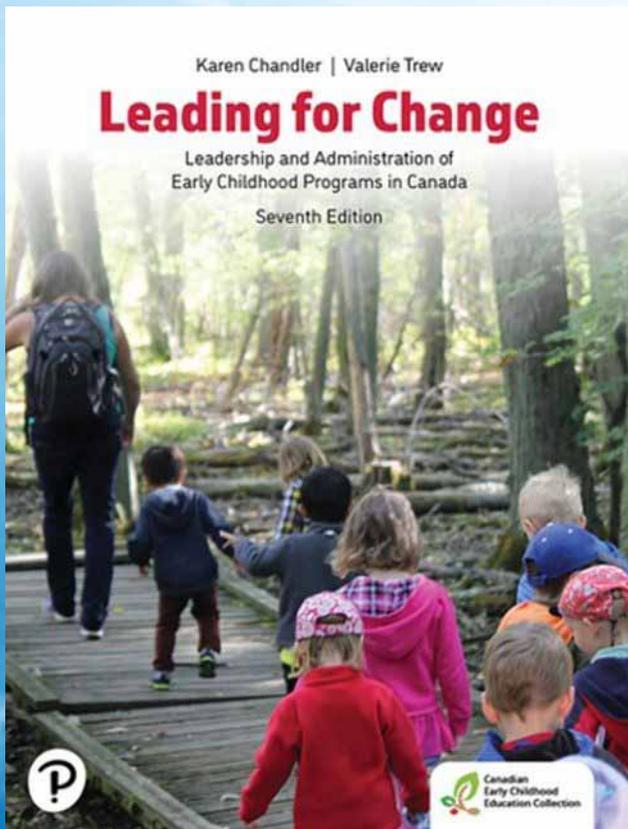
Presented *Via Webinar*

**Thursday June 22, 2023**

10:00am to 12:00 pm

Niagara Educators: No charge  
*(sponsored through funding provided by  
Niagara Region Children's Services)*

Outside Niagara Educators: \$55



## Leading for Change: Leadership and Administration of Early Childhood Programs in Canada, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition - Book Launch and Professional Learning Session

*(formerly Administering for Quality: Leading and Collaborating in Canadian Early Childhood Education Programs)*

In collaboration with the original author, Karen Chandler, this book - which is being updated and relaunched by Valerie Trew, Director of the University of Guelph Child Care and Learning Centre - is intended to facilitate early childhood educators' understanding of leadership, professional, and advocacy responsibilities. Considering that each educator's influence on young children and families is so lasting, it is important to be prepared for this commitment. A rich source of information for leaders at all levels, this book includes up-to-date Canadian statistics, highlighting current research, and identifies a variety of resources including vital web links.



Presented *In Person in Niagara* (3550 Schmon Parkway, Thorold) and *Via Live Stream* (6:30-9:00pm only)

**Tuesday June 6, 2023**

Meet the Author: 5:30 to 6:00 pm

Session: 6:30 to 9:00 pm

Niagara Administrators No charge  
*(sponsored through funding provided by Niagara Region Children's Services)*

Outside Niagara Administrators: \$55

The book may be purchased through the ECCDC. Please contact [eccdc@eccdc.org](mailto:eccdc@eccdc.org)



## Leadership and Integrity: The Leader with Integrity *with* Natalie Royer

Organizations are realizing that one of the most important qualities of a leader is integrity. What does this mean? Staff are more likely to stay if they are led by someone who exhibits integrity. This quality must be an integral part of your leadership team and prospective talent. Participants will:

- Gain an understanding of integrity and how it looks in the workplace
- Explore strategies for leaders that will exude integrity to your team
- Methods on how to ensure integrity is sustainable in toxic environments



Presented *Via Webinar*

**Wednesday May 10, 2023**

9:30 to 11:30 am

Niagara Administrators: \$45

Outside Niagara Administrators: \$65



## Delight! Excite! Inspire! Teach! – Creating a Fun and Motivating Learning Environment for Children Within Early Learning Environments

As Early Childhood Educators, you have the capacity to make a difference in the lives of the children you see in your centres every day! Yes, you certainly play a critical role! In this fun and team-building workshop we will celebrate your role, as well explore a broad range of strategies that can foster a stimulating and nurturing child care environment. Together we'll look at the means to create a setting rich in all the tools needed to help each child grow, learn, and reach his or her full potential; a place where each child is made to feel secure, confident, curious, and excited to explore and discover a world of wonder, joy, and awe!

Through a variety of interactive activities, discussion, and demos, this informative workshop will investigate the essential elements within a motivating, child-focused learning environment. Together we will zoom in on the critical components needed to ignite curiosity, assure understanding, impart practical skills, and heighten the emotional, social, and academic success among those in your care.

During this two-hour training session, you and other specially trained educators will come together to explore and share ideas pertaining to:

- The Vital Role You Play in the Lives of Those in Your Care
- The Impact Covid has had, in Working with the Children and your Colleagues
- Piaget's Stages of Early Childhood Cognitive Development
- Creative Child-Centred Program Planning Strategies
- Presentation Skills that Foster Engagement, Creativity, Fun, and Learning



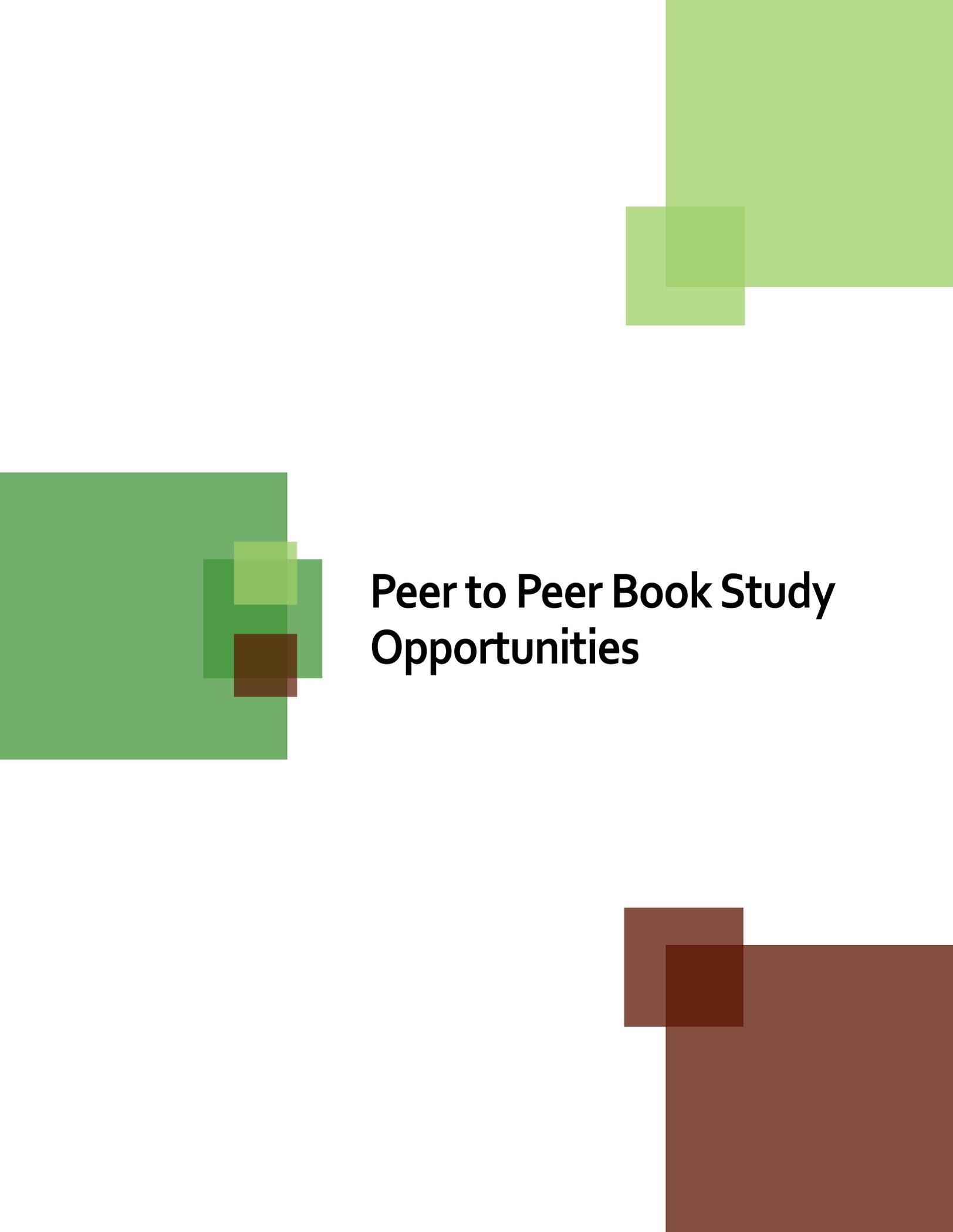
Presented *Via Webinar*

**Thursday June 1, 2023**

6:30 to 8:30pm

Niagara Educators \$45 (*sponsored through funding provided by Niagara Region Children's Services*)

Outside Niagara Educators: \$55

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# Peer to Peer Book Study Opportunities

## Love Builds Brains Book Study

Join us for an exciting new book study on Dr. Jean Clinton's latest book! *Love Builds Brains* lays out the early years journey of attachment, self-regulation, connection, resilience and well-being. Throughout the book, Dr. Jean Clinton invites us to examine our view of children and the ways in which this view impacts how we interact with them. In this book study we will engage in deep discussion and reflection on each section of the book, as we share thoughts and ideas surrounding child development.

### Session 1: An Introduction to the Brain, Attachment in the Early Years and the Importance of Serve and Return

During this session we will do a deep analysis of attachment and how it affects the developing brain. We will discuss how attachment is the building block of who we become and how we can optimize our interactions with young children to support their development.

### Session 2: Resilience and Recovery and the Power of Connection

Each child recovers from events and experiences in varying ways, based on their resilience. During this session we will discuss the factors that contribute to individual resilience and how our views of children impact their development.



Presented *Via Webinar* - all sessions

**Session 1: Tuesday September 27, 2022**

**Session 2: Tuesday October 18, 2022**

**Session 3: Tuesday November 8, 2022**

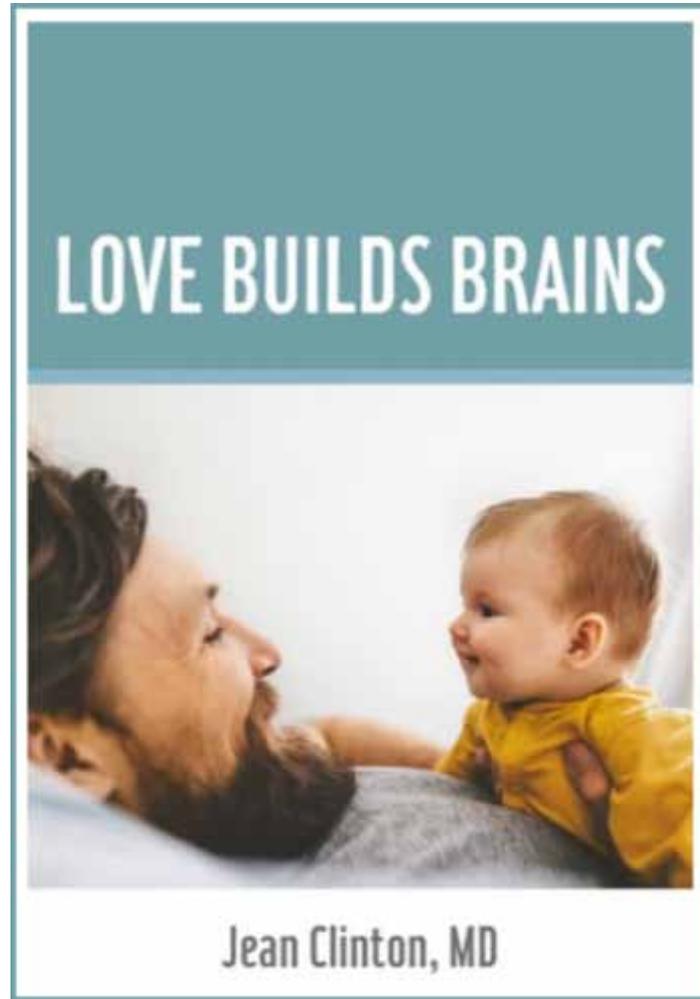
**Session 4: Wednesday November 30, 2022**

6:30 to 8:00pm - all sessions

Niagara Educators No charge (*sponsored through funding provided by Niagara Region Children's Services*)

Outside Niagara Educators: \$45

Participants may choose to purchase a copy of the book through ECCDC if they don't already own it

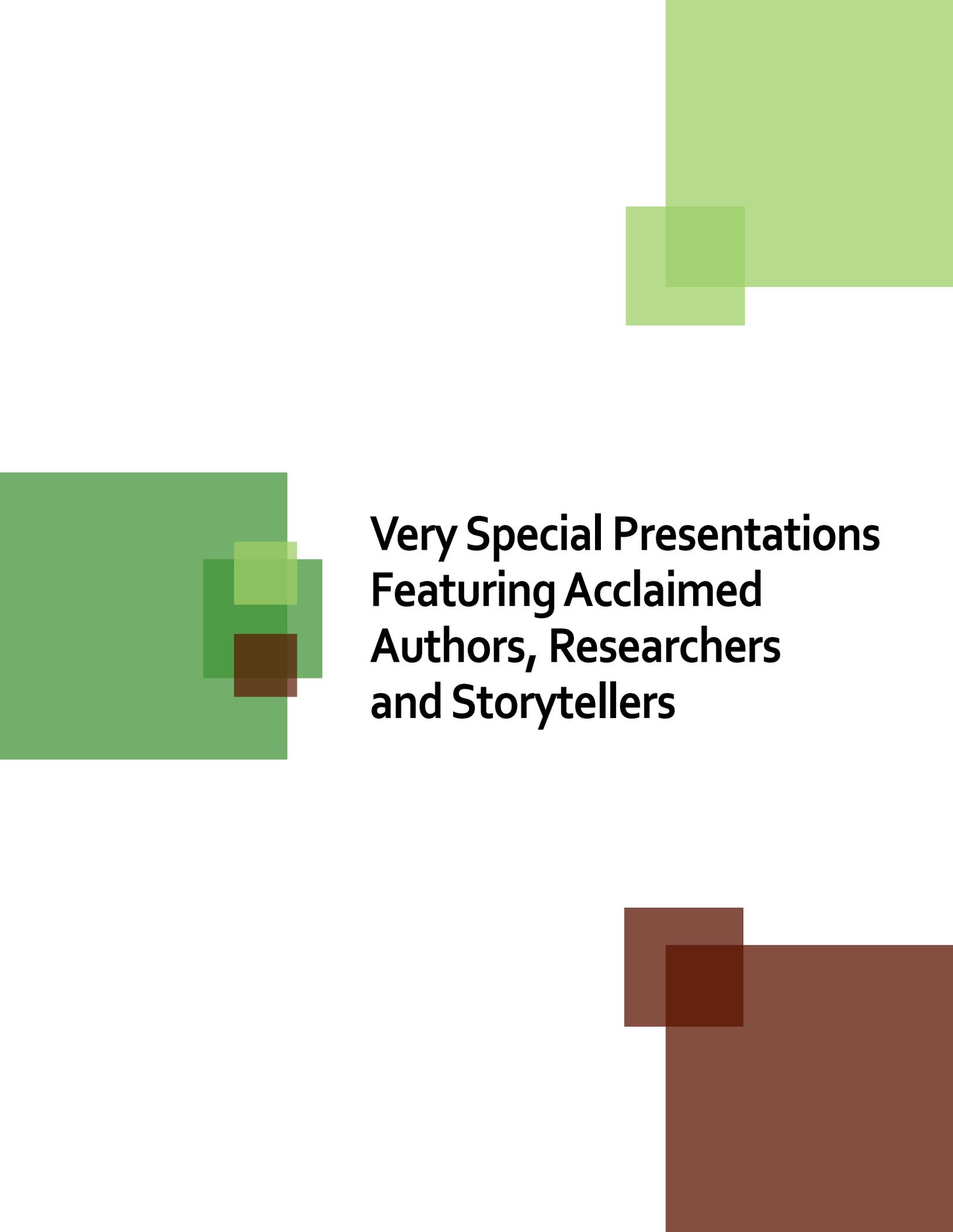


### Session 3: Infant and Preschool Mental Health and the Adolescent Brain Under Construction

In this session we will look at how early experiences that shape the architecture of the developing brain set the foundation for lifelong mental health. We will also explore how adolescence sees a significant time for growth and development in shaping the brain we take into adulthood.

### Session 4: Self-Regulation, Anxiety and the Impacts of the Digital World

Technology is everywhere. Join us as we look at how the use of technology may be linked to feeling stress and anxiety and how we can navigate the impact of a digital world.

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**Very Special Presentations  
Featuring Acclaimed  
Authors, Researchers  
and Storytellers**



## Collaboration, Curiosity and Connection: Why Communication Is the Key to Successful Change Management with Lindsay Lapaquette, M.Sc.(A)

What does it take to effect change more smoothly? Particularly when people are already worn down? People simply need to feel heard. Yes, change management requires a clear vision and a solid organizational strategy. But the foundation to any successful change management strategy lies in being able to navigate resistance with success, while simultaneously growing support and engagement for your new initiative. It requires aiming for collaboration rather than consensus, leaning into discomfort with an open mind and being able to leave people feeling heard, even when you disagree.

### Learning Outcomes:

- Learn how to set the groundwork for success for any organizational change
- Enhance your ability to influence change by recognizing where individuals sit in their current ability to embrace change
- Improve your ability to connect with and get buy-in from all members of your team
- Identify the root cause of resistance more quickly for decreased conflict through change
- Transform your ability to manage stressful moments during transitions and change

Lindsay Lapaquette, M.Sc.(A) works with middle managers who want to communicate authentically so they can effectively lead their teams without losing themselves. As a former Speech-Language Pathologist, Lindsay applies her expertise in the neuroscience of communication and connection to help managers foster an environment of trust and respect in their teams, so that everyone can bring their best selves to work.



Presented *Via Webinar*

Friday January 20, 2023

2:00 to 4:00pm

Niagara Administrators: \$45

Outside Niagara Administrators: \$55

# Inspiring Early Childhood Leadership Institute:

with Susan MacDonald



## The Upward Spiral: Key Strategies to Ignite Passion and Transform Program Quality

Positive strength-based energy is the key to transforming the quality of educational programs. Discover the benefits of creating a vibrant, engaging, and strength-based learning environment in which all children and adults thrive. We will examine how focused, intentional, inspirational leadership can mitigate the stress of new initiatives and standards and provide new perspectives and possibilities. Through active engagement in reflective learning activities, you will gain new tools to provide effective staff supervision, observation, feedback and develop strategies for overcoming setbacks. You will also have the opportunity to build a resource kit to guide you on the rewarding path of inspirational leadership.



Presented *in Person Reception and Dinner* (Ramada Beacon Harbourside Hotel, 2793 Beacon Boulevard, Jordan

**Friday November 11, 2022 - new date!**

6:30 registration; 7:00 to 9:00pm dinner and keynote

## Inspiring Early Childhood Leadership: Strategies to Ignite Passion and Possibility

This **full day** workshop lays out strategies designed to support program leaders in finding new ways to reduce the levels of stress on themselves and their staff, and move into a unified, engaging system for leading with passion, intention, and purpose. Through interactive experiences, you will explore well-researched, inspirational and motivational leadership techniques, with a focus on strength-based communication, program transformation, positivity and systemic change. Participants will work together focusing on these vital questions - **how can leaders:**

- motivate and inspire teachers?
- bring renewed energy, joy, engagement and intentionality into our learning communities?
- embrace and facilitate change?
- create healthy, dynamic workplace relationships in our respective contexts?
- reconnect to our own passion with a renewed sense of purpose in our work?

The fundamental goal of this workshop is to inspire and guide leaders to move past their current challenges toward a vision of new possibilities, leave refreshed, recharged, and ready to facilitate positive change in their daily work and learning communities.



Presented *in Person Saturday Full-day Workshop* (Ramada Beacon Harbourside Hotel\*, 2793 Beacon Boulevard, Jordan)

**Saturday November 12, 2022 - new date!**

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Niagara Educators: \$180 includes dinner and keynote on Friday and full day workshop including breakfast and lunch on Saturday, along with a copy of Susan MacDonald's book

Outside Niagara Educators: \$190

\*Accommodations may be made by calling the hotel directly at 905.562.4155 (quote "ECCDC" as the group code)



## Coping with Challenging Behaviour - A Series by Canadian Author Barbara Kaiser



Barbara Kaiser is the co-author of *Challenging Behavior in Young Children*. She has taught at Acadia University and at Concordia University and College Marie-Victorin. In addition to presenting workshops and keynote speeches on challenging behaviour throughout the United States, Canada, Australia, Singapore, and Europe, Barbara has acted as chief consultant for Facing the Challenge, an instructional DVD based on *Challenging Behaviour in Young Children* (Devereux Center for Resilient Children), and a workshop, *What Do You Do With the Mad That you Feel for Mr. Rogers'* Family Communications, Inc. Barbara founded and was the director of two child care centres and an after-school program. A master's degree in educational administration from McGill University gives her a firm theoretical foundation, but above all her perspective is practical, realistic, and compassionate, stemming from decades of working with children, families, and teachers.

## Coping with Challenging Behaviour - A Series by Canadian Author Barbara Kaiser continued

### Session One: "I Didn't Mean to Ruin Your Day" - Understanding Yourself and the Child

When you understand yourself, know which behaviours push your buttons, and recognize that a child's challenging behaviour is rooted in biological and environmental factors and not a desire to ruin your day, you are in a much better position to respond effectively. By bridging the gap between research and practice and bringing together information drawn from neuroscience, psychology, and special education, this session will help you understand why a child behaves in a particular way and make it much easier to effectively meet those needs.

### Session Two: "Nothing I Do Works!" - Preventing a Child's Challenging Behaviour

No strategy works in a vacuum. It is probably impossible to eliminate challenging behaviour entirely, but a lot of it can be prevented. Prevention is the best form of intervention. When the environment meets their physical, cognitive, emotional, and social needs, children feel competent and capable of success, and their challenging behaviour becomes less necessary. This means that every aspect of the environment—the social climate, the physical space, the curriculum, and your teaching strategies—must take each child's needs into account.



Presented *Via Webinar* (all sessions)

**Session One: Tuesday January 24, 2023**

**Session Two: Tuesday February 21, 2023**

**Session Three: Tuesday March 21, 2023**

**Session Four: Wednesday April 12 2023**

6:30 to 8:30pm (all sessions)

Niagara Educators No charge (*sponsored through funding provided by Niagara Region Children's Services*)

Outside Niagara Educators: \$65 for the full series

### Session Three: Where Is the Fairy Dust? - Responding Effectively to Children's Challenging Behaviour

Teachers often feel unable to help children with challenging behaviours to develop the skills they need to succeed, and as a result they may not be able to provide a safe setting for the other children in their classroom. Many of us keep doing something that doesn't feel right or have the desired outcome because we don't know what else to do. But you *can* respond effectively to a child's challenging behaviour when you have the appropriate knowledge, strategies, and skills.

### Session Four: Addressing Challenging Behaviour in Young Children - The Leadership Role

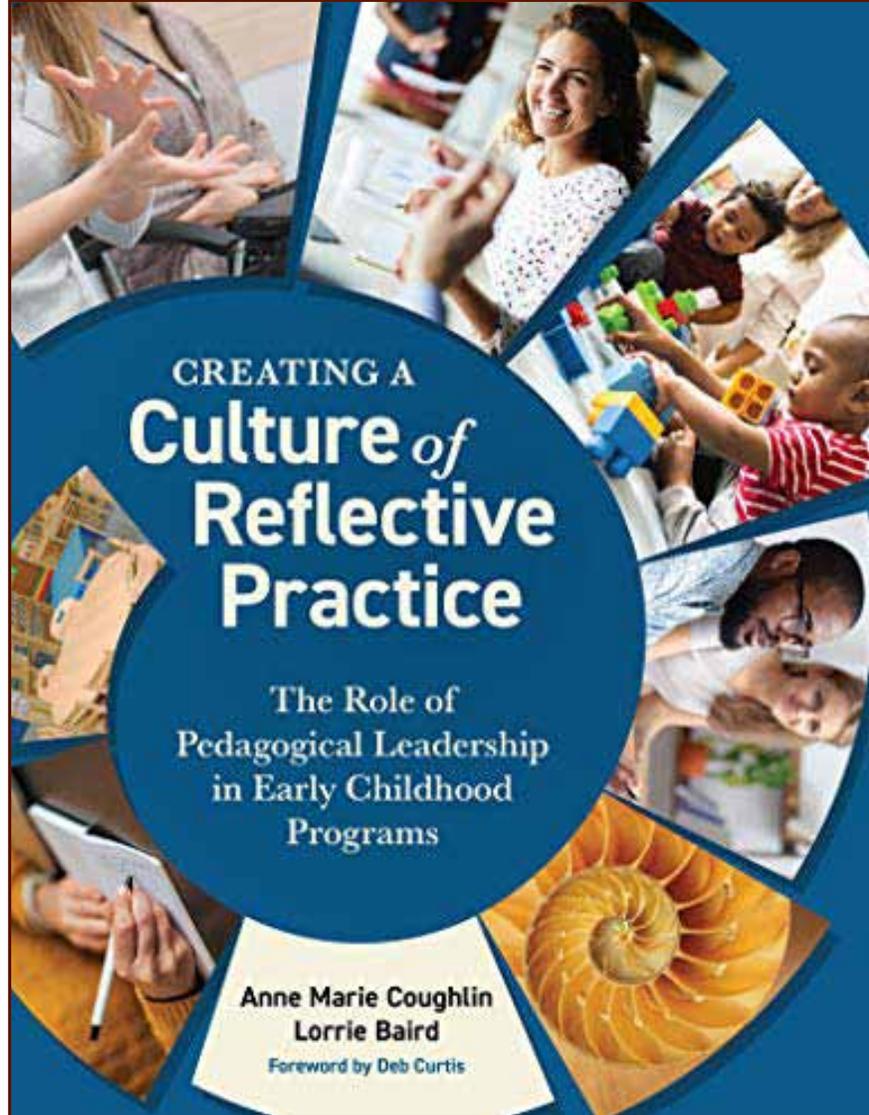
As the head of a team, leaders play a crucial role in making it possible for children with challenging behaviour to remain in child care/school, develop positive relationships with their peers and adults, learn appropriate ways to express their needs, and be ready to learn. However, these goals can only be met when leaders believe in them and have the skills to develop and lead a team that supports them. Possessing good leadership skills is just the beginning. Acting as an advocate for children, staff, and families pulls you in all directions at once and requires you to understand and respect everyone's needs and challenges.

# Creating a Culture of Reflective Practice: The Role of Pedagogical Leadership in Early Childhood Education Programs - Book Signing and Full Day Institute *with* Anne Marie Coughlin and Lorrie McGee Baird

We are living in a rapidly changing world, where we are becoming more aware of the societal and environmental challenges that impact all of us. As people who live and work with the earth's youngest humans, we make decisions every day that have an extraordinary impact on children, ourselves, and our communities. As early childhood educators and leaders, how might we start to evolve our approach to early learning and take up the work of creating inclusive, vibrant learning communities in a way that is responsive to our times? How might we nurture an approach to leadership that is constructed around relationships rather than rules? How do we focus our teaching practices on compassion, curiosity, imagination, experimentation, collaboration, innovation, and kindness? As the field of early learning continues to grow and evolve, we must consider the impact of our approaches to working with adults and children. Early childhood professionals and leaders need to reconcile the responsibility between never-ending administrative tasks, ensuring program quality and supporting the growth of others. This institute takes a comprehensive, practical look at creating systems, structures and protocols for supporting people in large and small organizations, and individuals working as mentors, coaches or pedagogical leaders to invite educators into a thinking and learning process about their work. Participants will develop the skills and mindsets that can enhance their performance and effect organizational change. The institute will offer stories and structures connected to four principles of pedagogical leadership with specific ideas to enhance the work of educational leaders from a place of values and vision.

## In this Institute, we will discuss:

- Building strong relationships
- Seeing and supporting strengths and competencies
- Supporting professional learning in multiple ways



Presented *In Person in Niagara* (3550 Schmon Parkway, Thorold)

**Friday April 21, 2023 and Saturday April 22, 2023**

5:30 to 7:00pm Book Signing and Meet the Authors

Full Day Institute from 9:00am to 4:30pm

Niagara Educators: \$75

Outside Niagara Educators: \$85

The book may be purchased through the ECCDC by calling 905.646.7311 ext. 304

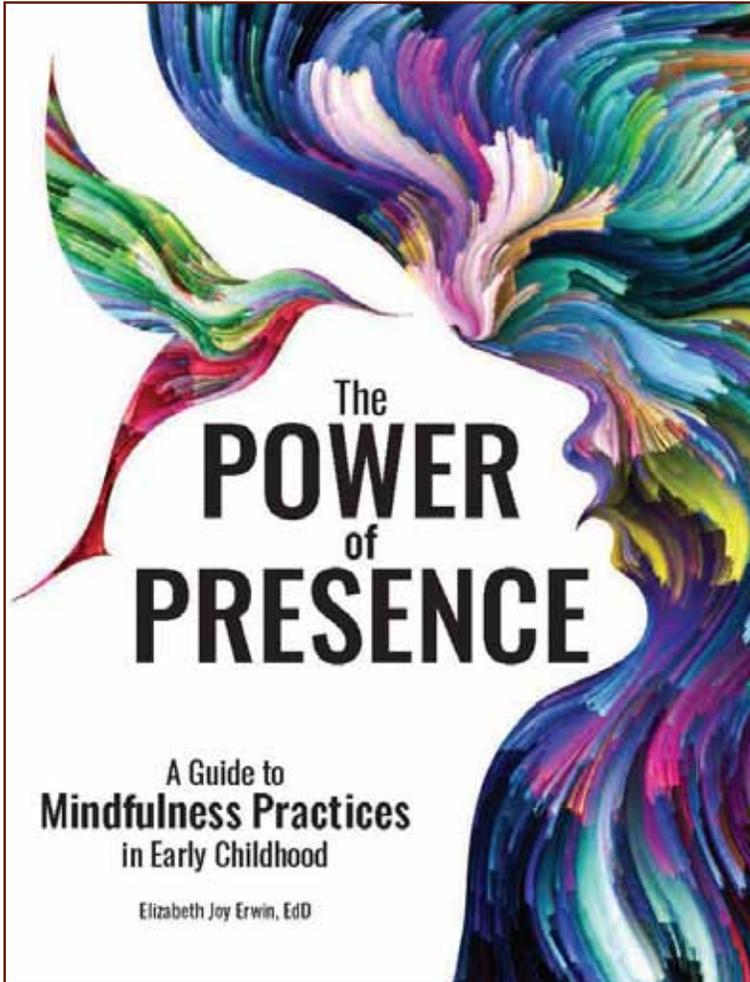


Coming in spring 2023, watch for more details soon!

## Talking with and Listening to Kids About Truth and Reconciliation *with* Monique Gray Smith

Monique will share her personal journey of truth and reconciliation and how that journey has transformed her and her family. You will learn ways to have conversations with children and young people about Canada's history, with a focus on Residential Schools. She will discuss the importance of your knowledge and understanding of Canada's history and how you may be learning alongside the children/young people in your life. Monique will share stories and offer readings from her various books and will provide insight into how to use books, stories, and video as tools to support your discussions with children and young people. Monique will share information on stress and trauma and what happens in our bodies as adults and in the bodies of the children we love and care for when we experience stress and/or trauma. This will be an uplifting, informative, and inspiring evening.

*Monique Gray Smith is a proud mom of teenage twins and an award-winning, best-selling author. Her first published novel, Tilly: A Story of Hope and Resilience won the 2014 Canadian Burt Award for First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Literature. Since then, Monique has had 7 books come out that cover a broad spectrum of ages, topics and emotions. Woven into all of Monique's writing, speaking engagements and online courses is the teaching that Love is Medicine. Monique's novel, Tilly and the Crazy Eights was longlisted for Canada Reads 2021. She is an appointed member of the Board of Directors of Royal Roads University and the Minister's Advisory Council for Indigenous Women for the Government of BC and an elected Board member for the Victoria Native Friendship Centre. In 2019 Monique received the Victoria Leadership Award for Reconciliation. Monique is Cree, Lakota, and Scottish and has been sober and involved in her healing journey for over 30 years. She is well known for her storytelling, spirit of generosity and focus on resilience.*



## Planting and Cultivating Seeds of Mindfulness in Early Learning *with* Author Elizabeth Joy Erwin

The purpose of this series is to critically examine the joy and power of presence in education. Dr. Elizabeth Joy Erwin discusses:

- Why we have so much to learn from children, especially the youngest ones
- How to develop a culture of mindfulness and how to maintain it over time
- Simple mindfulness practices to engage in starting now

Participants will gain a deeper understanding of how to practice mindfulness together with young children. By discovering how to integrate simple ideas and practical strategies to calm the body and quiet the mind, educators can select the exact tools they want to ensure all children learn and thrive. Additional benefits of attending this series will include thinking more expansively about the connections between social justice and mindfulness and exploring why reflective inquiry can transform our own learning and teaching. Through a variety of diverse educator, family, and child voices, participants will gain knowledge and tools for a wide menu of classroom-based and individualized mindfulness practices (i.e., breathing, meditation, yoga, guided imagery).

### Session 1: What Does It Mean to Be Mindful?

### Session 2: Inclusiveness and the Early Childhood Classroom

### Session 3: Deepening Mindfulness Practices and Pedagogy in an Early Learning Environment



Presented **Via Webinar**

Session 1 - Tuesday March 28, 2023

Session 2 - Tuesday May 23, 2023

Session 3 - Tuesday June 20, 2023

6:30 to 8:00 pm - all sessions

Niagara Educators: \$45 for the full series

Outside Niagara Educators: \$60 for the full series

*If you wish to purchase a copy of the book through the ECCDC please reach out to our lending library team at [eccdc@eccdc.org](mailto:eccdc@eccdc.org)*



## 101 Ways to Supercharge Your Professional Development: A Learning Institute *with* International Speaker and Author Susan MacDonald

### Friday Evening Keynote Presentation and Book Signing with Susan - Supercharge Your Professional Learning Experiences!

Creating professional learning experiences that truly engage and inspire adult learners can be challenging. You will need a clear plan to keep staff motivated and invested in their ongoing professional growth. Discover innovative and concrete strategies for designing and delivering impactful professional development.

In this workshop, you will gain new ideas for establishing learning communities where adults are empowered with the mindset, focus, and motivation to achieve their professional goals. You will also learn about a wide range of resources to help you expand your repertoire of activities and practices to create or support a diverse community of adult learners.

Saturday's session will include a variety of learning experiences that participants can adapt and replicate in their staff meetings and trainings.



Presented *in Person Reception and Dinner* (Ramada Beacon Harbourside Hotel, 2793 Beacon Boulevard, Jordan)

### Friday May 12, 2023

6:30 registration; 7:00 to 9:00pm dinner and keynote

Presented *in Person Saturday Full-day Workshop* (Ramada Beacon Harbourside Hotel\*, 2793 Beacon Boulevard, Jordan)

### Saturday May 13, 2023

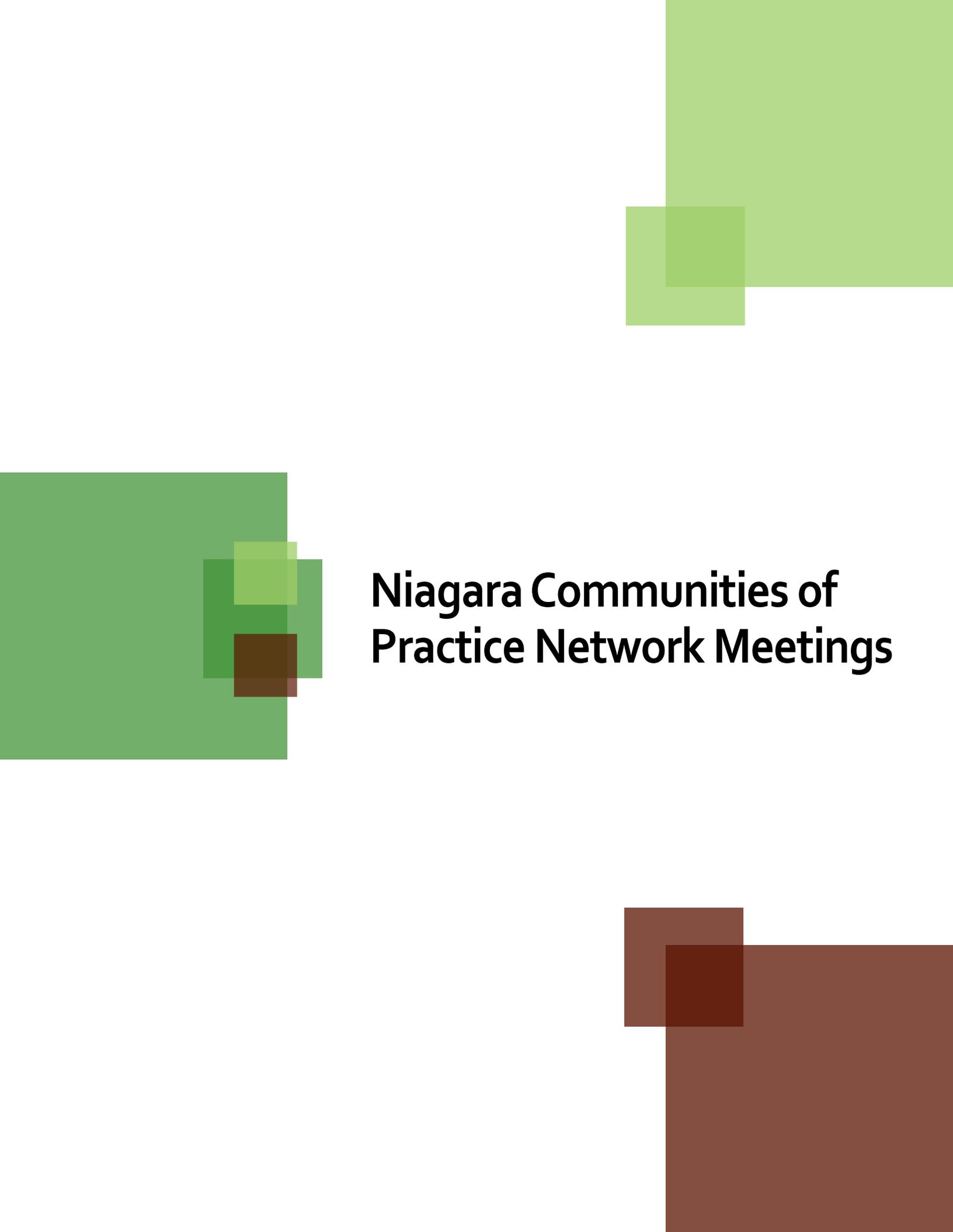
9:00am to 3:00pm

Niagara Educators & Administrators: \$125 includes dinner and keynote on Friday and full day workshop including breakfast and lunch on Saturday

Outside Niagara Educators & Administrators: \$150

*Susan's book will be available to purchase.*

\*Accommodations may be made by calling the hotel directly at 905.562.4155 (quote "ECCDC" as the group code)



# Niagara Communities of Practice Network Meetings



ECCDC's organizational support team would like to invite Niagara's educators to join their colleagues for discussion and reflection through community of practice networks in a peer to peer setting. We hope to offer these network meetings in person if possible, based on direction from Niagara Region Public Health. If that's not possible, the network meetings will be offered via Zoom. The Networks will be exploring concepts and ideas related to current trends and research in the early learning field such as engaging families, documentation, outdoor play and environments. During the networks, educators will be provided an opportunity to connect, listen, and consider next steps for their daily practice. If you have any questions or ideas you would like added to the agenda for the network to explore, please send them to [eccdc@eccdc.org](mailto:eccdc@eccdc.org).

## Engage and Connect with Quality Child Care Niagara

The QCCN Team invites you to join our QCCN Community Conversation Cafés for a drop-in chat via Zoom, in order to come together as a community of practice and to connect with your Niagara child care colleagues as well as answer any questions you have about Quality Child Care Niagara.

### **QCCN Community Conversation Café: The Level of Support Visit Process**

As part of the QCCN program, centres may receive a customized support visit to connect and have conversation about the QCCN Tools and Resources, how they are being implemented in their program, what strategies have been put in place to support the children, educators, and families in the program.

Join the QCCN team live to learn more about the new Level of Support Visit Process and how Quality Child Care Niagara can support your program. During this Community Conversation Café, you'll have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss what the support visit process may look like for your unique centre from how to prepare for a visit to what the follow up process looks like.

**Monday September 26, 2022 • 6:30 to 7:30pm**

### **QCCN Community Conversation Café: Fostering QCCN Champions and Mentorship in Your Program**

Having a QCCN Champion or Mentor in your program provides numerous benefits - from providing space for educators to learn from one another to promoting leadership opportunities as well as developing goals and action planning to effectively grow on our teams strengths.

In this café, we will consider and discuss what is a QCCN champion or mentor, what do they do in your program and what are the benefits of having a champion or mentorship opportunities.

**Thursday October 27, 2022 • 6:30 to 7:30pm**

### **QCCN Community Conversation Café: Preparing for a New Year with QCCN**

In early learning and child care, we know that every group of children we teach is unique. Starting our year building positive connections with the families and setting clear expectations on the tools and resources we use in our programs will build the foundation for quality care and build on the excitement of a new year.

Please join us as we discuss practical ways to approach the QCCN portfolio of tools to plan for the 2022-2023 year ahead. We will explore how we can connect with families during the orientation process, the timelines for completing the QCCN tools, and explore the flexibility of the developmental resources so you can approach the year with confidence.

**Thursday November 24, 2022 • 6:30 to 7:30pm**



## Niagara Networks Fall 2022 (September to December 2022)

Join Niagara's organizational support team for reflection and conversation through the Community of Practice Network meetings. Each network will have an opportunity for educators to connect with others working with specific age ranges and similar interests. There will also be opportunities to explore a resource specific to their network. All network meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. A Zoom link and agenda will be sent to registered participants prior to the meeting.

### **Executive Directors and Administrators Network (formerly Executive Directors Network)**

The Executive Directors and Administrators Network meeting will take place following the session: Being the Best Supervisor You Can Be! The Making of a Life-changing Mentor ... What Makes a Good Leader with Simmy Zaret. For more details on this session, please refer to page 59.

- **Wednesday December 7, 2022 • 12:00 to 2:00pm**

### **Licensed Child Care Supervisors Network**

Supervisors will have an opportunity to network with their colleagues to reflect upon tools and resources to support their team. The Fall network meeting will focus on supporting educator teams with planning indoor environments that spark children's curiosity. Supervisors are encouraged to share tools, resources, and strategies they use when supporting their educator team to intentionally plan indoor environments. Supervisors are invited to bring photos and/or learning stories about their centre's journey over the last few months. Time will be included for engaging in round table discussion and brainstorming solutions to challenges.

- **Thursday September 15, 2022 • 9:30 to 11:00am**

### **New to Early Learning Network**

If you have graduated in the last three years or are about to graduate as an Early Childhood Educator, this network will provide opportunities for educators to connect and engage in reflective conversations with other early learning professionals new to the field from across Niagara. The network will provide opportunities to reflect upon a resource chosen specifically for new educators and take part in a mindfulness experience that can be used in their daily practice with children. The Fall network meeting will focus on intentionally planning early learning environments that spark children's curiosity. Participants are invited to bring photos of what their programs have been working on over the past few months. There will be opportunities to engage in a round table discussion to share challenges and brainstorm solutions.

- **Tuesday September 20, 2022 • 5:30 to 7:00pm**



## Licensed Child Care Cooks Network

The Cooks Network provides opportunities to connect with fellow cooks; to share experiences and reflect upon challenges while collaborating to find solutions. During their time together participants will have an opportunity to experience a mindfulness exercise and share recipes. The focus for the Fall network will be the revised Canada Food Guide. Participants are encouraged to share ideas regarding how their programs are incorporating the revised Canada Food Guide into their programs.

- Thursday September 15, 2022 • 3:00 to 4:30pm

## Nature Alliance Network

We invite you to join this network for those who have an interest in bringing nature to preschool and school age children. During the Fall network we will be focusing on the impact that nature-based outdoor programming has on children's social and emotional learning. There will be opportunities to engage in discussions regarding challenges and to collaboratively brainstorm solutions, along with opportunities to share photos and/documentation of the nature experiences their children engage in.

- Thursday September 15, 2022 • 5:30 to 7:00pm

The following networks will offer educators time to connect with colleagues working in the same age range. Educators will have an opportunity to reflect upon a resource chosen specifically for their age group and take part in a mindfulness experience that can be used in their daily practice with children. The Fall network meeting will focus on intentionally planning early learning environments that spark children's curiosity. Educators are encouraged to bring resources and tools they use in indoor environments to share and explore with fellow educators. Participants are invited to bring photos reflecting what they are noticing and seeing the children explore in their indoor environments. There will be opportunities to engage in a round table discussion to share challenges and brainstorm solutions.

## Infant and Toddler Network

- Thursday September 15, 2022 • 7:00 to 8:30pm

## Preschool Network

- Tuesday September 20, 2022 • 7:00 to 8:30pm

## School Age Network

- Tuesday September 20, 2022 • 9:30 to 11:00am

## Niagara Networks Winter 2023 (January to March 2023)

We invite you to join Niagara's organizational support team for reflection and conversation through the Community of Practice Network meetings. Each network will have an opportunity for educators to connect with educators working with specific age ranges and similar interests. There will also be opportunities to explore a resource specific to their network. An agenda and resource will be sent out to registered participants for review prior to the meeting.

### **Executive Directors and Administrators Network (formerly Executive Directors Network)**

The Executive Directors and Administrators Network meeting will take place prior to the session Stress Management for Leaders with Natalie Royer. For more details on this session, please refer to page 67.

- **Wednesday February 8, 2023 • 10:00am to 12:00pm**

### **Licensed Child Care Supervisors Network**

Supervisors will have an opportunity to network with their colleagues to reflect upon tools and resources to support their team. The Winter network meeting will focus on supporting educator teams with planning for play-based experiences starting with the children's interests. Supervisors are encouraged to share tools, resources, and strategies they use when supporting their educator team to intentionally plan play-based, interest-led experiences for children. Supervisors are invited to bring photos and/or learning stories about their centre's journey over the last few months. Time will be included for engaging in round table discussion and brainstorming solutions to challenges. We are hopeful that public health guidelines will enable this network to be held in an early learning and child care centre.

- **Thursday January 26, 2023 • 9:30 to 11:00am**

### **New to Early Learning Network**

This network is for those who have graduated in the last three years or are about to graduate as an Early Childhood Educator. The network will provide opportunities for educators to connect and engage in reflective conversations with other early learning professionals new to the field from across Niagara. The network will provide opportunities to reflect upon a resource chosen specifically for new educators and take part in a mindfulness experience that can be used in their daily practice with the children. The Winter network meeting will focus on planning play-based experiences starting with the children's interests. Educators are encouraged to bring resources and tools they use when planning for play, based on children's interests, to share and explore with the group. Participants are invited to bring photos reflecting what they are noticing and seeing their children explore in their programs. There will be opportunities to engage in a round table discussion to share challenges and brainstorm solutions. We are hopeful that public health guidelines will enable this network to be held in an early learning and child care centre.

- **Wednesday February 8, 2023 • 5:30 to 7:00pm**



## **Licensed Child Care Cooks Network**

The Cooks Network will have opportunities to connect with fellow cooks to share experiences and reflect upon challenges while collaborating to find solutions. During their time together participants will have an opportunity to experience a mindfulness exercise and share recipes. The focus for the Winter network will be plant-based food. Participants are encouraged to share ideas regarding how they are incorporating the revised Canada Food Guide into their programs. This network meeting will be held at the ECCDC and participants will have an opportunity to explore the resources available at the ECCDC.

- **Thursday January 26, 2023 • 3:00 to 4:30pm**

## **Nature Alliance Network**

Join the ECCDC and fellow participants who have an interest in bringing nature to preschool and school age children. During the Winter network we will be exploring the forest school approach. There will be opportunities to engage in discussion regarding challenges and collaboratively brainstorming solutions, along with opportunities to share photos and/or documentation of the nature experiences their children engage in. We are hopeful that public health guidelines will allow for this network meeting to be held at an early learning program that adopts a forest school approach.

- **Thursday January 26, 2023 • 5:30 to 7:00pm**

The following networks will offer educators time to connect with colleagues working in the same age range. During the network meeting educators will have an opportunity to reflect upon a resource chosen specifically for their children's age group and take part in a mindfulness experience that can be used in their daily practice with the children. The Winter network meeting will focus on planning play-based experiences starting with the children's interests. Educators are encouraged to bring resources and tools they use when planning for play, based on children's interests, to share and explore with the group. Participants are invited to bring photos reflecting what they are noticing and seeing their children explore in their programs. There will be opportunities to engage in a round table discussion to share challenges and brainstorm solutions. We are hopeful that public health guidelines will enable each of these networks to be held at an early learning and child care centre.

## **Infant and Toddler Network**

- **Thursday January 26, 2023 • 7:00 to 8:30pm**

## **Preschool Network**

- **Wednesday February 8, 2023 • 7:00 to 8:30pm**

## **School Age Network**

- **Wednesday February 8, 2023 • 1:30 to 3:00pm**

## Niagara Networks Spring 2023 (April to June 2023)

We invite you to join Niagara's organizational support team for reflection and conversation through the Community of Practice Network meetings. Each network will have an opportunity for educators to connect with educators working with specific age ranges and similar interests. There will also be opportunities to explore a resource specific to their network. An agenda and resources will be sent out to registered participant for review prior to the meeting.

### Executive Directors and Administrators Network (formerly Executive Directors Network)

The Executive Directors and Administrators Network meeting in April will take place following the session Managing Difficult Phone Calls. For more details on this session, please refer to page 62. The June meeting will take place following the session Leadership and Culture: How to Create a Workplace Where People Like to Work. For further details, please refer to page 63.

- Wednesday April 5, 2023 • 11:30am to 1:30pm
- Wednesday June 7, 2023 • 11:30am to 1:30pm

### Licensed Child Care Supervisors Network

Supervisors will have an opportunity to network with their colleagues to reflect upon tools and resources to support their team. The Spring network meeting will focus on supporting educator teams with making children's learning visible through the use of pedagogical documentation. Supervisors are encouraged to share examples of the pedagogical documentation that is used in their centres. Participants are invited to bring photos of their centre's journey over the last few months. Time will be included for engaging in round table discussion and brainstorming solutions to challenges. We are hopeful that public health guidelines will enable this network to be held at an early learning and child care centre.

- Thursday May 4, 2023 • 9:30 to 11:00am

### New to Early Learning Network

If you have graduated in the last three years or you are about to graduate as an Early Childhood Educator, then this network is for you. The network will provide opportunities for educators to connect and engage in reflective conversations with other early learning professionals new to the field from across Niagara. The network will provide opportunities to reflect upon a resource chosen specifically for new educators and take part in a mindfulness experience that can be used in their daily practice with the children. The Spring network meeting will focus on making children's learning visible through the use of pedagogical documentation. Educators are encouraged to bring examples of pedagogical documentation that they use in their programs, to share and explore with the group. Participants are invited to bring photos reflecting what they are noticing and seeing their children explore in their programs. There will be opportunities to engage in a round table discussion to share challenges and brainstorm solutions. We are hopeful that public health guidelines will enable this network to be held in an early learning and child care centre.

- Wednesday May 10, 2023 • 5:30 to 7:00pm



## Licensed Child Care Cooks Network

The Cooks Network will have opportunities to connect with fellow cooks to share experiences and reflect upon challenges while collaborating to find solutions. We are hopeful that public health guidelines will enable the network to take place at the Superstore where there will be an opportunity to participate in a cooking class with meal recipes to take away.

- **Thursday May 4, 2023 • 3:00 to 4:30pm**

## Nature Alliance Network

Join the ECCDC and fellow participants who have an interest in bringing nature to preschool and school age children. We are hopeful that public health guidelines will enable this Spring network meeting will be held at Heartland Forest. Participants will be given a tour of the facility with an overview of the nature-based experiences that are on offer. There will be opportunities to engage in discussion regarding challenges and collaboratively brainstorming solutions, along with opportunities to share photos and/documentation of the nature experiences their children engage in.

- **Thursday May 4, 2023 • 5:30 to 7:00pm**

The following networks will offer educators time to connect with colleagues working in the same age range. During the network meeting educators will have an opportunity to reflect upon a resource chosen specifically for their age group and take part in a mindfulness experience that can be used in their daily practice with the children. The Spring network meeting for infant and toddler and preschool groups will focus on making children's learning visible through the use of pedagogical documentation. The school age network meeting will focus on making children's learning visible through the use of pedagogical documentation and how educators can engage and empower school age children in the process of development documentation. Educators are encouraged to bring examples of pedagogical documentation that they use in their programs, to share and explore with the group. Participants are invited to bring photos reflecting what they are noticing and seeing their children explore in their programs. There will be opportunities to engage in a round table discussion to share challenges and brainstorm solutions. We are hopeful that public health guidelines will enable these networks to be held in an early learning and child care centre.

## Infant and Toddler Network

- **Thursday May 4, 2023 • 7:00 to 8:30pm**

## Preschool Network

- **Wednesday May 10, 2023 • 7:00 to 8:30pm**

## School Age Network

- **Wednesday May 10, 2023 • 1:30 to 3:00pm**



## Organizational Supports and Professional Learning Planning for Your Team: A Benefit of ECCDC Membership

### Administration and Operational Supports Include

- Executive Director and Supervisor Mentoring
- Organizational reviews
- Support in developing policies and procedures
- Performance management and team building
- Board Development
- IT Supports: Hardware, Software, Training, and website design
- Financial Management
- Marketing and Communications including Signage, flyers and packages.
- Furniture, resource and supply purchasing
- Customized Training

### Educator Resources include

- Indoor Environmental Design
- Outdoor Playground Design
- Curriculum and Pedagogy Planning
- Purchasing of Resources
- Customized Training
- Private Meeting Space for Staff Meetings and Tours

### Supporting Teams with Goal Setting and Professional Learning Planning

- **Step One Identifying Your Organizational Goals:** These goals could be based on parent and staff feedback, strategic planning, your Program Statement, board prerogatives, and/or longstanding wishes.
- **Step 2 Designing a Skills and Knowledge Inventory:** We will work with you to create a skills and knowledge inventory that identifies all of the specific skills that your staff need to fulfill your organizational mission, program statement and to meet your clients' needs.
- **Step 3 Developing a Professional Learning Plan:** We will combine results from both of these tools to help you identify the specific training and resources that would be most beneficial for you and your Team to fulfill your goal setting.

**To find out more about our Organizational Memberships,** call 905.646.7311 ext. 304 or email [eccdc@eccdc.org](mailto:eccdc@eccdc.org).



**Looking for personal protective equipment?** The ECCDC has disposable masks and gloves, disinfectant wipes and spray, face shields and hand sanitizer available to purchase in our E-Store at <https://eccdc.org/product-category/ppe-products/>

The ECCDC extends gratitude to Niagara Region Children's Services for subsidizing costs associated with many of our programs and services in support of Niagara Region's early learning programs.



**eccdc**

Early Childhood Community Development Centre

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Any of the sessions you read about in esteem can be customized to meet the individualized needs of your program or organization.