

Cultivating Connections

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

Supporting Team Building and Professional Growth this Fall



As we welcome the fall season, we're excited to explore the topics of team building and professional growth. At the ECCDC, we're always looking for new and meaningful ways to support the growth and development of early learning teams—whether through professional learning opportunities, inspiring resources, or unique team-building experiences.

This month's Cultivating Connections is filled with resources designed to support team building and professional growth within your early learning program. Whatever your goals may be this September, connect with us to discover the services, resources, and opportunities available to support you and your team.

Let's learn, connect, and grow together this fall!

Together in Community,
The ECCDC Team

Featured Professional Learning Opportunity: Supporting Staff Retention: Building the Team You Need by Developing the People You Have

There is a critical shortage of ECEs. Centres are struggling to hire, and keep, staff. Even when they do have a full roster, sometimes those people haven't developed the experience and skills they need. This is a workshop for leaders. It is designed to help supervisors, administrators, and classroom leaders build the team they need by intentionally developing the people they have. In this workshop, participants will learn how to observe their team and identify important strengths, as well as gaps in their skills. They'll learn how to frame those observations so that they can be well-received by the staff they supervise. We will use a tool, The Development Loop, to create plans for growth, and implement ongoing reflection and intentional action to increase the competency of staff.

SUPPORTING STAFF RETENTION:
*Building the Team You Need by
Developing the People You
Have*

- September 23, 2026
- 10:00-11:30am
- Presented Via Webinar

JOIN PRESENTER DANA SPROULE FOR THIS NEW PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITY!

More Information: www.eccdc.org 905-646-7311

Looking for More Ways to Learn?

Explore These Blog Posts and Articles to Support Team Building and Professional Growth!



Inspiring Teams in Early Learning and Child Care

This ECCDC blog post explores strategies for nurturing leadership skills within all team members, because leaders in early learning programs help to support their colleagues to cooperate, build connections, and strengthen their commitments to lifelong learning. [Click here](#) to read more!



Team Building in Early Childhood Education

In this blog post the author, Andrea Callahan, explains that regular team building is vital for reducing workplace stress and improving childcare program quality. She also gives concrete examples of team building activities. [Click here](#) to read more!



How do you make team building activities inclusive for all employees?

This article touches on inclusive team building and how it requires moving beyond physical accessibility to address psychological, social, and cultural barriers, fostering a sense of security and value for all employees. [Click here](#) to read more!

ECCDC Quick Tip!

Did you know that the ECCDC offers several different services to support your staff meetings?

Some of these services include:

- Conference Room Booking – Host Your Staff Meeting at the ECCDC
- Staff Retreat Planning
- Customized Training Opportunities

CONNECT WITH US TO LEARN MORE!

eccdc@eccdc.org



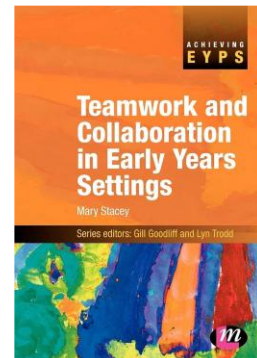
This Month's Resource Pick

Strengthen Your Team, Inspire Your Practice

Teamwork and Collaboration in Early Years Settings

Mary Stacey draws on her extensive experience as a trainer and facilitator with early years practitioners to focus on the EYP's professional relationships with other adults, and particularly, their role as an enabler within a team of colleagues.

Borrow this book during your next visit to the Resource Lending Library!



Fall into September with a Great Podcast!



Creating Strong Teams in Early Learning and Child Care with Acclaimed Author Paula MacLean

In this podcast episode, Paula MacLean highlights the need to shift our lens away from team building to creating strong teams. She shares strategies and resources to support early childhood programs in creating strong teams. [Click here](#) to listen.



How Intergenerational Teams Elevate Early Childhood Education

In this episode of The Everything ECE Podcast, Carla explores the power and potential of intergenerational teams in early childhood education. With multiple generations working side by side in many ECE programs, there is an opportunity to create stronger, more dynamic teams when we learn to lean into our differences with curiosity and respect. [Click here](#) to listen.



Fun and Engaging Team Building Activities for Childcare Teams

This quick podcast episode with childcare director, Erica Saccoccio, provides ten simple and effective team building activities for centres to try out. [Click here](#) to listen.

Check out our E-Store
for more resources to
support your
leadership
development!



WWW.ECCDC.ORG/ESTORE



Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities to Support Professional Growth and Team Building

- Supporting Staff Retention: Building the Team You Need by Developing the People You Have (**September 23, 2026**)
- The Administrator's Guide to Hiring & Onboarding (**October 28, 2026**)
- Professionalism and Leadership in a Regulated Profession (**November 3, 2026**)
- The EQ Edge: Leadership Success Through Emotional Intelligence (**November 18, 2026**)
- Fostering Growth Mindset: Creating a Safe Culture for Innovation (**December 16, 2026**)
- Fundamentals of Building a Strong, Collective Team – A 3 Part Series ([ECCDC Customized Training Opportunity](#))
- Fostering Effective Communication with Colleagues and Community Partners ([ECCDC Customized Training Opportunity](#))
- Re-Energizing Your Team by Returning to Our Roots of *How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years* – A 3 Part Series ([ECCDC Customized Training Opportunity](#))
- Ethics, Professionalism, and Communication ([ECCDC Customized Training Opportunity](#))
- Navigating Your New Supervisory Role - A Three-Part Series ([ECCDC Customized Training Opportunity](#))



To register for any of these professional learning opportunities, or to view our full calendar of upcoming events, please use the QR Code or [click here](#). For additional information on how to book an ECCDC Customized Training Opportunity, connect with us at eccdc@eccdc.org.

These Educator Resource Books are Unbe-leaf-able!

Check out this list of recommended reading to support team building and professional growth. Each of the books listed are available for borrowing through our resource lending library.

- 7 New Rules for the Sandbox: The ABCs of Generational Retention (STA.0036)
- Coaching and Consultation Practices in Early Childhood (MEN.0002)
- Cultivating Professional Friendships in Early Childhood Education (PRO.0076)
- Drive: The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us (ADM.0067)
- Essential Skills for Managing Conflict (ADM.0004)
- Leading and Managing Early Childhood Settings - Inspiring People, Places and Practices (MEN.0013)
- Conversations on Early Childhood Teacher Education - Voices from the Working Forum for Teacher Education (RES.0317)

