

A group of six children are in a lush green forest. They are gathered around a circle of yellow dandelions and pinecones on the ground. One child in a blue jacket stands in the center, holding a stick. Another child in a green jacket is kneeling on the left, and a child in a white shirt is kneeling on the right. A child in a red jacket is also kneeling. In the background, a child in a green jacket is standing. The forest is filled with trees and greenery.

eccdc

September 2025 to June 2026

esteem calendar

Inspiring excellence in early learning and child care since 1993

A scenic photograph of a calm lake reflecting a dense forest of trees in peak autumn foliage. The trees display a rich palette of orange, yellow, and red, with some evergreen trees still in green. The reflection in the water is sharp and clear. In the foreground, some out-of-focus autumn plants are visible.

September 2025

sun	mon	tues	wed	thurs	fri	sat
	1 ECCDC Closed Labour Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Standing Strong for Métis Rights 6:30- 8:00pm (p. 22)	18	19	20
21	22 Outdoor Spaces for Play and Inquiry Series Part 1: 6:30-8:30pm (p. 22)	23 Increasing Children's Awareness and Understanding of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation: A Community Collaborative Open House 6:30-8:30pm (p. 22)	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2025



sun	mon	tues	wed	thurs	fri	sat
	October Network Meetings Home Child Care Professionals Linked with a Licensed Home Child Care Agency (Oct. 1) Executive Directors and Administrators Network (Oct. 9) Early Learning and Child Care Educator Community of Practice Network (Oct. 15) Niagara Nature Alliance Community of Practice (Oct. 22) Menu Planning and Nutrition Community of Practice Network (Oct. 29)		1	2 Exploring Autism 6:30-7:30pm (p. 23)	3	4
5	6 The Continuous Professional Learning Portfolio Cycle for RECEs 6:30-8:00pm (p. 23)	7 Finding Rhythm in Routine Series Part 1: 6:30-8:00pm (p. 23)	8 Beyond the Visual Schedule (at ECCDC) 6:30-8:30pm (p. 23)	9 Financial Literacy for Early Learning and Child Care Leaders Part 1: 10:00am-12:00pm (p. 24)	10	11 ECCDC closed for Thanksgiving
12	13 ECCDC closed for Thanksgiving	14 Understanding Your Duty to Report (at ECCDC) 6:30-7:30pm (p. 24)	15	16 Emotional Safety and Cultivating Emotionally Rich Spaces in Early Learning Settings 6:30-8:30pm (p. 24)	17	18
19	20 Outdoor Spaces for Play and Inquiry Series Part 2: 6:30-8:30pm (p. 22)	21 Supporting Mental Health in Early Learning Environments 6:30-8:30pm (p. 24)	22 Pour les éducateurs/éducatrices francophones Séance 1: 18h30 à 20h30 (p. 25)	23 Everyday Moments That Matter: Building Foundations for Connection and Intentional Practice Series Part 1: 6:30-8:30pm (p. 25)	24	25
26	27	28 Fostering Authentic Relationships with Families 6:30-9:00pm (p. 26)	29	30	31	

November 2025



sun	mon	tues	wed	thurs	fri	sat
	November Network Meetings Réseau de la communauté de pratique des éducateurs francophones en apprentissage et garde des jeunes enfants (Nov. 12) Home Child Care Professionals Linked with a Licensed Home Child Care Agency (Nov. 19) Licensed Child Care Supervisor Community of Practice Network (Nov. 19)					1
2	3	4 Finding Rhythm in Routine Series Part 2: 6:30-8:00pm (p. 23)	5	6 Financial Literacy for Early Learning and Child Care Leaders Part 2: 10:00am-12:00pm (p. 24)	7	8 When Big Behaviours Show Up: What Young Children Need Most from Us 10:00am-4:00pm (p. 26)
9	10 Outdoor Spaces for Play and Inquiry Series Part 3: 6:30-8:30pm (p. 22)	11 De-escalating Children and Youth in Crisis – Skills for Emotional Regulation 6:30-9:00pm (p. 26)	12	13 Sensory Processing and Regulation for All 6:30-8:30pm (p. 26)	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Everyday Moments That Matter: Building Foundations for Connection and Intentional Practice Series Part 2: 6:30-8:30pm (p. 25)	21	22
23 30	24	25	26	27 Christmas Mittens Story Bag Kit and Presentation 6:30-8:00pm (p. 26-27)	28	29

A festive winter scene featuring snow-covered evergreen branches in the foreground. The background is a warm, glowing light with soft bokeh and falling snowflakes, creating a cozy holiday atmosphere.

December 2025

sun	mon	tues	wed	thurs	fri	sat
	1 Hanen Sharing Sensitive News Part 1: 6:30-8:30pm (p. 27)	2	3	4	5	6 Food Handler's Certification – Full Course 9:00am- 4:30pm (p. 27)
7	8	9 <i>How Does Learning Happen?</i> Through Food 6:30-8:30pm (p. 27)	10 Effective Leadership in Early Learning and Child Care Series Part 1: 10:00am-12:00pm (p. 27) Fostering Resilience in Niagara: Trauma Informed Workshop 6:30-8:30pm (p. 28)	11 From Far Away: Exploring Cultural Diversity & Awareness Through Children's Literature 6:30- 8:00pm (p. 28)	12	13
14	15 Hanen Sharing Sensitive News Part 2: 6:30-8:30pm (p. 27)	16	17	18 Supporting Children and Families in Your EarlyON Program Through the Lens of <i>How Does Learning Happen?</i> Series Part 1: 6:30- 8:00pm (p. 28)	19	20 ECCDC closed - 2-week winter closure
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2026



sun	mon	tues	wed	thurs	fri	sat
January Network Meetings Executive Directors and Administrators Network (Jan. 14) Menu Planning and Nutrition Community of Practice Network (Jan. 21) Home Child Care Professionals Linked with a Licensed Home Child Care Agency (Jan. 28) Licensed Child Care Supervisor Community of Practice Network (Jan. 28)				1 ECCDC closed - week 2 of annual winter closure	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Beyond Behaviour Management: Democracy, Hope, and Pedagogical Care in Early Childhood Education Series Part 1: 6:30-8:00pm (p. 29)	9	10
11	12	13 Book Study - Creating a Culture of Reflective Practice Part 1: 6:30- 8:30pm (p. 29)	14 Inspiring Passionate and Purpose Driven Leaders 10:30am- 12:30pm (p. 29)	15 The Wonder Series Part 1: 6:30-8:00pm (p. 29)	16	17 Standard First Aid and CPR-C and Standard First Aid and CPR-C Recertification 9:30am -4:00pm (p. 30)
18	19	20 Land Art 6:30-8:00pm (p. 30)	21	22 Everyday Moments That Matter: Building Foundations for Connection and Intentional Practice Series Part 3: 6:30- 8:30pm (p. 25)	23	24
25	26	27 Back to the Foundations of Early Learning Series Part 1: 6:30-8:00 pm (p. 30)	28 Effective Leadership in Early Learning and Child Care Series Part 2: 10:00am- 12:00pm (p. 27)	29 Understanding Your Duty to Report (WEB) 6:30- 7:30pm (p. 24)	30	31

February 2026



sun	mon	tues	wed	thurs	fri	sat
1	2	3 Every Family Belongs: Equity-Centered Practices to Foster 2SLGBTQ+ Belonging within Early Childhood Spaces Series Part 1: 6:30-8:30 pm (p. 31)	4	5 Beyond Behaviour Management: Democracy, Hope, and Pedagogical Care in Early Childhood Education Series Part 2: 6:30-8:00pm (p. 29)	6	7
8	9	10 Book Study - Creating a Culture of Reflective Practice Part 2: 6:30- 8:30pm (p. 29)	11 Pour les éducateurs/ éducatrices francophones Séance 2: 18h30 à 20h30 (p. 25)	12 The Wonder Series Part 2: 6:30-8:00pm (p. 30)	13	14 ECCDC Closed - Family Day
15	16 ECCDC Closed - Family Day	17 Family-centered Early Childhood Education and Care Series Part 1: 6:30-8:00 pm (p. 31)	18 Enhancing Children's Literacy Experiences Through Story Sacks 6:30-9:00 pm (p. 31)	19 Supporting Children and Families in Your EarlyON Program Through the Lens of <i>How Does Learning Happen?</i> Series Part 2: 6:30- 8:00pm (p. 28) Enhancing Children's Literacy Experiences Through Story Sacks 6:30- 9:00 pm (p. 31)	20	21 Enhancing Children's Literacy Experiences Through Story Sacks 9:00-11:30 am (p. 31)
22	23	24 Ways to Carry a Métis Baby 6:30-8:00 pm (p. 32)	25 Effective Leadership in Early Learning and Child Care Series Part 3: 10:00am-12:00pm (p. 28)	26 Beyond the Visual Schedule (WEB) 6:30-8:30pm (p. 23)	27	28 Rewire Your Focus: The 90% Tool for a More Positive Personal and Professional Life 9:00am-12:00 am (p. 32)

February Network Meetings

Niagara Nature Alliance Community of Practice (Feb. 4)

Early Learning and Child Care Educator Community of Practice Network (Feb. 25)

March 2026



sun	mon	tues	wed	thurs	fri	sat
1	2	3 Every Family Belongs: Equity-Centered Practices to Foster 2SLGBTQ+ Belonging within Early Childhood Spaces Series Part 2: 6:30-8:30 pm (p. 31)	4 Accommodating Disabilities in Child Care: A Legal and Practical Guide 10:30am-12:00 pm (p. 32)	5 Beyond Behaviour Management: Democracy, Hope, and Pedagogical Care in Early Childhood Education Series Part 3: 6:30-8:00pm (p. 29)	6	7
8	9 Advancing Physical Literacy in Early Childhood through Play-Based Pedagogy 6:30-8:00 pm (p. 32)	10 Book Study - Creating a Culture of Reflective Practice Part 3: 6:30-8:30pm (p. 29)	11 Building Relationships and Exploring How Does Learning Happen? in a Home Child Care Program Series Part 1: 6:30-8:00 pm (p. 32)	12 The Wonder Series Part 3: 6:30-8:00pm (p. 30)	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Family-centered Early Childhood Education and Care Series Part 2: 6:30-8:00 pm (p. 31)	25 Effective Leadership in Early Learning and Child Care Series Part 4: 10:00am-12:00pm (p. 28)	26 Everyday Moments That Matter: Building Foundations for Connection and Intentional Practice Series Part 4: 6:30-8:30pm (p. 25)	27	28 Cultivating Positivity and Developing Strengths-Based Communication Skills Professional Learning Institute 9:30am-4:00pm (p. 33)
29	30	31 Supporting Children in Developing Empathy, Wonder, and Respect for the Natural World 6:30-8:00 pm (p. 33)	March Network Meetings Executive Directors and Administrators Network (Mar. 4) Réseau de la communauté de pratique des éducateurs francophones en apprentissage et garde des jeunes enfants (Mar. 4)			

April 2026



sun	mon	tues	wed	thurs	fri	sat
			1	2 Supporting the Holistic Development of School Age Children 6:30-8:00 pm (p. 33)	3 ECCDC Closed - Easter	4 ECCDC Closed - Easter
5	6 ECCDC Closed - Easter	7	8	9 Expanding Our Knowledge Series Part 1: 6:30-8:30 pm (p. 33)	10	11
12	13	14 Book Study - Creating a Culture of Reflective Practice Part 4: 6:30-8:30pm (p. 29)	15	16 Working in Partnership with Families to Support Challenging Behaviours Series Part 1: 6:30-8:30 pm (p. 34)	17	18 The Wild Path Home: A Guide to Raising the Earth Stewards of Tomorrow Book Launch and Workshop 9:00am-1:00pm (p. 34)
19	20	21 How to Get Second Language Learners Talking 7:00-8:30pm (p. 35)	22 Beyond the Visual Schedule (at ECCDC) 6:30-8:30pm (p. 23) Beyond the Basics of Leadership Series Part 1: 10:00am-12:00pm (p. 35)	23 Connecting Toddlers with Land Based Learning 6:30-8:00pm (p. 35)	24	25 Standard First Aid and CPR-C and Standard First Aid and CPR-C Recertification 9:30am-4:00pm (p. 30)
26	27	28 Family-centered Early Childhood Education and Care Series Part 3: 6:30-8:00 pm (p. 31)	29 Pour les éducateurs/éducatrices francophones Séance 3: 18h30 à 20h30 (p. 25)	30 Supporting Children Through Gaining an Awareness and Understanding of Sexual and Gender Diversity 6:30-8:00pm (p. 36)	April Network Meetings Menu Planning and Nutrition Community of Practice Network (Apr. 1) Niagara Nature Alliance Community of Practice (Apr. 8) Early Learning and Child Care Educator Community of Practice Network (Apr. 13)	

May 2026



sun	mon	tues	wed	thurs	fri	sat
	May Network Meetings Executive Directors and Administrators Network (May 20) Réseau de la communauté de pratique des éducateurs francophones en apprentissage et garde des jeunes enfants (May 20) Licensed Child Care Supervisor Community of Practice Network (May 27)				1	2
3	4	5 Creating a Visual Art Studio in an Early Learning Environment Series Part 1: 6:30-8:00pm (p. 36)	6 Trauma Informed Care 101 6:00-9:00pm (p. 36)	7 Expanding Our Knowledge Series Part 2: 6:30-8:30 pm (p. 34)	8	9 Opportunities for Play in a Forest School Setting 9:30-11:00am (p. 36)
10	11	12 Behaviour Awareness and Self-Regulation in Early Childhood Programs 6:30-8:30pm (p. 36)	13 Building Relationships and Exploring How Does Learning Happen? in a Home Child Care Program Series Part 2: 6:30-8:00 pm (p. 33)	14 Supporting Children and Families in Your EarlyON Program Through the Lens of <i>How Does Learning Happen?</i> Series Part 3: 6:30-8:00pm (p. 28)	15	16 ECCDC Closed - Victoria Day
17	18 ECCDC Closed - Victoria Day	19 Understanding Your Duty to Report (at ECCDC) 6:30-7:30pm (p. 24)	20 Beyond the Basics of Leadership Series Part 2: 10:00am-12:00pm (p. 35)	21 Everyday Moments That Matter: Building Foundations for Connection and Intentional Practice Series Part 5: 6:30-8:30pm (p. 25)	22	23 Illuminating Care: The Power of Ritual, The Joy of In-Between Time and the Magic of the Mundane 9:00am-3:00pm (p. 36)
24 31	25	26 Book Study - Re-imagining Heartbreak: An Educator's Journey to Reclaim Whole-Heartedness Part 1: 6:30-8:30pm (p. 37)	27	28 Back to the Foundations of Early Learning Series Part 2: 6:30-8:00 pm (p. 30)	29	30

June 2026



sun	mon	tues	wed	thurs	fri	sat
	1	2 Creating a Visual Art Studio in an Early Learning Environment Series Part 2: 6:30-8:00pm (p. 36)	3	4 Technology Use for Children with Autism 6:30-8:00pm (p. 37)	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Expanding Our Knowledge Series Part 3: 6:30-8:30 pm (p. 34)	12	13 Extending our Understanding of Documentation and Reflecting on Environments that Nurture and Support Relationships: A Professional Conversation 10:00am-3:00pm (p. 37)
14	15	16 Understanding and Supporting Indigenous Storytelling, Music, and Movement in Early Learning Environments 6:30-8:30pm (p. 37)	17 Beyond the Basics of Leadership Series Part 3: 10:00am-12:00pm (p. 35)	18	19	20
21	22	23 Book Study - Re-imagining Heartbreak: An Educator's Journey to Reclaim Whole-Heartedness Part 2: 6:30-8:30pm (p. 37)	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Standing Strong for Métis Rights: Supporting Young Children in Understanding Métis of Ontario through Powley Day with Métis Nation of Ontario (ECCDC Conference Room)

The Real Life Superhero Powley Day storybook is a powerful tool for supporting early literacy while introducing young children to the rich cultural history of the Métis in Ontario. Rooted in the story of Steve Powley, a real-life Ontario Métis hero, this resource offers an accessible entry point for learning about Métis identity, rights, and contributions through the lens of early childhood education. This presentation is designed specifically for early learning and child care educators. It will include hands-on activities, provocations, and discussion prompts that can be easily adapted into your learning environment. In addition to exploring how to meaningfully introduce Powley Day, the session will provide foundational information on who the Métis are in Ontario, as well as practical guidance on cultural appreciation versus cultural appropriation. Participants will leave with tools and strategies to thoughtfully incorporate this book and the story of Steve Powley into their programming in a respectful and engaging way, nurturing cultural awareness, identity development, and literacy skills in young children. Space is limited, each centre to attend will receive 1 free book set including A Real-Life Métis Superhero: The Powley Family board book, and A Real-Life Métis Superhero: Louis Riel board book, sponsored by Métis Nation of Ontario.

Outdoor Spaces for Play and Inquiry – 3-Part Series with ECCDC (ECCDC Conference Room)

Outdoor play has been gaining popularity over the past decade or so, and this series will dive more deeply into how early learning and child care programs can intentionally provide outdoor play affordances for children that move beyond games of tag. The series will explore fun and engaging big body and not so big body outdoor play experiences with low-cost materials and how outdoor play supports children's physical literacy as well as how educators can meet the outdoor play needs of all children. Each of these sessions will be hands-on and interactive with time being spent outside, so make sure that you review the weather forecast and come prepared to have fun!

Session 1: Beyond Tag: Planning for Big Body Play Outdoors

How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years encourages us to view outdoor play as time for discovery and learning rather than simply places to blow off steam, which has shifted our lens on how we view outdoor play; as educators, we have moved away from

viewing outdoor play as simply a time to release excess energy. However, there is still a role for big body active play within the day. This session will look at how educators can intentionally plan outdoor play to meet children's need to be physically active and support them to meet Canada's physical activity guidelines. The session will explore how educators can intentionally plan a variety of low-cost big body outdoor experiences for children of all ages, with participants having opportunities to try out a variety of experiences. There will be opportunities for participants to engage in fun, hands-on experiences that will take place outside, so make sure that you review the weather forecast and come prepared to have fun!

Session 2: Large Loose Parts in the Outdoors

This session will explore what schema play is and how it can support educators to intentionally plan outdoor play experiences for children of all ages, using a variety of loose parts. Participants will explore Simon Nicholson's theory of loose parts and be introduced to Fraser Brown's 'compound flexibility' after which they will investigate how schema play, loose parts, and compound flexibility all work together to support children's outdoor play affordances. Once educators have uncovered the why behind the theories and how they can support intentional planning for outdoor play with loose parts, participants will gain practical strategies to utilize large loose parts for outdoor play with children. Come prepared for the weather as we'll be going outside to 'Mess About' with loose parts experiences.

Session 3: Outdoor Creative Art Play

Outdoor creative art experiences not only stimulate creativity, but they also build brain capacity by providing many new problems to solve, with natural materials that are abundant. That's the understanding educators have when they say 'open-ended art' is a process where children construct their own learning. The more children direct their own art activities, the more learning and brain development takes place.

Increasing Children's Awareness and Understanding of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation: A Community Collaborative Open House (ECCDC Conference Room)

This open house will highlight the significance of Orange Shirt Day, increase understanding and awareness of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, feature resources and tools to increase children's awareness of Orange Shirt Day, and participants will learn about the valuable services offered through our partnering agencies. Please RSVP by **September 16, 2025**

Continued on page 23

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day takes place on September 30th and opens the door to meaningful conversations about residential schools and the intergenerational impacts they have left behind. It also offers us a chance to think more deeply about truth and reconciliation and how we can listen to and support survivors and their families moving forward.

6:30 to 7:45 pm: Join community agencies to learn about their programming and ways to support children in your early learning environment in their understanding of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

7:45 to 8:30 pm: Join faculty from the Indigenous Educational Studies Program at Brock University to discuss the 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the ways we can create environments where dialogue and understanding can take place to support Indigenous children in our care.

Exploring Autism with Autism Ontario (Webinar)

This information session aims to introduce autism and neurodiversity. We will discuss autism and neurodiversity, the features of autism, and provide information on how autistic people may perceive and interact with their environment. We will also discuss how you can be an autistic ally, offering practical tips and strategies on how to create an inclusive environment and support autistic people in your home, school, or community. This information session can be helpful for anyone who interacts with autistic people, including caregivers, community partners, educators, and other professionals.

The Continuous Professional Learning Portfolio Cycle for RECEs: Getting Started and Staying on Track with College of Early Childhood Educators (Webinar)

The CPL Portfolio Cycle is an annual portfolio process where RECEs reflect on their practice, develop one professional learning goal, and plan, engage in, and document their professional learning activities. This interactive session will provide an overview of the CPL Portfolio Cycle, offer tips for completing your portfolio, and an opportunity to get started. Come prepared with your CPL Portfolio components, which include the Reflection and Planning Tool and Record of Professional Learning.

Finding Rhythm in Routine, 2-Part Series with Cara Caudle (Webinar)

Finding Rhythm in Routine is a two-part workshop exploring how creativity and care-centered strategies can transform daily routines into meaningful

learning experiences. By integrating warm responsiveness with a play-based approach, educators will discover ways to support children's well-being while nurturing independence. Through interactive activities, songs, and thoughtfully designed play spaces, this series highlights the power of intentional care in fostering a quality early learning environment.

Part 1: Creativity and Play in Everyday Routines

Explore the role of play-based, interactive strategies in daily caregiving, incorporating songs, playful provocations, and thoughtfully designed environments. This session focuses on using creativity to foster engagement, well-being, and meaningful learning through routine moments.

Part 2: Nurturing Independence Through Compassionate Care

Tap into care-centered approaches that balance warm responsiveness with strategies for fostering autonomy in young children. This session emphasizes nurturing independence through intentional interactions, mindful caregiving, and emotionally supportive routines.

Beyond the Visual Schedule with Niagara Children's Centre (ECCDC Conference Room and Webinar)

We all use visuals, from looking at icons on our phones to reading street signs. We routinely rely on a combination of written materials, pictures, or images as well as messages that we hear to function throughout our day. Just like us, all young children can benefit from the use of visual information to help them to understand what is going to happen, follow directions and, in some instances, get a message across to their communication partner. Children with communication difficulties particularly thrive in a setting where visuals are routinely used in every aspect of their day. Visuals can take the form of real objects, miniatures to represent an object (e.g. toy food), photos, graphics (line drawings), and even video recordings. Come and learn about how visuals can be used to help young children to be more involved in their day which can greatly affect their behaviour and communication skills.

To register for any session, visit www.eccdc.eccdc.org, call 905.646.7311 x304, or email eccdc@eccdc.org. To view Esteem, visit www.eccdc.org/professional-learning/esteem.

Financial Literacy for Early Learning and Child Care Leaders Series with Alex Reznikov (Webinar)

Join us for this informative 2-part series which will offer participants both the practical tools to prepare and manage budgets, as well as the broader financial literacy needed to understand the bigger picture of your early learning program's financial performance.

Session 1: Financial Literacy: Understanding Financial Statements for Child Care Centres

This workshop walks participants through the key components of financial statements, explain what each statement reveals about the health of their centre, and highlights how to use these tools to make stronger financial and strategic decisions.

Session 2: Financial Literacy: Operational Budgeting

This session is designed to help child care leaders understand the importance of using budgets to manage their programs effectively. Participants will learn how to prepare a realistic budget, monitor actual versus budgeted results, and use this information to make timely, informed decisions. The goal is to reduce financial surprises and provide directors with more confidence in managing day-to-day operations.

Understanding Your Duty to Report with Family and Children's Services (FACS) Niagara (ECCDC Conference Room and Webinar)

Each of us has a responsibility to protect children and youth from harm. As a professional working with children and supporting others who are, you have a legal and ethical duty to report to a children's aid society when you have reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is or may be in need of protection. This webinar will provide information on the Duty to Report as outlined under section 125 of the Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017 (CYFSA). Participants will gain insight on their obligation and responsibility, as well as the process for reporting to Children's Aid Society.

Emotional Safety and Cultivating Emotionally Rich Spaces in Early Learning Settings with Lisa Pinhorn (Webinar)

At this workshop we will demonstrate how and why educators can foster connected, compassionate, and calm relationships with children. Learn why we must also focus on respectful and empathic relationships to help children manage the day-to-day stresses of their lives. We will discuss the best practices and trends that are transforming the way we approach emotional awareness in the lives of this generation of children. When spaces are truly emotionally safe, everything can change for the better for families,

children, and staff. When children are in an emotionally safe haven, they feel it all around them, and it can have a lifelong impact.

In settings of emotional safety, we see: less anxiety and stress-based behaviours; a stronger sense of community; increased empathy for each other; powerful relationships; a sense of calm for the staff and children; and children can safely learn how to self-regulate their emotions with assistance from regulated adults.

Emotional safety is possible when leadership and staff make conscious efforts to: learn about the needs of modern families; create welcoming spaces for families; know the signs of stress behaviours in children; encourage rest and restoring times; understand that behaviours are communication of anxiety and stress; know that changes in the learning environment can decrease anxiety and stress; see the value in relationship building; create an atmosphere of calm in learning settings; allow children to have emotional responses and learn from them; take time to make adjustments in physical spaces; partner with parents and families; and ensure all staff members feel respected and valued.

Lisa will walk participants through the theory of Emotional Regulation and how it can expand our understanding of what it means to feel safe within learning settings. Emotional safety is vital to the mental health of our entire educational community, including children, educators, and administration. Our early learning settings have the potential to be the buffers necessary for the toxic stress levels we are seeing in modern families.

Back By Popular Demand! Supporting Mental Health in Early Learning Environments with Niagara College (ECCDC Conference Room)

This workshop will look at the importance of supporting mental health in early learning environments. Participants will explore the ways they can create secure relationships and spaces for young children to learn and grow, and the importance of these relationships on young children's mental health. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss the ways they currently support children's well-being and mental health in their learning environment and next steps in their journey.

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Pour les éducateurs/éducatrices francophones avec Helene Pouliot-Cleare (webinaire)

Séance 1: Apprentissage en plein air

Cet atelier vise à maximiser l'environnement comme troisième éducateur, enrichir les expériences que vous pouvez offrir aux enfants pour stimuler leur cerveau, la résolution de problèmes, leur prise de risques et spécialement l'empathie envers la nature pour assurer un meilleur avenir pour nous tous.

Séance 2: Communications efficaces avec les parents

Cet atelier favorisera la discussion d'une variété de sujets traitant de communications efficaces, parfois courageuses avec les familles pour établir une relation de confiance, maintenir des relations saines et faciliter leur contribution, leur participation. Des précisions seront données pour différencier le rôle d'une gardienne d'enfants et celui d'une professionnelle de la petite enfance afin d'être appréciée et reconnue comme professionnelle. Entre autres, la planification requise pour le développement et l'apprentissage optimal de l'enfant sera présentée.

Séance 3: Problème de comportement ou situation d'apprentissage

Le comportement qu'il soit positif ou négatif est le langage de l'enfance. Lorsqu'il est dérangeant, il nous pose un défi qui peut frustrer, stresser et nous amener à nous questionner et parfois même à nous sentir inadéquat. Voilà pourquoi il est si important d'acquérir une compréhension profonde du développement normal et des façons dont les enfants apprennent. Cet atelier vise à vous aider à comprendre et à découvrir des stratégies de prévention et d'intervention.

Everyday Moments That Matter: Building Foundations for Connection and Intentional Practice, 5-Part Series with ECCDC (ECCDC Conference Room)

Strong early learning programs begin with strong, intentional foundations. This series invites educators to reflect on and refine their daily practices—exploring how thoughtful rhythms, responsive routines, and meaningful interactions shape the flow of the day. From transitions to environments, materials to relationships, each session offers practical strategies and reflective insights to support a classroom culture rooted in care, curiosity, and connection. Whether you're looking to strengthen your daily routines, co-create expectations, or deepen your work with children, families, and colleagues, this series provides the building blocks for intentional, relationship-driven practice.

Session 1: Inviting Spaces & Tools for Thinking: Designing Environments and Using Materials to Spark Play, Learning, Inquiry and Connection

The environment is often called the "third teacher", and for good reason. The layout, overall flow and availability of materials in your classroom can profoundly influence how children feel, move, engage, wonder, and connect. In this session, we'll explore how to create intentional, flexible spaces that respond to children's needs, invite exploration, and nurture a sense of belonging. We will also dig into the role of materials and how what we choose to offer children can spark their curiosity and support their development in powerful ways. Whether your program space is small or large, you'll leave with practical ideas to reimagine your early learning environment and reflect on strategies for selecting materials that will promote learning, spark curiosity, nurture relationships, and bring joy to your daily practice.

Session 2: In the Moment: Capturing Children's Thinking Through Documentation

What are children showing us through their play, their questions, and their conversations? How can we, as educators, slow down and see ourselves as researchers of their ideas, strategies, and meaning-making? In this session, we'll explore the power of in the moment documentation: the raw, spontaneous, unpolished notes, transcripts, artifacts, and reflections that allow us to see the learning unfolding in real time. Together, we'll look at how to capture children's voices, questions, and thinking through observation and documentation that is practical, authentic, and responsive. We'll reflect on how real time documentation can help us build deeper connections with children, inform our planning, and share meaningful stories of learning with families and colleagues.

Session 3: Co-Creating Boundaries and Expectations Together

Boundaries and expectations are an important part of creating a safe, predictable, and caring environment where children can thrive. Together, we'll explore how to co-create shared expectations with children through consistent routines, gentle guidance, and meaningful conversations. We'll reflect on how our own presence, tone, and responses shape the emotional climate of our classrooms and consider how to foster a sense of safety, trust, and mutual respect. This session takes a thoughtful look at how we support children in learning boundaries, program expectations, and navigating social interactions.

Continued on page 26

Everyday Moments That Matter: Building Foundations for Connection and Intentional Practice, 5-Part Series continued

Session 4: Small Groups, Big Thinking: Fostering Connection and Learning Through Small Group Experiences

Small group experiences offer powerful opportunities to connect with children, follow their interests, and extend their thinking. This session explores how to use small groups not just for activity time, but as rich spaces for conversation, exploration, and relationship-building. We'll reflect on how to tune in to children's ideas, use their interests to introduce new concepts and materials, and support emergent learning in responsive and meaningful ways.

Session 5: From Chaos to Connection: Reclaiming Transitions as Moments of Learning and Care

Transitions are often seen as the bridges between the scheduled parts of the day, but what if we viewed them as meaningful moments in and of themselves? In this session, we'll explore how transitions can be opportunities for care, connection, and learning. We'll consider how small shifts in our routines can create calm, responsive moments that help children feel secure, engaged, and understood. You'll be invited to slow down and reflect on the flow of your day, tuning into how even the simplest of transitions can be used to build relationships, model regulation, and respond to children's unique needs and rhythms. Together, we'll give ourselves permission to pause, to see transitions not as something to "get through", but as moments filled with potential. You'll leave with strategies to make your transitions developmentally responsive, meaningful, and full of connection.

Back by Popular Demand! Fostering Authentic Relationships with Families with Strive Niagara (ECCDC Conference Room)

This workshop, offered by Strive Niagara, will highlight ways to support meaningful relationships with families in your early learning environment. Through this session you will gain ideas and strategies for communicating with families in a way that builds trust and collaboration amongst one another. Participants will leave with strategies for ensuring families feel heard and valued in your environment and ways to include them as a partner in your program.

When Big Behaviours Show Up: What Young Children Need Most from Us with Dr. Susan Hopkins (Balls Falls Conservation Area, 3293 Sixth Ave., Lincoln and Livestream)

Join us for this special presentation offered by Dr. Susan Hopkins, Executive Director of Dr. Stuart Shanker's organization, the MEHRIT Centre! Susan has been a teacher, school administrator, inclusive schooling coordinator, curriculum developer, educational researcher, educational leader, as well as acclaimed author.

During this workshop, early learning professionals will have the opportunity to explore how big behaviours impact children's ability to self-regulate and how we as early learning professionals can support them through these big emotions. The concepts of self-control vs. self-regulation will be investigated, and participants will have the opportunity to reflect on the variety of stressors that can impact children's ability to self-regulate, as well as the ideas of misbehaviour and stress behaviour.

We will also delve into the effects of stress in the early years of a child's life and how educators can become stress detectives to support children through adverse life experiences. Lastly, we will consider strategies to design spaces that can be self-reg havens for children experiencing big behaviours and emotions, and how educators can facilitate these spaces of calm rather than chaos.

De-escalating Children and Youth in Crisis – Skills for Emotional Regulation with Crisis & Trauma Resource Institute (Webinar)

If you are in a support role, it is crucial to know how to help children and youth return to calm during a crisis. When stressed, everyone's nervous system is hardwired to react with protective patterns such as fight, flight, or freeze. Young people are especially vulnerable because their nervous systems are still developing, and they lack the self-regulation skills needed to calm down. An adult who can help them co-regulate can often de-escalate the situation.

Sensory Processing and Regulation for All with Niagara Children's Centre (ECCDC Conference Room)

This workshop will provide participants with an overview of regulation and why it is important that children are regulated. Participants will learn about the eight sensory systems and gain strategies and ideas for equipment that can support all young children.

Christmas Mittens Story Bag Kit and Presentation with Métis Nation of Ontario (ECCDC Conference Room)

The Métis Christmas Mittens Story Bag training is designed to introduce

Continued on page 27

Christmas Mittens Story Bag Kit and Presentation with Métis Nation of Ontario continued

the resources from the Métis Christmas Mittens Story Bag and support Early Childhood Educators in effectively incorporating them into their early learning environments. Educators will acquire practical strategies to integrate these materials into their classrooms, fostering dynamic learning centres that honour and celebrate Métis culture. The training also provides a foundation for meaningful, respectful engagement with Métis history and culture, offering examples of cultural appreciation and cultural appropriation as they relate to the Story Bag resources.

Space is limited, each centre to attend will receive 1 free Métis Christmas Mittens Story Bag, sponsored by Métis Nation of Ontario. Please note: this session is open to Niagara Educators only due to limited number of story bags.

Hanen Sharing Sensitive News, 2-Part Training with ECCDC (Webinar)

Professionals who work with young children often say that one of the hardest parts of their job is sharing sensitive information with families about their child. Sharing Sensitive News provides early childhood educators and other professionals with specific strategies for sharing information with families 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 families' points of view, we greatly improve the chances for successful collaboration.

Learning Objectives: After completing the sessions, you will be able to: identify why information may be difficult for educators to share and difficult for families to hear; plan ahead for how to effectively share information with families; and clearly share information in a way that actively involves families in the discussion and is sensitive to their feelings and perspective.

Food Handler's Certification – Full Course (ECCDC Conference Room)

The Food Handler Certification Program teaches food handlers the general principles of safe food handling to prevent foodborne illness. The Food Handler Certification Full Course is recommended for participants who have never been certified. The course is seven hours and taught by a Public Health inspector. It includes: online copy of the Food Handler's Training Manual; six hours of instruction; and one hour exam at the end of course.

The Certificate is valid for 5 years.

How Does Learning Happen? Through Food with Janet Nezon (webinar)

How Does Learning Happen? guides us to support children's early years experiences, learning, development, health, and well-being in ways that last throughout their lifetime. It shares how children learn through exploration, play and inquiry, and thrive when they and their families are valued as active participants and contributors. This engaging and interactive workshop will support educators in building on the four foundations and wisdom of this key pedagogical document and bring them to life using food as a vehicle for learning. We'll explore concepts connecting food, education, and children and consider the potential of food as a rich medium that can spark inquiry and learning across the curriculum. We'll dive into the four foundations of *How Does Learning Happen?* - Belonging, Well-being, Engagement and Expression, and discover how food can be used to support each of these important ways of being. Participants will learn ideas, strategies, and activities for creating engaging, meaningful, and inclusive programming.

Back By Popular Demand! Effective Leadership in Early Learning and Child Care, 4-Part Series with Paula MacLean (Webinar)

Session 1: Introduction to Effective Leadership in Early Childhood Settings

In our first session we will discuss tools and strategies that will help make you a skilled and confident leader. This will include: understanding the importance and differences between your "management" duties and your role as an early childhood leader; three different leadership styles and the situations in which each will work best; and your important role in influencing employee retention.

Session 2: Performance Management Part 1 – Two types of Coaching

In our second session you will learn how to support employees to be their best selves at work. We will explore and practice Instructional/Directive Coaching and Facilitative/Challenging Coaching and when to use each. We will also complete an in-class practice session approach using case studies and small group work.

Continued on page 28

Back By Popular Demand! Effective Leadership in Early Learning and Child Care, 4-Part Series continued

Session 3: Giving Feedback and Having Difficult Conversations

In our third session we will discuss why we sometimes avoid giving feedback and how we can overcome our fears. You will learn how to give effective feedback (using T3 – Tact, Tone, and Timing). Together we will practice how to get started and exactly what to say when giving feedback. Then we will shift gears to an 8 Step Approach to having difficult or challenging conversations with peers, your manager, parents, or colleagues in other organizations. You'll watch a funny but educational video with communication expert Shari Harley, author of *How to Talk to Anyone about Anything*.

Session 4: Performance Management Part 2 - Great Onboarding Practices, Getting off the Roller Coaster, and Employee Retention Strategies

In our last session you will learn how great onboarding prevents future performance issues and improves retention. You'll also learn how to get off the feedback rollercoaster with employees who yo-yo between doing better and doing worse. We'll look at three strategies that will help build strong supervisor-employee relationships that support long-term retention and prevent turnover.

Back By Popular Demand! Fostering Resilience in Niagara: Trauma Informed Workshop with Niagara Region Public Health (ECCDC Conference Room)

Positive childhood experiences are foundational to healthy brain development. Importantly, early childhood experiences have the potential to influence a child's health and well-being across the lifespan. In this workshop we will be discussing the background of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), and the power of positive childhood experiences through resilience, relationships, and trauma informed care. Evidence-based strategies to reduce the impact of ACEs and ways to promote wellness in children will be shared along with group discussions.

Supporting Children and Families in Your EarlyON Program Through the Lens of *How Does Learning Happen?* 3-Part Series with Christine Zupo (Webinar)

Session 1: How Does Learning Happen in EarlyON?

EarlyON Child and Family Centres are built on principles that support

children, parents, and caregivers in learning, growing, and connecting. This workshop invites educators to explore how the overarching values of EarlyON align with the Four Foundations of *How Does Learning Happen?* (HDLH). Participants will deepen their understanding of HDLH, reflect on its application to their programs, and practice strategies to ensure programs meet these foundational goals effectively. In this workshop, participants will;

1. Deepen understanding of the *How Does Learning Happen?* framework.
2. Explore how the Four Foundations relate to children, parents, and caregivers in EarlyON programs.
3. Develop strategies to align program delivery with the Four Foundations.

Session 2: Fostering A Sense of Belonging for Families/Caregivers in EarlyON Centres

EarlyON Centres are welcoming spaces where families and caregivers come together to connect, build relationships, and feel a sense of belonging. This workshop invites educators to explore ways to make EarlyON environments inclusive and supportive for all families, strengthening relationships through caring and effective communication. Participants will gain tools to foster belonging and create connections that celebrate the diversity of their communities. Participants will;

1. Discover ways to foster belonging for all families, including dads, grandparents, and LGBTQ+ families.
2. Enhance non-verbal communication to create a warm and welcoming environment.
3. Learn strategies for effective communication with families when language is a barrier.

Session 3: The Emergent Curriculum Approach and Pedagogical Documentation in EarlyON

Pedagogical documentation is a powerful tool for making children's learning, strengths, and capabilities visible to the learning community. Through narration, photographs, videos, and artifacts, educators can capture meaningful moments, reflect on their observations, and plan responsive experiences. This workshop invites participants to explore strategies for documenting learning in creative and inclusive ways while fostering a sense of belonging and celebrating diversity. In this workshop, participants will;

1. Discover diverse methods for documenting children's learning, including learning stories, photos, and videos.
2. Explore how documentation can highlight diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and inform future planning.
3. Reflect on how documentation builds connections and strengthens the learning community.

Beyond Behaviour Management: Democracy, Hope, and Pedagogical Care in Early Childhood Education, 3-Part Series with Rosalba Bortolotti (Webinar)

This workshop series invites educators to move beyond behaviour management frameworks and explore self-regulation as a deeply relational, democratic, and hopeful practice rooted in pedagogy and care. Drawing on reflective practice, current pedagogical theory, and real stories from early years settings, the series centers on educators and children as co-constructors of meaning and emotional life.

Session 1: From Control to Connection

This session will focus on reframing self-regulation beyond compliance and behaviour control, understanding co-regulation as a pedagogical and relational act, and exploring how environments, materials, relationships, and time affect children's capacity to regulate. The session will also introduce the educator's role in creating rhythms, rituals, and relational safety.

Session 2: Regulation as a Democratic Practice

This session will focus on seeing self-regulation as linked to participation, listening, and agency. Learners will also explore more about creating environments where children's emotional expressions are welcomed and made visible and including children's voices and choices in emotional and social matters.

Session 3: The Pedagogy of Hope and Care

This session will focus on cultivating hope as a pedagogical stance in times of challenge or uncertainty. Participants will explore the idea of the educator as a hopeful, caring, and reflective practitioner and creating hopeful spaces where both children and educators feel seen, heard, and held.

Book Study - Creating a Culture of Reflective Practice: The Role of Pedagogical Leadership in Early Child Programs with ECCDC (Webinar)

Early learning and child care continues to grow and evolve and as a result, educators need to consider the impact of current approaches to collaborating with adults and children. Through this reflection, we will explore the balance between administrative tasks, ensuring program quality, and supporting the growth of others. During the book study participants will have an opportunity to take a 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 affect 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. The book study will focus on four principles of pedagogical leadership – working from a place of values and vision, building strong relationships, seeing and supporting strengths and competencies, and supporting professional learning in multiple ways.

Inspiring Passionate and Purpose Driven Leaders with Andrea Sacco (ECCDC Conference Room)

Whether you are just starting out in your career or looking to take your leadership skills to the next level, this workshop will provide you with the knowledge and tools you need to succeed. In this dynamic and engaging workshop, you will gain valuable insights on what kind of leader you are and how you can tap into your unique skills and talents to become a more passionate and purpose-driven leader in your business. Through a series of interactive exercises and group discussions, you will discover how to identify your strengths and weaknesses as a leader and learn how to leverage them to create a more successful and fulfilling career. You will also gain practical tools and techniques for setting and achieving meaningful goals that align with your purpose and values. This workshop is designed to empower you to become the best possible version of yourself as a leader.

The Wonder Series: Re-Engaging with the Process of Pedagogical Documentation, 3-Part Series with Victoria Armstrong (Webinar)

Pedagogical documentation is a process of inquiry, not a final product on a wall. In this series, we'll explore the different components that are part of the process of pedagogical documentation and reflect on where we are in our own journeys and the possibilities for where we could go next.

Session 1: Inviting Wonder: The Role of Space, Materials and Time in Children's Learning

Children deserve environments that are beautiful, thoughtfully designed, and offer them opportunities to investigate, wonder, and linger with ideas. This is also the first step in the process of pedagogical documentation. If we want to be able to capture children's natural curiosities about the world, then we need to give careful thought to their environment. When we do, the possibilities for what to document are endless!

Continued on page 30

The Wonder Series: Re-Engaging with the Process of Pedagogical Documentation, 3-Part Series continued

Session 2: Observing Wonder: The Role of Documentation in Children's Learning

When we have environments that invite curiosity and wonder, we can then take time to observe, listen carefully, and document what children are curious about and thinking about in their environment. Documentation invites us to slow down, pause, and notice what captures children's attention and to bring our own questions about children, teaching, and learning to our work.

Session 3: Studying Wonder: The Role of Adult Reflection, Interpretation and Collaboration in Children's Learning

What makes documentation pedagogical? It's when we learn more about the teaching-learning process through studying what we notice. To do this, we make time to think about our documentation together with others. We listen, we ask questions, we wonder, we reflect and through this, we make decisions about where to go next with what we are noticing.

Standard First Aid and CPR-C with First Aid Clinics of Canada (ECCDC Conference Room)

This is a blended online/in-person course offering lifesaving first aid skills, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills, and injury prevention skills and knowledge. The course includes the latest first aid and CPR guidelines and meets legislation requirements for provincial/territorial early childhood education and child care worker safety requirements. The online component is self-paced and will take approximately 3-5 hours to complete. This portion of the course must be completed prior to attending the full day (8-hour), in-person portion. Participants must complete the virtual portion, attend and participate in the in-person class, as well as receive a minimum 75% mark for written knowledge evaluation to receive a certificate. Certificates are valid for 3 years.

Standard First Aid and CPR-C Recertification with First Aid Clinics of Canada (ECCDC Conference Room)

This is an in-person refresher course offering lifesaving first aid skills, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills, and injury prevention skills and knowledge. The course includes the latest first aid and CPR guidelines and meets legislation requirements for provincial/territorial early childhood education and child care worker safety requirements. Participants must

attend and participate in the in-person class, as well as receive a minimum 75% mark for written knowledge evaluation to receive a certificate. Certificates are valid for 3 years.

Special Requirements: To attend a re-certification you **must** have a certificate from a **Canadian Red Cross Training Partner** or the **Red Cross** from a full course that is not expired. If your current certificate is expired, or you already have a re-certification card, the full course is required this time.

Back By Popular Demand! Land Art with Links for Greener Learning (ECCDC Conference Room)

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.

Back By Popular Demand! Back to the Foundations of Early Learning, 2-Part Series with Niagara Catholic District School Board and District School Board of Niagara (ECCDC Conference Room)

Session 1: Back to the Foundations of Early Math Development

Introducing early numeracy skills to young children can set the foundation for later mathematical understanding. In this session, participants will explore practical strategies for incorporating mathematical concepts into their 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.

Session 2: 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!

Every Family Belongs: Equity-Centered Practices to Foster 2SLGBTQ+ Belonging within Early Childhood Spaces, 2-Part Series with Brock University (Webinar)

Early childhood professionals play a vital role in shaping inclusive spaces where all families feel seen, respected, and safe. Building on previous webinars, this session takes a deeper dive into creating affirming environments for sexual and gender diverse youth and families. We'll explore strategies to support pronoun use, communicate effectively with families of all structures (including 2SLGBTQ+), and strengthen relationships grounded in respect, openness, and equity. Together, we'll identify what "safe space" really means in practice—moving from performative gestures to meaningful, everyday actions.

Session 1: Creating Inclusive Foundations: Setting the Stage for Respectful Relationships and Supportive Early Learning Environments

In this webinar, early learning professionals will have the opportunity to explore strategies for creating affirming environments for sexual and gender diverse children and families. Through reflection on current practices, participants will identify areas for growth, as well as expand their knowledge on how to use inclusive language and pronouns respectfully and confidently in their interactions with children, families, and colleagues.

Session 2: Partnering with Families: Developing Safe Spaces to Support Belonging in Early Learning Environments

Creating inclusive spaces where all families feel seen, respected and safe is a vital part of the role of early learning professionals. In this webinar, participants will explore strategies to support pronoun use, strengthen effective communication with families of all structures (including 2SLGBTQ+), and develop relationships that are grounded in respect, openness, and equity. The concept of a "safe space" will be explored, and we will also identify strategies for building trusting relationships with a diverse range of families, including those with queer, trans, and nonbinary caregivers or children.

Family-centered Early Childhood Education and Care, 3-Part Series with Cara Caudle (Webinar)

Family-centered Early Childhood Education & Care is a three-part series designed for early learning professionals to explore critical pedagogical approaches through the lens of placing families at the center of practice. The series focuses on taking a wraparound approach, integrating responsive relationships, the environment as the third teacher, pedagogical

documentation, co-educators, and collaborative inquiry to create inclusive, supportive learning experiences. Through this series, participants will gain tools to engage families effectively and cultivate intentional, reflective practices that strengthen family partnerships and enhance children's learning.

Part 1: Responsive Relationships and Environment as Third Teacher

In this session, we will explore how building responsive relationships with children, families, and the community lays the foundation for learning. We will also examine how the physical environment functions as the third teacher, fostering engagement, creativity, and a sense of belonging.

Part 2: Pedagogical Documentation and Co-Educators with Families

This session will focus on the role of pedagogical documentation in capturing and reflecting families' learning journeys, as well as how it can deepen educator-family partnerships. We will discuss the value of viewing families as co-educators, creating a shared learning experience that includes both the home and the early learning environment.

Part 3: Collaborative Inquiry and Reflection, Learning Through Play, Exploration, and Inquiry

The final session highlights the importance of reflective practice and collaborative inquiry in shaping responsive early childhood education. We will explore how learning through play, exploration, and inquiry can be a shared experience, and how continuous reflection supports both professional growth and family engagement.

Enhancing Children's Literacy Experiences Through Story Sacks, Sponsored by Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara (ECCDC Conference Room)

Literacy is one of the foundational skills that young children develop beginning right from birth. Story Sacks support the development of literacy through providing a storytelling experience with associated props. The props invite additional learning opportunities by inviting children who have not yet learned to read with the materials they need to verbally tell and act out a story. This also helps visual learners with comprehension and gives educators a unique way to capture the children's attention. During this session, participants will explore the key aspects of story sacks and the ways in which they can implement it in their early learning environment. Please note that a maximum of 2 educators from each licensed child care program in Niagara may register, and each program will receive one story sack for their centre.

Ways to Carry a Métis Baby with Métis Nation of Ontario (ECCDC Conference Room)

Join the ELCC Advisors for an engaging and informative presentation introducing the Ways to Carry a Métis Baby Story Bag. This session will support educators in building confidence to meaningfully incorporate Métis-specific cultural items into early learning and child care settings. Participants will explore the cultural significance behind the materials included in the Story Bag and gain practical ideas for hands-on activities and provocations that reflect Métis traditions and ways of knowing. The presentation will also include a discussion on the important differences between cultural appreciation and cultural appropriation, offering guidance on how to respectfully and authentically engage with Métis culture in early years environments. Educators will leave with cultural connections, teaching strategies, and inspiration for thoughtful programming. Space is limited, each centre to attend will receive 1 free Métis Baby Story Bag kit, sponsored by Métis Nation of Ontario. **Please note:** this session is open to Niagara Educators only due to limited number of story bags.

Rewire Your Focus: The 90% Tool for a More Positive Personal and Professional Life with Darci Lang (ECCDC Conference Room)

This is the perfect topic for those of your team who care for those amazing kiddos. One simple tool that reminds us all that we have a choice how we view our life, from a lens 90% or a lens of 10%. The 90% lens is what is good, positive, and most importantly what we have control over in our life. Life is hard. There are many obstacles and 10% challenges that we face. I believe the goal in life is to not avoid those hard 10% but to go through them, heal, and pop out the other side of them. Then we start to see our life through a 90% lens. I will share many personal stories of my long journey from a 10% life to a 90% one. Focus on the 90% will unfold in four different areas, asking in each of these areas what do you focus on? One idea to apply to each area of our life.

Accommodating Disabilities in Child Care: A Legal and Practical Guide with Asha Rampersad (Webinar)

Child cares, private schools, school boards, and those in the child sector have a legal duty under the Ontario Human Rights Code to accommodate children with disabilities up to the point of undue hardship. As parents become more informed about their rights, there has been a significant increase in litigation as more parents have either been filing complaints to the College of ECE and/or Human Rights Tribunal arguing their child's disability has not been accommodated when decisions have been made

to either modify, condense hours of services, suspend, or withdraw a child from care. The expectations placed on child care operators and their staff to find suitable accommodations for children with disabilities has never been more challenging. As organizations struggle with staffing shortages and limited funding to meet the needs of the individual child, they also find themselves caught between competing obligations from the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labour, and the Ontario Human Rights Code to protect the safety of staff and other children in the program. This practical and interactive course will provide participants with a better understanding of their legal obligations to accommodate children with disabilities in an inclusive manner from the perspective of a parent with a child with special needs. The perspectives of a parent who has a child with special needs will be provided, as well as the challenges faced by child care in meeting their duty to accommodate will be discussed.

Advancing Physical Literacy in Early Childhood through Play-Based Pedagogy with Brock University (Webinar)

Join us for a webinar that highlights the role of play-based pedagogy in promoting physical literacy among young children. Dr. Jaime Barratt from Brock University will share key findings from her research comparing early childhood educator practices from Canada and Australia. This webinar will focus on how educators play an essential role in fostering physical literacy in childcare environments, offering practical strategies to support children's movement skills, health and well-being. This session will be valuable for educators, researchers, and policymakers interested in fostering holistic development through play in early childhood education and care contexts.

Building Relationships and Exploring How Does Learning Happen? in a Home Child Care Program, 2-Part Series with Jinder Virdee (Webinar)

Session 1: How Does Learning Happen in Home Child Care

This interactive and hands-on session explores the principles of *How Does Learning Happen?* within the unique context of home child care settings. Participants will engage in practical activities, reflective discussions, and collaborative exercises that support the connection between theory and everyday practice. This session emphasizes relationship-building, responsive caregiving, and creating environments that support children's learning and well-being.

Continued on page 33

Building Relationships and Exploring How Does Learning Happen? in a Home Child Care Program, 2-Part Series with Jinder Virdee continued

Session 2: Communicating with Parents & Caregivers for Home Child Care Providers

Home child care providers will explore strategies for building trusting relationships with parents, along with key skills such as responding to upset caregivers and explaining educator concerns. Participants will also investigate cultural differences and how they can affect communication between educators and caregivers.

Cultivating Positivity and Developing Strengths-Based Communication Skills Professional Learning Institute with Susan MacDonald (Balls Falls Conservation Area, 3293 Sixth Ave., Lincoln) and Via Livestream

Morning: Sparking Joy: Cultivating Positivity and Resilience

We all want early childhood programs that are buzzing with positivity, but how can you create that kind of atmosphere when energy and engagement are low? Discovering the lasting benefits that vibrant, joyful, and engaging learning environments have on the well-being of teachers and children will be our starting point. Participants will then engage in a series of reflective exercises to refresh their outlook and create a vision to re-energize daily work. You will leave this workshop with an abundance of resources and actionable strategies that will rekindle your spark and reignite your passion for early childhood education!

Afternoon: Conversations That Matter! Developing Strengths-Based Communication

Effective communication is at the heart of successful leadership. Without it, inspiring and motivating educators becomes an ongoing challenge. In this transformative workshop, you will learn how to engage educators in meaningful dialogues that will impact program quality. You will also develop crucial skills for effective communication aligned with individual and program goals to foster a culture of growth and collaboration. Key strategies covered include: Appreciative Inquiry (AI): A strengths-based framework for inspiring positive change, Reflective Practices: Techniques and powerful questions that deepen professional conversations, and Observation Protocols: Tools to enhance feedback and support continuous improvement. By the end of this workshop, you will gain a fresh perspective on your communication and leadership practices and be empowered to lead with increased clarity and confidence.

Supporting Children in Developing Empathy, Wonder, and Respect for the Natural World: Why Bees and Biodiversity Matter with Niagara Bee Group (ECCDC Conference Room)

Bees are essential pollinators, responsible for the reproduction of many plants, including those that produce the food we eat. Biodiversity, the variety of life on Earth, ensures ecosystem resilience and the availability of resources. Understanding these concepts is crucial for fostering a sustainable future. In this session, we will explore the importance of bees, biodiversity basics, threats to bees and biodiversity, and conservation efforts. This session will offer the opportunity to observe a hive experience, where participants can safely see live honey bees up close, watch them dance and work together, and experience first-hand how bees support our food chain. Educators will leave with strategies for sharing experiences with children on the topic of bees and biodiversity and supports the development of empathy, wonder, and respect for the natural world.

Back By Popular Demand! Supporting the Holistic Development of School Age Children with Niagara College (ECCDC Conference Room)

This workshop will highlight the important elements of school-age children's development and the middle years through Ontario's Framework *On My Way: A Guide to Support Middle Years Child Development*. Participants will also engage and reflect on how they can support children to thrive through Ontario's Framework *Gearing Up: A Strategic Framework to Help Ontario Middle Years Children Thrive*.

Expanding Our Knowledge – Building on How Does Learning Happen? to Consider New Pedagogical Approaches to Deepen Our Practice-3-Part Series with ECCDC (Webinars)

Join us for a webinar that highlights the role of play-based pedagogy in There are multiple pedagogies that surround early learning and child care. Some familiar, some less familiar, with some pedagogies grounded in research, and some not so much. However, when choosing pedagogies to incorporate within their practice, early learning and child care practitioners need to ensure that they are grounded in current research. Whether you are a seasoned educator who wants to expand the pedagogical approaches that you utilize within your work or you're a newer educator who is curious to explore new pedagogies, there's something for you in this series. If you want to find out more about the pedagogies of social justice, slow pedagogy, and sustainable pedagogy, practical strategies, and how they can be utilized within our practice, this new 3-part series is for you.

Continued on page 34

***Expanding Our Knowledge – Building on How Does Learning Happen?
to Consider New Pedagogical Approaches to Deepen Our Practice-
3-Part Series with ECCDC continued***

Session 1: Slow Pedagogy

'It takes a whole load of slow to grow'. Educators have been encouraged to slow down in our work with children to truly see them. The Froebelian theory of slow pedagogy reinforces this concept of slowing down. This session will explore what slow pedagogy is, the research behind slow pedagogy, and practical strategies that educators can adopt to make time for children's development and learning in their programs. The session will utilize case studies and stories to explore slow pedagogy.

Session 2: Social Justice Pedagogy

"Children from very young ages internalize messages about power and privilege with regard to gender, race/ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, and language, which they perpetuate through their play and talk" (Ryan & Grieshaber 2004). This session will explore what social justice is, why it matters, and how educators can create more equitable and ethical settings through adapting a pedagogy of social justice. Participants will explore how they can mitigate the inherent power and privilege that dominate society and the role of children's rights and democracy within a pedagogy of social justice. They will gain practical strategies that can be utilized within their practice to explore fairness and equity with the children they work with.

Session 3: Sustainable Pedagogy

'A development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs' is how sustainability has been described, but how does this link to our work with children and what can it look like within our practice? The third and final part of this series will investigate what sustainable pedagogy is, its key components, and what it can look like within our settings. Case studies and stories will be utilized to explore the pillars of sustainable pedagogy and practical strategies will be shared to support educators in affording young children experiences to develop sustainable relationships with the environment.

Back By Popular Demand! Working in Partnership with Families to Support Challenging Behaviours Between the Home and Early Learning Environment, 2-Part Series with Barbara Kaiser (Webinar)

Session 1: Putting Positive Supports in Place to Support Children with

Challenging Behaviour

Prevention is the best intervention. Just as behaviour can affect all aspects of a learning environment, all the aspects of a learning environment can be structured to promote positive behaviour (NAEYC). This session will cover the continuum that involves universal supports for all children that include building strong relationships and providing a high-quality environment that encourages positive behaviour from learning activities to transitions and materials and opportunities available during free play.

Session 2: Challenging Behaviours - The Importance of Working with Families

Communicating with families about concerns about their child's behaviour is one of the hardest things you need to do. You might worry that you will damage your relationship with parent(s), put an extra burden on a struggling family, or put the child at risk for excessive punishment or harm. These are often valid concerns; nevertheless, you have an obligation to keep families informed about their child's progress and well-being. Communication is key to creating family partnerships. Family members must feel comfortable asking questions, seeking information, and raising concerns about their child's care, well-being, and development. Families may need support as much as their child does.

The Wild Path Home: A Guide to Raising the Earth Stewards of Tomorrow Book Launch and Workshop with Jacob Rodenburg (Balls Falls Conservation Area, 3293 Sixth Ave., Lincoln) and Via Livestream

On the pathway to stewardship and kinship—an experiential approach to fostering environmental connection from birth to the teen years. In a technologically saturated world, how can we ignite the next generation's connection to their ecological and human communities? Grounded in science-based research and Indigenous wisdom, The Wild Path Home offers an abundance of practical strategies for fostering respect, reciprocity, and responsibility—empowering young people to become resilient, passionate advocates for the planet.

This essential guide combines creative outdoor learning with supportive mentorship to create a powerful framework that can be adapted to any setting. Award-winning environmental educators Jacob Rodenburg and Cathy Dueck provide a simple, accessible roadmap for nurturing future nature stewards at every stage of their development.

How to Get Second Language Learners Talking with Niagara Children's Centre (ECCDC Conference Room)

Oral language skills are one of the building blocks of emergent literacy. A preschooler's ability to talk about something that has happened, describe what they see, and maintain a conversation is a big part of what helps them be able to read and write in the future. But what happens when the child is being exposed to English or French for the first time in the child care setting? How can we help children with these skills when we may not even speak their home language? This workshop will quickly take you through what to expect of second language learners and then will be a hands-on look at how we can use current provocations and incorporate new ones to encourage these learners to increase their vocabularies and develop their oral language skills.

Beyond the Basics of Leadership: Enhancing Your Skills and Deepening Your Understanding of Leadership in Early Learning and Child Care, A New 3-Part Series with Paula MacLean (Webinar)

This series includes three advanced sessions geared toward supporting ECE leaders wanting to take their skills to the next level. Our first session, "Teams Alive" will explore innovative, science-backed approaches to creating and sustaining motivated teams that embrace a positive, "we've got this culture". If you have ever been a bit puzzled about how to go about developing a truly strategic plan for your organization, then our second session, "It's NOT Rocket Science: Practical Approaches for Creating Your Next Strategic Plan" is for senior leaders and board members who want to embark on a simple but thorough planning process in the future.

If your board and senior leadership have touched on short-term and planned departure succession planning, then you won't want to miss our final session based on instructor and best-selling author Paula MacLean's most recent book, "Following the Leader".

Session #1: Teams Alive – What Really Improves Motivation

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 will clarify why some of our traditional, well-intended ways of improving motivation don't yield the results we hope for. You will leave the session with new, practical, and cost-effective strategies to help teams create a strong connection to your 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 will help you feel renewed energy for unlocking the potential in your teams.

Session 2: It's NOT Rocket Science - Practical Approaches for Creating Your Next Strategic Plan

This session will provide senior leaders (including executive directors, program managers, and volunteer board members) with a step-by-step approach to creating a well-crafted, three-year strategic plan. Topics include: Engaging the right people in the right ways (employees, families, community partners, funders), designing surveys (including a sample survey) to gather vital information, conducting a SWOT analysis, convening a planning retreat, formatting your plan (writing goals) and monitoring progress. In addition, we will discuss how to ensure that your goals are truly strategic and not operational. The session will give you what you need to refine your current planning process or to create a strategic plan for the first time.

Session 3: Succession Planning 101 - Ensuring Sustainability of Not-for-Profit Organizations

This workshop will provide practical direction on how to create plans for emergency and planned departures for Executive Directors, Senior Management, and the effective onboarding of new executives. Succession planning is an ongoing commitment of the Board and ED. Effective plans do not leave future leadership to chance and help to ensure organizational stability. Four areas will be explored during this workshop: Emergency Succession Planning, Planned Departure Planning for Retirements, Leader Development Plans, and board Succession Plans

Connecting Toddlers with Land Based Learning with Métis Nation of Ontario (ECCDC Conference Room)

The early childhood and land-based learning training will discuss the importance of "play schemas" and the benefits of planning intentionality based on understanding key child development principles. Participants will engage with thinking about land-based learning and the importance of getting toddlers outdoors to develop their curiosity to understand the interconnectedness of all living things, and as a key strategy in ensuring positive mental health.

To register for any session, visit www.eccdc.eccdc.org, call 905.646.7311 x304, or email eccdc@eccdc.org. To view Esteem, visit www.eccdc.org/professional-learning/esteem.

Back By Popular Demand! Supporting Children Through Gaining an Awareness and Understanding of Sexual and Gender Diversity with Niagara Falls Community Health Centre (ECCDC Conference Room)

Join 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, participants will explore 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; and resources and information about the Niagara Falls Community Health Centre.

Creating a Visual Art Studio in an Early Learning Environment, 2-Part Series with Victoria Armstrong (Webinar)

Part 1: Creating the Studio: Space and Material Considerations

How can you set up an inspiring visual art space in your classroom that will invite children to build relationships with art materials? In this session, we'll think about the physical layout and materials to include in the space as well as initial provocations to invite children into the studio to linger with materials and build relationships.

Part 2: Documenting, Display and Integrating Art into the Whole Classroom

What can you look for when documenting art experiences? What might be important to capture? How can you share these experiences through display? How can you move art from the studio into the rest of the classroom where it can be used as a tool for thinking, connecting, and sharing with others? In this session, we'll consider all these questions as we think about how best to now use our new studio space.

Trauma Informed Care 101 with Bethesda Services (Webinar)

This training equips participants with foundational knowledge of trauma and its effects on the brain and nervous system. Learners will develop a new perspective on understanding behaviours that may have previously been labeled as non-compliance, manipulation, or attention seeking. The training emphasizes a shift from asking, "what is wrong with the child?" to

"what happened to the child?" – transforming how we view and engage with children who have experienced trauma. Participants will gain an in depth understanding of the core principles and values of trauma informed care and will leave with a toolkit of evidence-based strategies to effectively apply trauma informed practices in their daily interactions with colleagues, children, and families.

Opportunities for Play in a Forest School Setting (ECCDC Conference Room)

Join us for this engaging workshop where 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.

Behaviour Awareness and Self-Regulation in Early Childhood Programs with Pathstone Mental Health (ECCDC Conference Room)

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.

Illuminating Care: The Power of Ritual, The Joy of In-Between Time and the Magic of the Mundane with Carol Garboden Murray (ECCDC Conference Room)

During this thought-provoking presentation, Carol will enliven the principles of the seven lamps of care through stories that illustrate what a pedagogy of care looks like during mealtime, toilet learning, dressing, transitions, and resting. As we live life alongside children, we will embrace care as education. Together, we will examine care as an improvisational art, a situated knowledge, an embodied intelligence, and an ethical encounter.

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Book Study - Re-imagining Heartbreak: An Educator's Journey to Reclaim Whole-Heartedness with ECCDC and Shelley Brandon (Webinars)

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. It is a journey through the woods and into the depths. Shelley Brandon's stories reveal the extraordinary beauty that is possible in ordinary life. Can you dare to bring your whole self to your work with young children? Can you afford not to?

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.

The last session will be presented by the author, Shelley Brandon. Participants will gain insights directly from the presenter and have the opportunity to ask questions that arose throughout the book.

Technology Use for Children with Autism with Bethesda Services (ECCDC Conference Room)

This session will explore why children and youth with autism gravitate towards technology usage, and how it can be used as an effective learning tool. We will also consider how to find a balance for technology usage, strategies for managing screen time, as well as some ideas for screen-free activities.

Extending our Understanding of Documentation and Reflecting on Environments that Nurture and Support Relationships: A Professional Conversation with Susan Stacey (ECCDC Conference Room)

The early learning environment sets the stage for early learning professionals to engage with children in learning experiences. When we as educators thoughtfully communicate, document, and respond to children, we support their growing curiosity and extend their ability to learn and explore. In this workshop, acclaimed author Susan Stacey will share stories and strategies for nurturing and supporting relationships with children as educators, through the use of materials, and in relationship with families and the community by revisiting the role of documentation. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in conversation with colleagues, reflect on their current practices, as well as immerse themselves in a deep dialogue

with Susan Stacey through sharing thoughts, stories, and insights. We invite you to come ready to listen, reflect, and share experiences to deepen your understanding of the impact the environment has on developing nurturing relationships with children and families.

Learning Objectives:

- Develop thoughtful strategies for building relationships with children and families through the use of documentation
- Enhance understanding of how the environment and materials can support and nurture relationships in early learning programs
- Educators will have the opportunity to reflect on the role of documentation in relation to building a sense of community
- Participants will be able to engage in conversations with colleagues and explore how communities of practice can deepen their understanding of documentation and how it impacts relationships.

Understanding and Supporting Indigenous Storytelling, Music, and Movement in Early Learning Environments with Brock University (ECCDC Conference Room)

Join us as we explore strategies for including Indigenous storytelling, music, and movement experiences within your early learning program in a way that is appreciative of Indigenous cultures. Participants will also have the opportunity to learn more about cultural appreciation versus appropriation to create culturally safe learning spaces that support a sense of belonging for all children.

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Niagara Community of Practice Networks

Home Child Care Professionals Linked with a Licensed Home Child Care Agency

Are you contracted with one of Niagara's home child care licensed agencies? If so, this Network is for you. We will have the opportunity to consider and discuss emergent curriculum through interactive materials, displays, and discussion. Attendees will have the opportunity to create a hands-on activity that they can bring back to their early learning environment. A light snack will be provided. Come to tour the ECCDC, borrow resources, problem solve with your peers and engage with others in similar positions. Registration in advance is required by contacting eccdc@eccdc.org.

Wednesday October 1, 2025 • Wednesday November 19, 2025 • Wednesday January 28, 2026

7:00 to 8:30 pm - all dates

Presented In Person in Niagara (ECCDC Conference Room, 3550 Schmon Parkway, Thorold) - all dates

Executive Directors and Administrators Network

Executive Directors are invited to attend this network to connect about issues and will have opportunities to share strategies, suggestions, and best practices with their colleagues.

Thursday October 9, 2025 • The meeting will take place following the webinar *Financial Literacy for Early Learning and Child Care Leaders Series Session 1: Financial Literacy - Understanding Financial Statements for Child Care Centres with Alex Reznikov* (page 74-75 in esteem).

Wednesday January 14, 2026 • The meeting will take place following the in-person workshop *Inspiring Passionate and Purpose Driven Leaders with Andrea Sacco* (page 87 in esteem).

Wednesday March 4, 2026 • The meeting will take place following the webinar *Accommodating Disabilities in Child Care: A Legal and Practical Guide with Asha Rampersad* (page 78-79 in esteem).

Wednesday May 20, 2026 • The meeting will take place following the webinar *Beyond the Basics of Leadership: Enhancing Your Skills and Deepening Your Understanding of Leadership in Early Learning and Child Care, Session 2: It's NOT Rocket Science: Practical Approaches for Creating Your Next Strategic Plan with Paula MacLean* (page 81 in esteem).

12:00 to 1:30 pm - all dates

Presented In Person in Niagara (ECCDC Conference Room, 3550 Schmon Parkway, Thorold) - all dates

Early Learning and Child Care Educator Community of Practice Network

This network supports infant, toddler, preschool and school age educators in exploring current trends, best practices, brainstorming solutions and the opportunity to build capacity within Niagara's early learning and child care professionals. Both experienced educators and those who are new to the field are invited to attend!

Wednesday October 15, 2025 • In Person at Niagara Nursery School (14 Anderson Ln, Niagara-on-the-Lake)

Wednesday February 25, 2026 • Presented In Person In Niagara (ECCDC Conference Room, 3550 Schmon Parkway, Thorold)

Monday April 13, 2026 • In Person at A Child's World Tiny Travellers, 301 St. Paul Street, St. Catharines

6:30 to 8:00 pm - all dates

Niagara Nature Alliance Community of Practice

This network supports educators that have a passion and curiosity for connecting children to nature through the exploration of current trends and research, best practices, and sharing experiences offered in Niagara's early learning and child care programs.

Wednesday October 22, 2025 • In Person at Stamford Green Day Nursery, 3252 Portage Rd, Niagara Falls

Wednesday February 4, 2026 • Presented In Person In Niagara (ECCDC Conference Room, 3550 Schmon Parkway, Thorold)

Wednesday April 8, 2026 • In Person (location to be announced)

6:30 to 8:00 pm - all dates

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Niagara Community of Practice Networks

Menu Planning and Nutrition Community of Practice Network

Connecting to the local gardening community to consider how we can garden seed to table with children. How can we bring children along for the journey to understand where their food comes from and what is available in their own backyard? This network will explore ways to incorporate hands-on food education into your curriculum, from planting and harvesting to preparing and enjoying fresh produce. Join us to share ideas, discover resources, and plan activities that teach children about nutrition, sustainability, and the joys of growing their own food.

Wednesday October 29, 2025 • In Person at Always June Organic Farm, 5584 Niagara Town Line, Niagara Falls

Wednesday January 21, 2026 • Presented In Person In Niagara (ECCDC Conference Room, 3550 Schmon Parkway, Thorold)

Wednesday April 1, 2026 • In Person (location to be announced)

6:00 to 7:30 pm - all dates

Réseau de la communauté de pratique des éducateurs francophones en apprentissage et garde des jeunes enfants

Ce réseau aide les éducateurs des nourrissons, des tout-petits, des enfants d'âge préscolaire et scolaire à explorer les tendances actuelles, les meilleures pratiques, les solutions de remue-ménages et la possibilité de renforcer les capacités des professionnels de l'apprentissage et de la garde des jeunes enfants de Niagara.

le mercredi 12 novembre 2025 • En personne à Centre éducatif La Boîte à soleil – Franco Niagara, 607 Tanguay, Welland

le mercredi 4 mars 2026 • En personne à l'ECCDC (3550 Schmon Parkway, Thorold)

le mercredi 20 mai 2026 • En personne (lieu à annoncer)

18h30 à 20h00 - Toutes les sessions

Licensed Child Care Supervisor Community of Practice Network

The Licensed Child Care Supervisor Network will offer Niagara's supervisors an opportunity to connect and collaborate with their colleagues to share and discuss current trends, best practices, and resources to support them within their role.

Wednesday November 19, 2025 • In Person at Lakeview Community Daycare East, 33 Olive Street, Grimsby

Wednesday January 28, 2026 • Presented In Person In Niagara (ECCDC Conference Room, 3550 Schmon Parkway, Thorold)

Wednesday May 27, 2026 • In Person (location to be announced)

6:30 to 8:00 pm - all sessions

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The ECCDC extends gratitude to Niagara Region Children's Services for their longstanding commitment to funding many of ECCDC's local services and supports

