

Cultivating Connections

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

Summer Send-off and Stepping Into September



As we send off summer and step into September, here at the ECCDC, we're preparing for an exciting and busy fall filled with new professional learning opportunities, fresh additions to our resource lending library, and even more ways to support our early learning community.

In this issue, you'll find inspiration to make the most of the season's transition. Whether you're looking for a great podcast to enjoy during those last summer days, exploring new resources, or planning your professional learning for the months ahead, we've curated a variety of ideas and opportunities to enhance your daily practice. As always, our team is here to help you achieve your professional goals and provide the resources, learning opportunities, and connections that support your important work with children and families.

Together in Community,
The ECCDC Team

First Look: New Provocation for Learning Kits Available Soon!

Our resource development team has been hard at work creating new provocation for learning kits! We received several requests in our 2025 Stakeholder Survey for more imaginative and dramatic play kits and building materials. We're happy to share that we will soon be adding 15 new kits and several new building materials to our resource lending library. Check out this sneak peek of what will be coming soon.



A large collection of Learning Resources STEM activity kits is displayed on a wooden surface. The kits are arranged in a cluster, showing various themes like Force & Motion, Simple Machines, LifeCycle Magnetic Kit, STEM Explorers Machine Makers, STEM Explorers Metamorphosing, and All About Butterfly. Each box features colorful illustrations of the activities and the Learning Resources logo. The kits are designed for ages 5 and up and include various materials like beads, string, and cards for hands-on learning.

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In July, early learning professionals were invited to meet local Niagara Authors for a special event highlighting their work, an opportunity to purchase and have books signed, and engage in networking with colleagues.

www.eccdc.org

LOCAL
AUTHOR
MEET &
GREET

Connect with Kelly on or before August 31 to claim your prize!

Welcome September with this Featured Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunity!

JOIN ACCLAIMED EDUCATOR, AUTHOR, & RESEARCHER, SUSAN STACEY!

Making Documentation Matter: Deepening Children's Learning Through Observation, Reflection, and Relationships

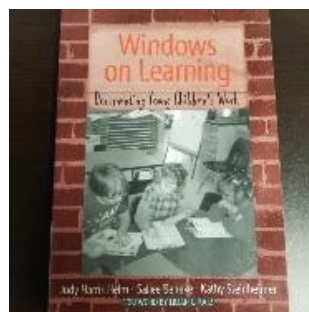
**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2026
10:00AM-3:00PM
PRESENTED IN PERSON AT THE ECCDC OR VIA LIVESTREAM**

USE THE QR CODE, OR VISIT WWW.ECCDC.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER.



Recommended Reading to Support Your Professional Learning Goals Related to Documentation

- Documenting Children's Meaning: Engaging in Design and Creativity with Children and Families (EVA.0066)
- Reggio Emilia Encounters: Children and Adults in Collaboration (EDU.0007)
- Windows on Learning: Documenting Young Children's Work (EVA.0033)
- The Hundred Languages of Children: The Reggio Emilia Experiences in Transformation (EDU.0053)
- Picture This: Photography Activities for Early Childhood Learning (CUR.0015)



Support your Documentation Practices with These Resources Featuring Acclaimed Educator, Author and Researcher, Susan Stacey

Blog Post



Why Do You Document? The phrase 'making learning visible' has been in use for some time now (and is borrowed from the book of the same title, from Project Zero). I wonder....is that the only reason we document? Have we all asked ourselves the question 'Why am I documenting?' [Click here](#) to read more!

Podcast



Supporting Practice Through Pedagogical Documentation: In episode 4, we sit down with author and educator Susan Stacey to explore what happens when educators move from simply following children's interests to co-constructing meaning with them. Together, we unpack how curiosity, uncertainty, and the voice of the educator can shape truly responsive curriculum. [Click here](#) to listen on Youtube.

Step Into September with These New Professional Learning Opportunities!

- Environments That Inspire: Reconsidering Our Environments and Materials Series, Session 1: Before the Children Arrive - Preparing the Learning Environment (September 22, 2026)
- Supporting Staff Retention: Building the Team You Need by Developing the People You Have (September 23, 2026)
- Practical Menu Planning Guide for Child Care Programs (September 24, 2026)
- Making Documentation Matter: Deepening Children's Learning Through Observation, Reflection, and Relationships (September 26, 2026)
- 'The 4'S of Authentic Inclusion.' Helping Children with Disabilities Feel Safe and Seen in Early Learning Settings (September 29, 2026)
- Big Ideas for the Care of Tiny Humans Team Training Workshop Series (Niagara Only), Session One: Module 1 - Care and Module 2 – Attachment (September 30, 2026)

Visit www.eccdc.org or use the QR code to register for upcoming professional learning opportunities!



WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

*MEET CASSIDY TALARICO, PROFESSIONAL
LEARNING & MENTORING CONSULTANT*

The ECCDC is excited to welcome a new member to the team! Cassidy is a Registered Early Childhood Educator who has worked in the field of Early Childhood Education in Niagara for twelve years, including several years as a Child Care Supervisor within two Niagara based Montessori programs. She holds her Early Childhood Education Diploma and Casa Montessori Certification and has a comprehensive knowledge of Niagara's early learning and child care community. Cassidy brings a love of learning, a values-based work ethic, and a passion to work side-by-side with educators, where each educator has access to cutting edge professional learning opportunities, support with designing innovative environments, and building positive interactions and connection to diverse, play-based learning resources.

