

Cultivating Connections

A MONTHLY PROFESSIONAL LEARNING,
RESOURCE, AND MENTORING NEWSLETTER
brought to you by the ECCDC Team

Let's Talk Leadership!



Welcome to the May 2026 issue of Cultivating Connections: A Monthly Professional Learning, Resource and Mentoring Newsletter brought to you by the ECCDC Team.

Let's talk leadership! This month's newsletter is packed with our favourite resources, professional learning opportunities, and ECCDC services to support your leadership journey every step of the way. Whether you're just starting out or leading with experience, we're here to help you grow and connect!

Together in Community,
The ECCDC Team

Featured Professional Learning Opportunity: Re-imagining Heartbreak: An Educator's Journey to Reclaim Whole-Heartedness Virtual Book Study

Stop. Look. Listen. Feel. Come fully alive in your encounters with young children. Reimagining Heartbreak is a call to return to full-hearted, embodied teaching. Shelley Brandon's stories reveal the extraordinary beauty that is possible in ordinary life. This 4-part book study will go into the stories of young children that will allow your heart to open up to happiness and sadness, and reconsider what it means to be truly present in your interactions. Through these stories, we will uncover the values we wish to bring into our work with young children, and the ways in which we can do so.

Session 1: Tuesday June 23, 2026

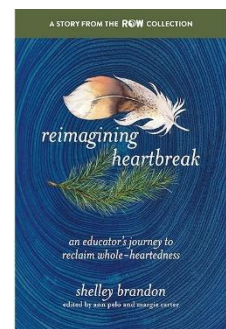
Session 2: Tuesday July 14, 2026

Session 3: Tuesday August 25, 2026

Session 4: Tuesday September 29, 2026

6:30 to 8:30pm

Presented *Via Webinar*



Past Session Spotlight:

Beyond the Basics of Leadership: Enhancing Your Skills and Deepening Your Understanding of Leadership in Early Learning and Child Care Series, Session 1: Teams

New research into what truly motivates both individuals and teams is helping leaders understand what we can do to improve the motivation of individuals and positive culture of teams. This session clarified why some of our traditional, well-intended ways of improving motivation don't yield the results we hope for. Participants left the session with new, practical, and cost-effective strategies to help teams create a strong connection to their organization's purpose, strengthening their initiative to solve problems and be creative. Based on the work of Daniel M. Cable (Alive at Work) and Dan Pink (Drive), the session helped participants feel renewed energy for unlocking the potential in their teams.



Upcoming Professional Learning to Support Leadership Development

Supporting Staff Retention: Building the Team You Need by Developing the People You Have - September 23, 2026

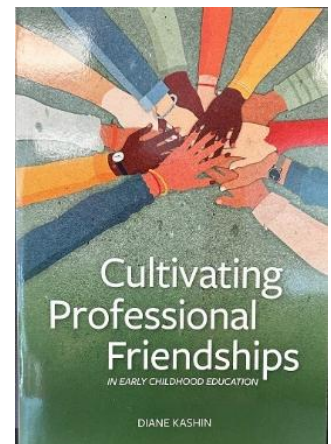
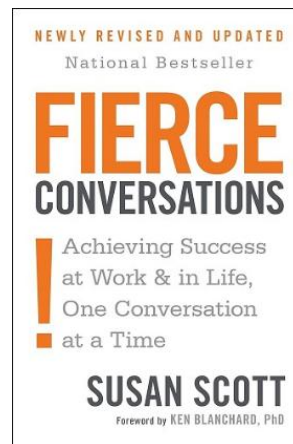
Strengthening Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in All Organizations Series, Session 1: Foundations of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion - October 15, 2026

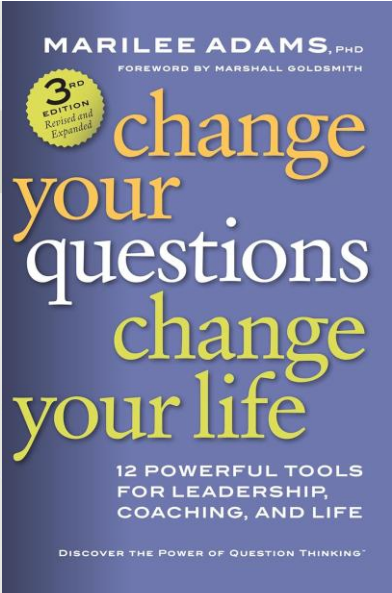
Use the QR Code to visit our training calendar for more information on these and other upcoming professional learning opportunities!



Resource Lending Library Recommended Reading to Support Leadership Development

- Administering for Quality: Leading Canadian Early Childhood Programs (ADM.0009)
- Cultivating Professional Friendships in Early Childhood Education (PRO.0076)
- Fierce Conversations: Achieving Success at Work and in Life, One Conversation at a Time (ADM.0066)
- Forever Recognize Other's Greatness: Solution Focused Strategies for Staff, High-performing Teams and Healthy Bottom Lines (ADM.0056)





MARILEE ADAMS, PhD
FOREWORD BY MARSHALL GOLDSMITH

3RD EDITION
Revised and Expanded

change your questions change your life

12 POWERFUL TOOLS FOR LEADERSHIP, COACHING, AND LIFE


DISCOVER THE POWER OF QUESTION THINKING™

ECCDC Team Favourites!

Check out Patricia's favourite book to support leadership development!

Change Your Questions Change Your Life: 12 Powerful Tools for Leadership, Coaching and Life

This book, written by Marilee Adams, explores how questions are at the core of how we listen, behave, think, and relate--as individuals and organizations. Virtually everything we think and do is generated by questions. Questions push us into new territories. The future begins with our thinking, represented by the questions we ask ourselves. "Change Your Questions, Change Your Life" shows readers how to consistently choose the questions that can lead them to success, both personally and professionally. This technique, called "QuestionsThinking," stimulates innovation, accelerate productivity, and create more rewarding relationships.



Alternative Opportunities to Grow Your Leadership Skills

Podcasts



Creating Strong Teams in Early Learning and Child Care

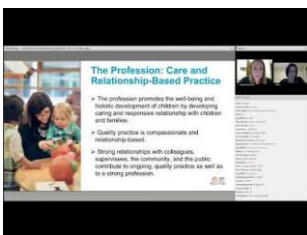
[Click here](#) to check out this episode of the ECCDC podcast, which includes an interview with Paula McLean. In this episode Paula speaks to creating strong teams within early learning and child care programs and how we need to shift our lens away from one that focus solely on team building. Paula shares strategies on how leaders at all levels with organizations can create stronger teams.



Empowering Early Years Leaders

This podcast explores what it means to be a leader at all levels within early years settings and draws upon Froebelian principles. The video also explores how adopting a Froebelian approach can support leaders in their work with educators and families. [Click here](#) to listen!

Recorded Webinar



Professionalism and Leadership

If you're looking for something that dives more deeply into leadership through the lens of Ontario's College of Early Childhood Educators, then check out this webinar, which highlights the importance of relationship-based practice, professional judgment, and accountability while providing practical examples of leadership and advocacy within the sector. [Click here](#) to get started!

Blog Posts



Leadership in ECE

This Storypark blog post explores leadership in ECE and includes the '5 practices of effective leaders' identified by Kouzes and Posner with links to leadership practices in child care as outlined in the Canada Child Care Federation article. [Click here](#) to read the full post.



Great Leadership in Early Childhood Education

[Click here](#) to read A Guide to Great Leadership in Early Childhood Education. This blog explores what the role of a leader is, why leadership is important in early childhood education and how to be a great leader in early years.



Inspiring Teams in Early Learning & Child Care

Check out the Inspiring Teams in Early Learning & Child Care ECCDC blog post. This blog explores how we can inspire leadership qualities within early learning and child care settings and encourages us move away from viewing leadership and inspiring teams as solely a management role to the role of all within a program. [Click here](#) to read the full post.

Watch This! Videos to Enhance Your Leadership Development



Standard IV: Professionalism and Leadership

This Standards in Practice snapshot video highlights that we are all leaders and offers an overview of professionalism and leadership, and shares ideas on how educators can reflect Standard IV in their practice. [Click here](#) to watch.



Leadership in Early Years Development

[Click here](#) to listen to Susan MacDonald as she speaks to leadership in early years development and why it's important, and offers practical strategies that adopt a strength-based approach to leadership.