



# esteem

September to December 2014

Professional learning opportunities related to optimizing child development, health and well-being, professionalism and organizational performance with links to the College of Early Childhood Educators' Standards of Practice

[www.eccdc.org](http://www.eccdc.org)

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**Loose Parts: Exploring the  
Possibilities with Toddlers**

# From the ECCDC Team

Remember the excitement and anticipation you felt as a child when back-to-school season came around? We do, and it served as our inspiration as we lined up the professional learning opportunities in this issue of **esteem**. As your partner in creating environments that capture children's imaginations and planning that sparks their curiosity, we understand that one of our most important roles is to help you continuously rediscover the magic of that back-to-school feeling, no matter what time of year it is.

To help us in this task, we've enlisted a host of very special trainers including motivational speaker Michael Lewis. Michael has a loyal Niagara fan base and will be presenting two sessions this season. **Inspired Leadership: Motivating Your Team To Bring Their Best To Work** and **Respectful Communication: Strengthening Workplace Relationships**.

Reggio Inspired facilitators, Lorrie Baird and Anne Marie Coughlin will also be returning to Niagara for two feature institutes. They will facilitate a December session on pedagogical leadership as a kick-off to our **Exploring Think Feel, Act: Research for Young Children Authors Series**. Lorrie and Anne Marie will also lead an Infant/Toddler workshop in February 2015. Please book ahead and plan to attend.

We're also excited to announce that we will be hosting our Fifth Annual Collaborative Community Professional Learning Opportunity on November 13. This unique event is made possible through the ECCDC's partnership with the District School Board of Niagara, the Niagara Catholic District School Board, Niagara College and Brock University. The presentation - **Reflecting Upon How Does Learning Happen In the Early Years? ... A Focus on Relationships** - will feature Ministry of Education Child Care Advisor Karen Calligan and Education Officer Rod Peturson. We encourage you to join us for this valuable learning opportunity to examine how current research has informed the development of a new pedagogical framework and other resources to support quality in early years settings across Ontario.

Additionally, there are a number of other exceptional workshops being hosted through the ECCDC that you will want to attend. Among them is a very special series facilitated by Adam Bienenstock and the team from Natural Playspaces entitled **Cultivating Natural**

**Playgrounds that Nurture Children's Curiosity and Wonder: A Series to Deepen Our Thinking**. The series will include three, full-day sessions that will begin this fall and extend until spring. This series will help you learn the benefits of designing naturalized spaces and all the strategies needed for revitalizing your existing spaces, designing new spaces and sparking children's curiosity through innovative outdoor curriculum planning. Join the ECCDC and our friends at Natural Playspaces and be a part of the exciting early learning and child care nature movement!

Other new sessions include Frances Yarbrough's session on **Risk Management for Not-for-Profit Organizations**; and Ginette Wilson's new four-part series on **Incorporating the Four Non-Living Elements (air, water, fire and earth) Into Your Early Learning and Child Care Setting**. Ginette is one of the newest members of the ECCDC team and we are pleased to welcome her to the role of Program Consultant.

Cindy Green sparked local educators to consider implementing more loose parts through her research-based session held in June 2014. *Loose Parts: Exploring the Possibilities with Preschool and School Age Children* was popular and well attended. We thank our partners at DSBN for inviting us to use their space and for providing a copy of *Beautiful Stuff: Learning with Found Materials* to each participant. Cindy will join us once again on October 23 with **Loose Parts: Exploring the Possibilities with Toddlers**. She will also repeat her workshop on **Professional Self-Regulation in Practice: Children, Teachers and Leaders as Risk Takers** on November 27.

And lastly, one of the most inspiring events of all - the **18th Annual Early Learning & Child Care Awards of Excellence** - will take place on November 20. We're honoured to have the opportunity to plan this very special evening again for Niagara's early learning and child care community. This year, we've added a new black & white theme. We will also be featuring some of the awards we introduced last year, including a QCCN Program Award, Niagara Child Care Sector Leadership Award, Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten Award and a Family Support Services Award.

We look forward to seeing you this fall and to working with you to make 2014 your best back-to-school season ever!

# Find the esteem sessions that are right for you!

## Legislative Core Training

These sessions are related to legislation that affects child care programs licensed under the *Day Nurseries Act*. They cover any training needs that are identified during the annual license renewal or during inspections by Ministry of Children and Youth Program Advisors, Public Health Inspectors/Nurses, Fire Prevention Officers, and officers of the Ministries of Labour, Environment, or Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Examples of such training include: First Aid Training, Food Handlers Certification, WHMIS, and sessions that deal with other health and safety items or amendments to the *Day Nurseries Act*. Meetings of local child care network groups also fall into this category.

## Quality Child Care Niagara (QCCN) Core Training

These training sessions are required for individuals who work in licensed child care centres that are recognized as a participant in QCCN. These sessions include: DPS, ECERS, Documentation, Speech/Language Checklist, Behaviour Checklist (CARE), and Phase 2 Curriculum Planning.

## Quality Child Care Niagara (QCCN) Related Training

These sessions supplement and support the QCCN training modules, but are not required components. Some examples include: Jolly Phonics, Multicultural Sensitivity, and certain workshops on managing difficult behaviours in children.

## Professional Development and Leadership Training

These training sessions are designed specifically to give you the skills and confidence you need to accelerate your career, optimize your earning potential, and feel more in control of every aspect of your life.

## Streams

- Registered Early Childhood Educators, Full Day Early Learning Educator Teams, Family Support Staff, Primary Teachers, Home Child Care Practitioners, and other Early Learning and Child Care Professionals
- Supervisors and Managers of Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/Ontario Early Years Centres, and other children's service agencies
- Executive Directors, Owners, and Boards of Directors of Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/Ontario Early Years Centres, and other children's service agencies

## Linking to the College of Early Childhood Educators' *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice*

As you may recall, in the last issues of ESTEEM, the ECCDC began aligning its professional learning opportunities to support the College of Early Childhood Educators' *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice*. The College of Early Childhood Educators' *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice* prescribe the basis on which professional practice is conducted in a sound and ethical manner, regardless of the context in which that practice occurs. While the Standards of Practice cannot be considered outside of the scope of the Code of Ethics, for the purpose of aligning the seminars we will be referring to the Standards of Practice. The six Standards of Practice are: Standard I: Caring and Nurturing Relationships that Support Learning; Standard II: Developmentally Appropriate Care and Education; Standard III: Safe, Healthy and Supportive Learning Environments; Standard IV: Professional Knowledge and Competence; Standard V: Professional Boundaries, Dual Relationships and Conflicts of Interest; and Standard VI: Confidentiality and Consent to the Release of Information Regarding Children and their Families.

Going forward, our vision is that all ECCDC Workshop Facilitators will highlight areas in their training which apply to the *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice*.

*Practice* to help participants have a greater practical understanding of how to apply the *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice* into their daily work. We believe this alignment will support participants in becoming effective educators by ensuring they are following the ethical and professional standards each and every day.

To support this vision, each ECCDC Workshop Facilitator will be provided with a *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice* Introductory Package containing information on the College and the *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice*, as well as tips and strategies to further assist them with incorporating the *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice* into their workshop presentation. Ultimately, we envision workshop facilitators will have an awareness of the *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice* themselves and will demonstrate how their workshop content supports the *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice* in a variety of ways.

We thank all of our workshop presenters in advance for supporting the alignment of professional learning opportunities offered through the ECCDC and the College of Early Childhood Educators' *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice*.

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# optimizing early childhood experiences

## Designing the Early Learning Environment

Professional learning opportunities in this category support: Standard I: Caring and Nurturing Relationships that Support Learning; Standard II: Developmentally Appropriate Care and Education; Standard III: Safe, Healthy and Supportive Learning Environments; Standard IV Professional Knowledge and Competence

## Developmental Program Planning, Curriculum and Pedagogy

Professional learning opportunities in this category support: Standard II: Developmentally Appropriate Care and Education; Standard III: Safe, Healthy and Supportive Learning Environments; Standard IV: Professional Knowledge and Competence



# optimizing early childhood experiences

## Designing the Early Learning Environment

Innovative  
new series!

### Introducing the 'Elements' into your Early Learning and Child Care Environment

Research has highlighted the importance of children having contact with the natural environment. Find out what this means in practice and how you can incorporate it into everyday activities. Join ECCDC's Early Learning and Child Care Program Consultant, Ginette Wilson for this four part series, which will look at how educators can incorporate the four 'non-living' elements: Air, Water, Fire, and Earth into an early learning and child care setting and how this aligns with Ontario's Early Learning Frameworks: *Early Learning for Every Child Today* and *How Does Learning Happen?* Within each session, participants will have an opportunity to explore the concept of "messing about" and will gain strategies related to reflective practice using *A Thinking Lens® for Reflection and Inquiry*.



■ Registered Early Childhood Educators, Full Day Early Learning Educator Teams, Family Support Staff, Primary Teachers, Home Child Care Practitioners, and other Early Learning and Child Care Professionals

■ Supervisors and Managers of Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/Ontario Early Years Centres, and other children's service agencies

Professional Development and Leadership Training

### Elements Series Part 1: Introducing Air into an Early Learning and Child Care Setting

Air is all around us! This two-hour interactive workshop will give participants an opportunity to discuss, share, and learn about new activities that incorporate air in an early learning and child care setting. Participants will develop an innovative list of activities which incorporate air to utilize in their setting for both activities for children and the environment. There will also be an opportunity, utilizing loose parts, to make and try out the activities.



**Thursday October 2 • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Community Boardroom) • \$45 includes materials and nutrition break**



## optimizing early childhood experiences

### Elements Series Part 2: Introducing Earth Activities Into Your Early Learning and Child Care Setting

Children love getting dirty and contrary to popular belief, this is actually good for them! This two-hour interactive workshop will discuss the research, benefits, and importance of introducing earth into everyday activities. Participants will develop a portfolio of resources and activities that utilize the earth, in its many forms, to spark adventure and discovery in children. Participants are asked to bring a small amount of soil from their backyards to this session.



**Thursday November 6** • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Community Boardroom) • \$45 includes materials and nutrition break

### Elements Series Part 3: Introducing Water Activities into an Early Learning and Child Care Setting

There's more to water play than floating and sinking! Find out why one of the best resources in an early learning and child care setting is a tap. During this two-hour interactive workshop participants will have the opportunity to discuss and explore new and innovative ways in which to utilize water to spark inquiry. This is a hands-on session during which educators will have the opportunity to participate in practical activities that will foster curiosity, experimentation, and imagination in children. Come and see how to incorporate flowing water into activities and how everyday household items can create waterfalls, water flows, watercourses, and much more.



**Thursday December 4** • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Community Boardroom) • \$45 includes materials and nutrition break

### Elements Series Part 4: Introducing Fire Activities into an Early Learning and Child Care Setting

The fourth and final thought-provoking session of this series will include discussing the research regarding the benefits of utilizing fire, in its various forms, in an early learning and child care setting and what this means in practice. Activities for all comfort levels will be included; from making candles, to dream boats, to cooking with fire using barbecues and campfires. It will dispel the myths around fire and support educators to feel comfortable utilizing fire in their practice. Participants will have the opportunity to explore the concept of risk-benefit analysis. So, let us help you to explore your 'fire comfort zone' and push your boundaries.



**Thursday December 11** • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Community Boardroom) • \$45 includes materials and nutrition break

# optimizing early childhood experiences

## Designing the Early Learning Environment

### Inspiring Outdoor Play Spaces: Wisdom from the Great Outdoors

Are you struggling with ideas for your outdoor curriculum? Looking for innovative ways to engage young children in the outdoors? Join Jennifer Havens, ECCDC's Early Learning and Child Care Community Trainer for this hands-on workshop designed to give you a different perspective on planning inspiring outdoor play spaces. Using play-based learning strategies, participants will explore a variety of approaches for engaging young children through projects, play, and inquiry. Ideas and information presented within the workshop support the College of Early Childhood Educators *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice*, Quality Child Care Niagara, Ontario's Early Learning Frameworks: *Early Learning for Every Child Today*, *The Full-Day Early Learning-Kindergarten Program*, and *How Does Learning Happen?*

**Tuesday October 21** • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Community Boardroom) • \$45 includes materials and nutrition break

- Registered Early Childhood Educators, Full Day Early Learning Educator Teams, Family Support Staff, Primary Teachers, Home Child Care Practitioners, and other Early Learning and Child Care Professionals
  - Supervisors and Managers of Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/Ontario Early Years Centres, and other children's service agencies
- Professional Development and Leadership Training

### Further Explorations for Designing Innovative Early Learning Environments

Join ECCDC's Early Learning and Child Care Community Trainer Jennifer Havens for this two-hour interactive workshop designed to inspire participants to rethink their current environmental design strategies. Lively, thought-provoking conversations and group work will provide opportunities for participants to learn and share new strategies in regards to supporting children's interests, needs, and development in early years settings. Conversation topics will include children's investigations, responsive interactions with children, handling difficult behaviours, implementing natural materials, and cost effective resource ideas. Ideas and information presented support the College of Early Childhood Educators *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice*; Quality Child Care Niagara; and Ontario's Early Learning Frameworks: *Early Learning for Every Child Today*, *The Full-Day Early Learning-Kindergarten Program* and *How Does Learning Happen?*

**Tuesday December 2** • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Community Boardroom) • \$45 includes materials and nutrition break

- Registered Early Childhood Educators, Full Day Early Learning Educator Teams, Family Support Staff, Primary Teachers, Home Child Care Practitioners, and other Early Learning and Child Care Professionals
  - Supervisors and Managers of Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/Ontario Early Years Centres, and other children's service agencies
- Professional Development and Leadership Training





# optimizing early childhood experiences

## Reading Aloud, There Is More to It Than Meets The Eye

Join April Shaw, Emergent Literacy Consultant with Speech Services Niagara as she explores the importance of Dialogic Reading and Emergent Literacy. Dialogic reading is essentially a reading practice using picture books to enhance and improve literacy and language skills. Share some practical examples that you can use within your program and enhance your reading aloud experiences. Come prepared to join in and explore dialogic reading in a fun and practical evening.

**Tuesday November 11** • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Community Boardroom) • \$5 includes handouts and a book to take away

- Registered Early Childhood Educators, Full Day Early Learning Educator Teams, Family Support Staff, Primary Teachers, Home Child Care Practitioners, and other Early Learning and Child Care Professionals
  - Supervisors and Managers of Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/Ontario Early Years Centres, other children's service agencies
- QCCN Related Training



## The Snapshot of a Literacy Environment

The literacy-rich environment emphasizes the importance of speaking, reading, and writing in the learning of all students. This involves the selection of materials that will facilitate language and literacy opportunities; reflection and thought regarding classroom design; and intentional instruction and facilitation by teachers and staff (Reading Rocket). Join April Shaw, Emergent Literacy Consultant from Speech Services Niagara and explore how you can incorporate a variety of literacy activities in your environment.

**Tuesday December 9** • 6:30 to 8:30pm • ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Community Boardroom) • \$10 includes make & take materials, handouts, and a book to take away

- Registered Early Childhood Educators, Full Day Early Learning Educator Teams, Family Support Staff, Primary Teachers, Home Child Care Practitioners, and other Early Learning and Child Care Professionals
- Supervisors and Managers of Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/Ontario Early Years Centres, and other children's service agencies

QCCN Related Training



These workshops have been sponsored by Speech Services Niagara's Emergent Literacy Program

# optimizing early childhood experiences

## Designing the Early Learning Environment

### Cultivating Natural Playgrounds that Nurture Children's Curiosity and Wonder: A Series to Deepen Our Thinking

Today's children and families often have limited opportunities to connect with the natural environment. Children spend more time indoors watching television or using computers than they do being physically active outside. In the past decade, research has demonstrated the important benefits of children connecting to nature. Collectively, this body of research shows that children's emotional, social, and physical health is positively impacted when they have daily contact with nature. Join the team from Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds for an informative series that will provide you with strategies for designing, maintaining and planning for young children's curiosity in naturalized play spaces. You'll also learn about outdoor programming and documentation techniques for outdoor activities. Attending all sessions in the series is not mandatory, but is highly recommended.

■ Registered Early Childhood Educators, Full Day Early Learning Educator Teams, Family Support Staff, Primary Teachers, Home Child Care Practitioners, and other Early Learning and Child Care Professionals

■ Supervisors and Managers of Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/Ontario Early Years Centres, and other children's service agencies

Professional Development and Leadership Training

#### The Bienenstock Story

Bienenstock Playgrounds creates play spaces that connect kids to nature and inspire optimal child development. They are a leader in the development of natural playgrounds and are passionate advocates for this movement worldwide. The Bienenstock team includes award winning designers, architects, planners and educators who are united by their belief in the need to create outdoor spaces that support child development through immersive experiences with nature.



### Workshop Series Session One: Not Just Another Playground and Extending Curriculum Outdoors

- **9:00 am Registration and Breakfast**
- **9:30 am to 12:00 noon Morning Session: Not Just Another Playground....**

The first workshop in the series will offer an introduction to forest schools and natural playgrounds and the concepts behind them. It will also examine some of the opportunities natural playgrounds provide for learning to be extended. You'll learn why natural play spaces are pedagogically sound and why they are imperative to a child's development. You'll also have a chance to review some of the best natural playground designs from around the world. Additionally, societal attitudes toward the outdoors will be discussed, as will the barriers that limit us from creating spaces that truly engage and challenge children.

- **12:00 to 1:00 pm Lunch**
- **1:00 pm to 3:30 pm Afternoon Session: Extending Curriculum Outdoors**

The focus of this session will be on delivering an outdoor curriculum to children of all ages. It will emphasize making the most of what you already have, while adding simple ideas and strategies to ensure success for both children and educators. In addition to considering some global examples of schools and child care centres that use the outdoors as their main learning environment, you'll learn how to develop children's language, math, science, art and social skills in an outdoor setting. This session will also discuss how to overcome some of the common barriers educators face when transitioning to the use of outdoor programming.

- **3:30 pm Workshop Closing**

**Friday October 24 • 9:00 am to 4:00 pm • Amici's Banquet and Conference Centre, 2740 Merrittville Hwy, Thorold • \$85 includes breakfast, lunch, handouts, and all materials**

## optimizing early childhood experiences

### Workshop Series Session Two: Designing a Natural Playground and Extending Curriculum Outdoors in the Winter

- **9:00 am Registration and Breakfast**

- **9:30 am to 12:00 noon Morning Session: Designing a Natural Playground**

This session will focus on the design principles needed to naturalize your outdoor space. Participants will review what a natural playground is and discuss ideas from leading designers from around the world. Working in a small group, you'll have a chance to create your own natural playground design. Each group will get a chance to present its model to the larger group. The session will end with a goal-setting exercise, so you can acquire the skills necessary for getting past any barriers that might prevent your outdoor classroom project from happening.

- **12:00 to 1:00 pm Lunch**

- **1:00 pm to 3:30 pm Afternoon Session: Extending Curriculum Outdoors in the Winter**

This highly experiential, hands-on session will be outside. It will focus on the five basic elements involved in good natural playground designs. You'll learn how to add natural features to your playgrounds while meeting playground inspection codes as well as how to select natural features that serve a variety of functions. You'll also have a chance to experience some of the fun and exciting programming you can use in winter, including blowing ice bubbles, creating ice art, and tapping trees. Additionally, you'll be provided with a newsletter to share with colleagues and parents discussing the Scandinavian concept of "there is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing."

- **3:30 pm Workshop Closing**

**Friday January 23, 2015 • 9:00 am to 4:00 pm • Amici's Banquet and Conference Centre, 2740 Merrittville Hwy, Thorold • \$85 includes breakfast, lunch, handouts, and all materials**

### Workshop Series Session Three: How Does Your Garden Grow, Water Walls, Dirt is Good and the Stick ... Yes You Can

- **9:00 am Registration and Breakfast**

- **9:30 am to 10:45 am Morning Session: How Does Your Garden Grow?**

Many educators feel they don't have the green thumb it takes to grow a successful garden. This session will demonstrate that simplicity is the key to any gardening adventure and inspire you to start small and grow from there. You'll learn all of the basics about planting, digging, weeding and stick fences, as well as how gardening provides opportunities for children's learning to occur all year long.

- **10:45 to 12:00 noon Second Morning Session 'Dirt is Good'**

Making mud pies is a natural part of any childhood. It's a simple activity that is packed full of learning concepts including: viscosity, density, volume and capacity. It's also ideal for children who crave sensory experiences. Setting up a mud kitchen provides dramatic opportunities to enhance social and language skills. This session will show you how to set up a mud kitchen in any playground and provide creative and meaningful experiences that are truly memorable.

- **12:00 to 1:00 pm Lunch**

- **1:00 pm to 2:15 pm Afternoon Session: Water walls**

All children love playing with water. Whether it's jumping in a puddle or playing at the water table, it's always a big hit. This workshop will show you how to set up your own water wall along any chain link fence, using some tubing, connectors and ties. Explore how you can work with the children to control the amount and direction of the water and get tips and tricks for extending their learning. Come and see for yourself how you can create a unique outdoor activity centre with truly unlimited potential.

- **2:15 pm to 3:30 pm Second Afternoon Session The Stick - 'Yes You Can'**

Be sure to stick around for this workshop! You'll learn a variety of ways to encourage children to explore the natural world, starting with a stick. Learn where sticks come from, who needs them and their many uses. From painting sticks and stick art, to making stick people and animals, to building forts, sticks can be the focal point of many great learning opportunities. The best part is that sticks are free, which puts these opportunities within everybody's reach.

- **3:30 pm Workshop Closing**

**Friday April 10, 2015 • 9:00 am to 4:00 pm • Amici's Banquet and Conference Centre, 2740 Merrittville Hwy, Thorold • \$85 includes breakfast, lunch, handouts, and all materials**



# optimizing early childhood experiences

## Developmental Program Planning, Curriculum and Pedagogy

### Supporting Infants and Toddlers: Strategies for Co-Learning with Young Children

Join Jennifer Havens, ECCDC's Early Learning and Child Care Community Trainer, for this innovative, cutting edge workshop designed to provide early learning and child care professionals with implementation strategies to enhance play based learning in infant and toddler early learning environments. Thought-provoking discussions, information sharing, and interactive group work will provide participants with key strategies for planning, implementing, observing and documenting for children's progressive play-based experiences in the younger years. To support best practices this workshop is based on the six fundamental principles outlined in *Early Learning for Every Child Today* and the *Full-Day Early Learning - Kindergarten Program*, as well as strategies from Quality Child Care Niagara, *How Does Learning Happen?* and the College of Early Childhood Educators *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice*.

**Thursday October 9** • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Community Boardroom) • \$45 includes materials and nutrition break

- Registered Early Childhood Educators, Full Day Early Learning Educator Teams, Family Support Staff, Primary Teachers, Home Child Care Practitioners, and other Early Learning and Child Care Professionals
- Supervisors and Managers of Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/Ontario Early Years Centres, and other children's service agencies

Professional Development and Leadership Training

### Loose Parts: Exploring the Possibilities with Toddlers

Join Cindy Green BSc., RECE, ECE.C, former Professor in the School of ECE at Seneca College, for this workshop designed for early childhood educators and home care providers around the versatility of open-ended loose materials that support children's active learning through play and discovery. While thinking about safety, child development and the value of connecting to nature, we will investigate a diverse collection of loose parts and see how they can engage children's inquiring minds. Ideas for accessing various materials will be shared. Come ready to play!

**Thursday October 23** • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Community Boardroom) • \$45 includes materials and nutrition break

- Registered Early Childhood Educators, Full Day Early Learning Educator Teams, Family Support Staff, Primary Teachers, Home Child Care Practitioners, and other Early Learning and Child Care Professionals
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Professional Development and Leadership Training



## optimizing early childhood experiences

### Transformers and Superheroes to Princesses and Fairies: Facilitating Children's Dramatic Play

Young children are naturally drawn to the dramatic play materials in your early learning environment. Infants can be found patting the back of a doll, toddlers may walk into the room chanting 'double/double please', preschoolers will turn any piece of fabric into a superhero's cape. In this progressive workshop, Jennifer Havens, ECCDC's Early Learning and Child Care Community Trainer, will guide participants through a variety of thought-provoking discussions, articles, videos, and group work that will leave you rethinking your dramatic play centre. Strategies for planning and engaging children through imaginative and pretend play materials will support the College of Early Childhood Educators *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice*, Quality Child Care Niagara, Ontario's Early Learning Frameworks: *Early Learning for Every Child Today*, the *Full-Day Early Learning-Kindergarten Program* and *How Does Learning Happen?*



**Tuesday November 25 • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Community Boardroom) • \$45 includes materials and nutrition break**

- Registered Early Childhood Educators, Full Day Early Learning Educator Teams, Family Support Staff, Primary Teachers, Home Child Care Practitioners, and other Early Learning and Child Care Professionals
- Supervisors and Managers of Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/Ontario Early Years Centres, and other children's service agencies

Professional Development and Leadership Training

### Introducing ECCDC's Coaching and Mentoring Services

The ECCDC is pleased to announce the re-launch of its Program Support Services as Coaching and Mentoring Services. We believe the new name better describes the important relationships that are formed when our team works closely with programs to assist them in achieving the highest quality possible. As always, the ECCDC's goal is to help educator teams ensure they are designing innovative, naturalized play spaces and emergent curriculum plans that facilitate children's curiosity, competency, and sense of wonder as well as ensuring they are engaging families in authentic ways.

Our Coaching and Mentoring Services are available to ECCDC Group Members as part of their membership package, and to other individuals and programs for a small fee. If you do not currently have an ECCDC Group Membership, you may

learn more by visiting [www.eccdc.org](http://www.eccdc.org). All of the recommendations the ECCDC provides align with Quality Child Care Niagara (QCCN), as the ECCDC is a proud partner along with Niagara Region Children Services in implementing QCCN in early learning programs across the region.

Coaching and Mentoring Services include guidance and support related to the following areas: naturalizing indoor and outdoor spaces; early learning room layout and design; purchasing (and borrowing) innovative resources, furniture and equipment; strategies for providing invitations to play; support in developing an inquiry based approach; aligning curriculum planning with Ontario's Early Year's Frameworks; enhancing adult/child interactions; effective reflective practice strategies; moving from "scheduling" activities to facilitating a "sequence of events"; and much more.

To learn more about the ECCDC's Coaching and Mentoring Services please contact the ECCDC at [eccdc@eccdc.org](mailto:eccdc@eccdc.org) or 905.646.7311 ext. 314.



# health, safety and well-being

Professional learning opportunities in this category support: Standard III: Safe, Healthy and Supportive Learning Environments; Standard IV: Professional Knowledge and Competence





## Standard First Aid and CPR Recertification

If you've been certified at the Standard First Aid Level within the past three years, this refresher course will orient you to the best practices for managing medical emergencies involving infants and children. Topics covered include primary and secondary assessments, breathing emergencies, bleeding, choking, traumatic injuries, and common medical conditions. **Please note** that proof of certification that has not expired of attendance at a full Standard First Aid and CPR Course is required upon registration and at the training. Participants will have one hour for lunch; bag lunches are welcome.

**Saturday October 18** • 9:00 am to 5:00 pm • ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Community Boardroom) • \$90 includes materials, certificate and nutrition break

■ Registered Early Childhood Educators, Full Day Early Learning Educator Teams, Family Support Staff, Primary Teachers, Home Child Care Practitioners, and other Early Learning and Child Care Professionals  
Legislative Core Training

## A Participatory Approach to MSD Prevention and Slip, Trip and Fall Prevention

*A Training Session for Executive Directors, Owners/Operators and Supervisors of Niagara's Early Learning and Child Care Programs  
Presented by the Public Services Health and Safety Association*

Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSD) results from excessive strain on the body and are the number one workplace injury in the province of Ontario, costing billions of dollars. Slips, trips and falls (STF) are a common cause of injuries in Ontario workplaces. With knowledge and a participatory approach, your organization can prevent these injuries from occurring. Understand the value of the participatory approach, where workers are involved in the recognition, assessment, and control of risks. Attend this full day workshop to: learn about the major risks that lead to MSD and STF and common control strategies. Learn the steps to developing a comprehensive MSD and STF prevention program for your workplace and become familiar with tools to help you develop your program.

**Wednesday October 29** • 9:00 am to 4:30 pm • ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Community Boardroom) • \$150 includes a light lunch and training materials

■ Supervisors and Managers of Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/Ontario Early Years Centres, and other children's service agencies

■ Executive Directors, Owners, and Boards of Directors of Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/Ontario Early Years Centres, and other children's service agencies

Professional Development and Leadership Training



## health, safety and well-being

### Standard First Aid and CPR

Would you know what to do in an emergency involving children? This two-day certificate program in infant/child first aid and CPR is essential for both centre- and home-based providers. It covers everything from how to treat a nosebleed, to how to save a child with no vital signs. The first aid component of the program is valid for three years. The CPR component should be updated annually. Attendance at both sessions is required for certification. Participants will have one hour for lunch; bag lunches are welcome.

**Saturday November 1 AND Saturday November 8 • 9:00 am to 5:00 pm • ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Community Boardroom) • \$140 includes resource book, materials, certificate and nutrition break**

■ Registered Early Childhood Educators, Full Day Early Learning Educator Teams, Family Support Staff, Primary Teachers, Home Child Care Practitioners, and other Early Learning and Child Care Professionals

Legislative Core Training

### Professional Self-Regulation in Practice: Children, Teachers and Leaders as Risk Takers A Session for Executive Directors, Owners, Supervisors and Program Staff of Early Learning and Child Care Programs

Join Cindy Green BSc, RECE, Professional Development Consultant and former Professor: Seneca College, School of ECE for this timely workshop opportunity. This workshop will stretch our thinking about organizational values, practices and policies that reflect the view of all team members as competent, capable and able to take risks in learning. Given the notion that 'fearful adults create fearful children' as outlined in *Let Them Play* (Johnson, 2012),

we consider how unquestioning adult reliance on "that's the rule" might impede children from experiencing the learning potential of a play situation that comes with genuine inquiry and active exploration. The ability of a team to wonder, question, inquire and respond appropriately in all situations is cultivated from the foundation set by leaders. An overview of the importance of acquiring self-regulation (Shanker, 2010) will clarify why and how leaders can invite teachers.

**Thursday November 27 • 5:00 to 7:00pm • ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Community Boardroom) • \$45**

■ Supervisors and Managers of Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/Ontario Early Years Centres, and other children's service agencies

■ Executive Directors, Owners, and Boards of Directors of Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/Ontario Early Years Centres, and other children's service agencies

Professional Development and Leadership Training



### With Thanks to our Colleagues and Project Partners at Louise Kool and Galt



The ECCDC recently received a \$1000 dollar donation from Louise Kool & Galt to purchase new materials for our Resource Lending Library. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Louise Kool & Galt for this most generous donation!



# professionalism & relationships

Professional learning opportunities in this category support: Standard IV: Professional Knowledge and Competence; Standard V: Professional Boundaries, Dual Relationships and Conflicts of Interest; and Standard VI: Confidentiality and Consent to the Release of Information Regarding Children and their Families





# professionalism & relationships



## Fifth Annual Community Collaborative Professional Learning Opportunity Reflecting Upon *How Does Learning Happen in the Early Years?* ... a Focus on Relationships

Ontario has emerged as a leader in the transformation of programs and services for young children and their families – this began with a bold vision for the early years and a powerful image of children, families and educators. Join Karen Calligan and Rod Peturson from the Ministry of Education's Early Years Division to examine how current research has informed the development of a new pedagogical framework and other resources to support quality in early years settings across Ontario.



This presentation has been generously offered by the Ontario Ministry of Education and hosted by the District School Board of Niagara, Niagara Catholic District School Board, Early Childhood Community Development Centre, Brock University and Niagara College



**Thursday November 13** • 6:30 to 9:00 pm • Holiday Inn, 327 Ontario Street, St. Catharines • \$25 includes light refreshments

- Registered Early Childhood Educators, Full Day Early Learning Educator Teams, Family Support Staff, Primary Teachers, Home Child Care Practitioners, and other Early Learning and Child Care Professionals
- Supervisors and Managers of Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/Ontario Early Years Centres, and other children's service agencies

Professional Development and Leadership Training

## Exploring *Think, Feel, Act: Lessons from Research about Young Children* Author's Series Session 1: Pedagogical Leadership Institute with Lorrie Baird and Anne Marie Coughlin

The role of leadership in early learning is changing rapidly. As leaders, how might we reconcile the responsibility between never ending administrative responsibilities, ensuring program quality, and supporting the growth and development of educators? Throughout this session we will explore four focuses of Pedagogical Leaders which are: working from a place of vision and values; focusing on building strong relationships; nurturing dispositions that are useful in our work; and embedding professional development in day-to-day practice.

**Friday December 5 and Saturday December 6** • 8:00 am to 3:30 pm • Holiday Inn, 327 Ontario Street, St. Catharines • \$145 includes continental breakfast & buffet lunch on both days and all institute materials

- Registered Early Childhood Educators, Full Day Early Learning Educator Teams, Family Support Staff, Primary Teachers, Home Child Care Practitioners, and other Early Learning and Child Care Professionals
- Supervisors and Managers of Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/Ontario Early Years Centres, and other children's service agencies

Professional Development and Leadership Training



## professionalism & relationships

### Learning Together with Infants and Toddlers Using Reflective Teaching Practices to Meet Up with Children's Lively Minds!

This two-day institute will focus on the inspirational and practical realities that working with our youngest children offer. Join Lorrie Baird and Anne Marie Coughlin for lively conversation, participation with props and stories, and:

- cultivate your role as an educator of infants and toddlers;
- enhance the joy and intellectual engagement in your work;
- design an engaging physical and social emotional environment;
- negotiate the complexities of working with infants and toddlers;
- consider multiple perspectives and use "A Thinking Lens<sup>®</sup>" to reflect upon your work;
- study the foundational elements for reflective practice;
- observe the details of children's activities to seek their points of view;
- transform your view of infants and toddlers; and
- meet up with children's minds and approaches to learning.



**Friday February 27 and Saturday February 28, 2015 • 8:00 am to 3:30 pm • Amici's Banquet & Conference Centre, 2740 Merrittville Hwy, Thorold • \$145 includes continental breakfast & buffet lunch on both days and all institute materials**

■ Registered Early Childhood Educators, Full Day Early Learning Educator Teams, Family Support Staff, Primary Teachers, Home Child Care Practitioners, and other Early Learning and Child Care Professionals

■ Supervisors and Managers of Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/Ontario Early Years Centres, and other children's service agencies

Professional Development and Leadership Training



Lorrie Baird has worked in the early childhood field for over 30 years as a classroom educator, program supervisor, college evaluator and course writer and workshop facilitator. Currently she holds the position of Associate Executive Director with Kawartha Child Care Services in Kawartha, Ontario.



Anne Marie Coughlin is the Professional Development Coordinator and Program Director at London Child Care Services in London, Ontario. Over her 30 year career, she has worked as a Preschool Educator, Centre Director, PD Coordinator and Community College Teacher. Both individuals are associate trainers with Margie Carter and Deb Curtis at Harvest Resources.

# organizational performance

Professional learning opportunities in this category support: Standard IV: Professional Knowledge and Competence; Standard V: Professional Boundaries, Dual Relationships and Conflicts of Interest





## Lunch and Learn — Inspired Leadership: Motivating Your Team To Bring Their Best To Work!

Join popular speaker Michael Lewis for this informative workshop. Leaders that inspire us to be our best are leaders that earn great respect and trust. As a leader, what a wonderful opportunity it is for you to be such a positive and supportive influence on others. This motivational seminar will fire you up with a new enthusiasm to look for and find the best in each team member. Discover how to motivate your team with the power of genuine and targeted praise. Empower them to utilize their personal strengths. Coach and mentor them on areas in which they can build new skills and abilities. Partner them up with other team members who can provide positive support. Learn how delegation empowers your staff and frees you to really focus on more important leadership activities. Become an agent for improving morale and service within your team.

**Friday October 10** • 12:00 to 2:00 pm • ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Community Boardroom) • \$45 includes a light lunch

■ Supervisors and Managers of Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/Ontario Early Years Centres, and other children's service agencies

## Risk Management for Nonprofit Organizations

Join Frances Yarbrough for an informative presentation related to managing risks within not for profit organizations. Risk management is an ongoing process of identifying and prioritizing risks, developing a risk management plan, sharing the plan with Board of Directors and staff and providing related training to staff members as required and monitoring/updating the plan where necessary. Participants will have an opportunity to explore the various risks that exist within organizations and will gain strategies for making an assessment regarding their organization's level of risk related to the following assets: people, property, income, and goodwill/reputation. The session will provide participants with tools for developing a risk management plan and recommendations for monitoring the plan on an ongoing basis.

**Thursday October 30** • 10:00 am to 2:00 pm • ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Community Boardroom) • \$75 includes a light lunch

■ Supervisors and Managers of Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/Ontario Early Years Centres, and other children's service agencies  
■ Executive Directors, Owners, and Boards of Directors of Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/Ontario Early Years Centres, and other children's service agencies

Professional Development and Leadership Training

**Presenter Bio:** Frances Yarbrough, principal of Yarbrough Consulting and Training Services brings many years of experience helping not-for-profit organizations succeed, including board governance, volunteer engagement, fund development, operational management and service delivery. After working 15 years in the non-profit sector, Frances founded Yarbrough Consulting and Training Services and puts her experience to work creating customized strategies that build on a non-profit's strengths to ensure increased capacity and resiliency of the organization.



## Lunch and Learn — Respectful Communication: Strengthening Workplace Relationships!

Join popular speaker Michael Lewis for this informative workshop. Discover the importance of respect as it applies to workplace communication. Learn how to ensure communication that is respectful to the feelings of others. We'll discuss how to communicate with parents/children with an emphasis on listening and interpreting and developing and improving team based communication. The workshop will also offer suggestions for keeping positive attitudes in the workplace with children, families, and co-workers.

**Friday December 5** • 12:00 to 2:00 pm • ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Community Boardroom) • \$45 includes a light lunch

■ Supervisors and Managers of Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/Ontario Early Years Centres, and other children's service agencies

Professional Development and Leadership Training

## organizational performance



Quality Child care Niagara (QCCN) is a standardized, research-based approach to enhancing the quality of licensed child care programs and supporting core school programming across Niagara. For more than a decade now, the ECCDC has been offering Quality Child Care Niagara (QCCN) Phase 1 training through ESTEEM. We've worked hard this summer to book upcoming QCCN Phase 2 training dates and to ensure Niagara's licensed child care programs are aware of all upcoming QCCN training sessions. We're also very pleased to be offering a variety of French QCCN Training sessions. If you have any questions regarding QCCN, please contact Patricia Couroux at Early Childhood Community Development Centre 905.646.7311 ext. 300 or email [pcouroux@eccdc.org](mailto:pcouroux@eccdc.org).

### Registration Information

No charge for those currently employed in a licensed child care centre in Niagara, all others pay \$30  
Pas de frais pour les personnes employées dans un centre de garde d'enfants autorisé à Niagara, tous les autres paient 30,00 \$

Please register by faxing in a completed registration form to 905.646.2692 or by contacting the ECCDC at 905.646.7311 ext. 304 or [eccdc@eccdc.org](mailto:eccdc@eccdc.org)

S'il vous plaît vous inscrire par télécopieur, un formulaire d'inscription complet à 905.646.2692 ou en communiquant avec le ECCDC au 905.686.7311, poste 304 ou [eccdc@eccdc.org](mailto:eccdc@eccdc.org)

Quality Child Care Niagara Core Training

### Dépistage préscolaire (DPS): Inventaire de diagnostic pour le dépistage des enfants

Le DPS est un outil de dépistage précoce du développement conçu pour évaluer de grands groupes d'enfants entre les âges de 6 et 60 mois. Il est fiable à identifier les enfants qui pourraient être à risque de délai de développement et ouvre la voie à une transition vers le système scolaire formel.

**Lundi Septembre 8** • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • La Boîte à soleil coop. inc., 674 rue Tanguay, Welland

### Developmental Preschool Screen (DPS): Diagnostic Inventory for Screening Children

The DPS is an early developmental screening tool designed to screen large groups of children between the ages of 6 and 60 months. It is reliable in identifying children who may be at risk of developmental delays and sets the stage for a smooth transition to the formal school system.

**Tuesday September 9** • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Community Boardroom)

### Échelles d'évaluation de l'environnement au préscolaire (ITERS, ECERS, SACERS)

L'atelier d'échelles d'évaluation de l'environnement va vous permettre de comprendre l'environnement d'apprentissage dans votre programme de garde d'enfants et vous donner les outils d'établir une mesure de base de qualité, en apportant des modifications qui améliorent l'apprentissage des enfants. Les différentes échelles d'environnement visent toutes les aires de jeux d'enfant parmi tous les groupes d'âge et sont conçus pour améliorer de programmation.

**Lundi Septembre 22** • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • La Boîte à soleil coop. inc., 674 rue Tanguay, Welland

# organizational performance

## Environmental Rating Scales

Environmental Rating Scales allow you to understand the learning environment in your child care program and to establish a baseline measurement of quality, so you make changes that enhance children's learning. The various Environmental Rating Scales are geared to different child care environments and age groups and are designed to enhance the quality of programming.

**Tuesday September 23** • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Community Boardroom)

## La documentation et la communication

La tenue de dossiers en ordre assure que le dépistage préscolaire (DPS), l'échelle d'évaluation de l'environnement, la liste de vérification « Speech and Language » ainsi que le C.A.R.E, sont organisé d'une manière standardisée pour supporter la planification de programme pour tous les enfants. En plus, apprendre des sondages pour être consistant, recevoir le feedback des parents/tuteurs et recevoir des exemples de permission écrite, signée par les parents/tuteurs, avant de compléter des dépistages ou les listes de vérification.

**Lundi Octobre 6** • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • La Boîte à soleil coop. inc, 674 rue Tanguay, Welland

## Documentation and Communication

Keeping clear records ensures the Developmental Preschool Screen (DPS), Environmental Rating Scales, and Speech/Language and Behaviour Checklist scores are recorded in a standardized way to support program planning for all children. Learn about surveys to obtain consistent, ongoing feedback from parents/guardians and written permission forms that are required from parents/guardians before using any checklist.

**Tuesday October 7** • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Community Boardroom)

## Speech/Language Developmental Checklist

This checklist examines all elements of speech and language development for children from birth to five years of age, identifies children who may be at risk for speech delays, and components of the DPS. This checklist provides a user friendly format for sharing results with families. To attend this session, participants must have completed training in the use of the DPS and Environmental Rating Scales.

**Thursday October 16** • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Community Boardroom)

**Wednesday October 22** • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • A Child's World, Head Office, 344 Avon Street, Welland

## Behaviour Checklist: Children's Actions, Relationships and Emotions (CARE)

The behaviour checklist is an intervention tool that identifies behaviour patterns in children between the ages of 24 and 72 months. It complements the DPS and provides a format for recording observations, sharing information, working with families and making referrals when necessary. To attend this session, participants must have completed training in the use of the DPS and Environmental Rating Scales. Led by Jennifer Parr, Behaviour Consultant with Kids and Families Matter.

**Monday October 20** • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • A Child's World, Head Office, 344 Avon Street, Welland

**Monday October 27** • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Community Boardroom)

# organizational performance

**Please note that  
all sessions on this  
page were recently  
rescheduled.**

**More information  
will be coming soon  
on new dates for  
Phase 2 sessions.**

## **Quality Child Care Niagara Phase Two Program Planning**

### **Phase 2 Session 1 – Developmental Program Planning**

A review of how the tools learned and applied in Phase 1 (DPS, ECERS, ongoing Documentation/Checklists) ensure that the developmental needs of all children are being considered. Developmental programming will be looked at as purposeful planning with intentionality. A classroom profile, developmental reference guide and developmental program plans will be explored.

**Monday November 3** • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • A Child's World, Head Office, 344 Avon Street, Welland

### **Phase 2 Session 2 – Developmental Program Planning**

A review of the QCCN developmental program plan for the children in your care will be discussed. Participants will work collaboratively to create developmentally appropriate program plans that support all areas of development and have a chance to implement the new program plan before returning for the final session.

**Monday November 10** • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • A Child's World, Head Office, 344 Avon Street, Welland

### **Phase 2 Session 3 – Emergent Literacy**

Emergent Literacy has been defined as the knowledge children have about reading and writing before they can actually read and write. The participants will discuss oral language skills, alphabet knowledge, print awareness, sound play, and interest in and enjoyment of books.

**Monday November 24** • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • A Child's World, Head Office, 344 Avon Street, Welland

### **Phase 2 Session 4 – Developmental Program Planning**

Participants will bring their completed developmental program plans and review successes and challenges of implementing the developmental program plan. The participants will brainstorm strategies to overcome any barriers and share their successes.

**Monday December 1** • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • A Child's World, Head Office, 344 Avon Street, Welland



## **early learning & child care community networking**



## early learning & child care community networking

### Home Child Care Agencies Network

Home child care agency visitors are invited to attend this network meeting to continue discussions regarding best practices for the home child care professionals whom they support. This session will include an opportunity to continue conversations regarding Ontario's Early Years framework: *How Does Learning Happen?* and *Think, Feel, Act: Lessons from Research about Young Children* and the network will preview the video *The Environment Is a Teacher*, available on the Ministry of Education website.

**Wednesday September 17** • 9:00 to 11:00 am • ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Internal Meeting Room)

### Reflective Practice Network

This network is open to all educators who are looking to share and develop their reflective practice techniques. Participants are invited to have a discussion related to establishing a study group around *How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years* and/or Ann Pelo's recent book *The Goodness of Rain*. During this session Christina Ramanauskas will share her 'not a box' activity and documentation. Additionally, Donna Dagleish will introduce the *Thinking Lens for Reflective Teaching* and lead an activity regarding its utilization. Participants are encouraged to bring examples of documentation to share at the session.

**Monday September 22** • 6:00 to 8:00 pm  
• ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Resource Lending Library)

### Francophone Child Care Centre Supervisors Network

Francophone supervisors are invited to attend this session for an opportunity to network with fellow supervisors as well as share successes and challenges they are experiencing in their supervisory role. Christina Clark will share information regarding the services offered through Centre de Santé in Welland on their behalf. This session will include an opportunity for conversations regarding *Think, Feel, Act:*

*Lessons from Research About Young Children* and the network will preview *The Power of Relationships* video available on the Ministry of Education's website. Ministry, Region and Public Health updates will be provided. This meeting will take place at LaMarsh Daycare and will include a tour of the centre.

**Wednesday September 24** • 10:00 am to 12:00 pm • La Bôité à Soleil LaMarsh Daycare, 4751 Drummond Road, Niagara Falls

### Child Care Centre Supervisors Network

Child care supervisors are invited to attend this session for an opportunity to network with fellow supervisors as well as share successes and challenges they are experiencing in their supervisory role. This session will include an opportunity to continue conversations regarding *Think, Feel, Act: Lessons from Research About Young Children* and the network will preview the video *The Environment is a Teacher* available on the Ministry of Education website. Ministry, Region and Public Health updates will be provided. This meeting will take place at Branscombe Early Learning and Family Centre and will include a tour of the centre.

**Thursday September 25** • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • Branscombe Early Learning and Family Centre, 6271 Glengate St, Niagara Falls

### Home Child Care Practitioners Network

Home child care professionals and home child care network leaders are invited to join this dynamic network to engage in conversations around best practices regarding food and nutrition in a home child care environment. Additionally, this meeting will include an update on Bill 10, a discussion regarding the development of this network, including future network format for the meetings and training opportunities. The network also welcomes home child care agency representatives to join if desired as well.

**Monday October 20** • 6:30 to 8:30 pm  
• ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Community Boardroom)

# early learning & child care community networking

## Co-op Teachers Network

This half-day network session will provide co-op teachers with an opportunity to network with fellow co-op teachers as well as share successes and challenges they are experiencing in their role. This session will include further discussions related to the six principles outlined in Ontario's Early Learning Framework: *Early Learning for Every Child Today* as a follow up from May's meeting. Ministry, Region and Public Health updates will be provided. Additionally, this session will provide an opportunity for conversation regarding *Think, Feel, Act: Lessons for Research About Young Children* and the network will preview the video *The Environment is a Teacher*.

**Friday October 24 • 9:00 am to 12:00 pm**  
• ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold  
(Community Boardroom)

New  
Revitalized  
Network!

## Program Staff Network

Registered Early Childhood Educators who work directly with children within Niagara's early learning and child care programs are invited to join this meeting with the ECCDC's Early Learning and Child Care Program Consultant Ginette Wilson. Network participants are encouraged to bring resources ideas and examples of naturalizing the early learning and child care environment, for round table discussion. This session will provide an opportunity for conversations regarding *Think, Feel, Act: Lessons from Research About Young Children* and the network will preview the video

*The Environment is a Teacher* available on the Ministry of Education website.

**Tuesday October 28 • 6:30 to 8:30 pm •**  
ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold  
(Internal Meeting Room)

## Child Care Centre Supervisors Network

Supervisors are invited to attend this session to share information regarding strategies for leading effective staff meetings and will include an opportunity to continue conversations regarding *Think, Feel, Act: Lessons from Research About Young Children* and the network will preview the video *Everyone Is Welcome* available on the Ministry of Education website. Ministry, Region and Public Health updates will be provided. This meeting will take place at Power Glen Co-operative Nursery School in St. Catharines and will include a tour of the centre.

**Tuesday November 4 • 6:30 to 8:30 pm •**  
Power Glen Co-operative Nursery School, 237  
Rykert Street, St. Catharines

## Child Care Centre Cooks Network

Child care centre cooks are invited to join the ECCDC's Early Learning and Child Care Program Consultant Ginette Wilson for a fun and dynamic afternoon. Come share ideas, strategies and recipe suggestions. New recipes will be offered and discussions regarding upcoming plans for this network will take place.

**Thursday November 6 • 2:30 to 4:30 pm •**  
ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Internal Meeting Room)

## Did You Know?

- The ECCDC Resource Development team have been hard at work to ensure that all rejuvenated 2014 Play-Based Learning Kits now include a bilingual copy of "A Thinking Lens® for Reflection & Inquiry", located in the Educator Resource bag.
- The ECCDC tries to incorporate wooden materials in its Play-Based Learning Kits as often as possible. Many of these natural materials come from suppliers such as Tegu & Plan Toys, both of which are available for ordering through Louise Kool & Galt.



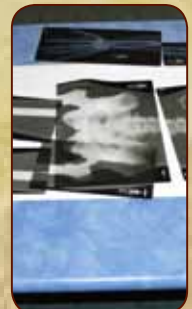
## A Play Based Learning Experience Submission: *Thanks to St. Gabriel's Catholic Elementary School*

### Discovery: Planting ... to Bones ... to Snakes!

It was another busy & inquisitive day in the ELKP classroom at St. Gabriel's Catholic Elementary in Niagara Falls. Our carpet discussion began that morning with a child asking if they could water the plants that were kindly donated to our classroom by Mullen Markets. "Look Mrs. S, the plants are dying!" I reply with a question - "Why do you think the plants are dying?" The responses provided demonstrated a keen sense of reasoning - a few examples included: "maybe some of the plants are bent over towards the window because they were trying to see the sun outside the window"...."Maybe the soil needs worms, because worms poop in the soil and help the plants grow better". I responded with a resounding "Yes, absolutely!! Worms are decomposers and help enrich the soil." Our discussion initiated an astonishing journey that morning which led us to venture outside for a worm hunt. When we regrouped back inside, earthworms in hand, we added the worms to the plant soil as we intended. This expedition led to further inquiry and exploration. "Do worms have bones?" one asked. Using the smart board to research information on the subject of worms, a related question was asked.... "How many bones do we have in our body?" I asked the question back to the children, "How many bones do you think we have in our body?" We began to note their predictions and soon confirmed that humans have 206 bones. This led to a frenzy of children feeling their own hands, feet and even bellies in attempts to count all 206 bones in their bodies.

After visiting the ECCDC that same evening, I was able to return to school and introduce the children to a model of a mini-skeleton and further intriguing resources related to the human body that captivated their interest and provoked further inquiry and exploration. Many children began to closely examine the skeleton and attempt to sketch it, while others decided to use the x-ray images provided to piece together their own skeleton. Many demonstrated evidence of making connections with their personal experiences as some had already set up a doctor's office in the house centre wearing the lab coat, glasses, and using the stethoscope to listen to each other's heartbeats. The classroom would soon be transformed that morning into a makeshift science lab **and I** was Miss Frizzle!! After some time spent probing, imaginations were set in motion! A variety of further insightful inquiries emerged... "do snakes have bones?" one child asked. This child shared with us that she had a collection of garter snakes at home that she cared for and wished to bring one in to show her fellow classmates. ECCDC to the rescue! A terrarium was borrowed from the centre and the children all participated in preparing the home for our soon to be guest. The terrarium was made ready by adding rocks, sticks, water, and leaves from our Zen garden to help the snake feel comfortable in its new temporary home. Our new discussion was snakes and learning all we could about what they eat, the colourful patterns on their scales, types of snakes, habitats, locations, and of course **venom**!!

Frances Sorrenti, RECE  
St Gabriel Lalemant, Niagara Falls  
Niagara Catholic District School Board



**PLEASE SEND US YOUR PICTURES, STORIES AND IDEAS!** If you've had a unique play based learning experience or would like to share your ideas for early learning environments, please send us your photos and stories so that we can publish them in ESTEEM. Please email them to [eccdc@eccdc.org](mailto:eccdc@eccdc.org) using the subject line: ESTEEM HIGHLIGHT. All entries will be eligible to win a \$50 training gift certificate which will be drawn at the end of each training calendar year.

## New Play-Based Learning Kits Available for Borrowing at the ECCDC

### Toddlers Explore the Characteristics of Sea Life (#892)

This across the curriculum play based learning kit contains materials that will enhance children's knowledge of animals that live in the ocean. This rejuvenated play based learning kit contains items such as a fish tank, finger puppets, assorted sea creature molds, large sea animal figures, and assorted dough stamps.

### Microscope Set for School Ageds (#1051)

This rejuvenated play based learning kit contains materials such as assorted prepared slides, six small specimen jars, assorted blank slides, two pairs of tongs, and two microscopes.

### Children Discover the Science of Investigation Through Observations (#5485)

This supplementary play based learning kit provides resources to engage children in a variety of experiences to enhance their observation skills.. This new kit contains materials such as; assorted "What's Inside Animals" cards, six jumbo magnifiers, as well as an I Spy bag.

### Exploring Colour & Light with Infants & Toddlers (#5596)

This supplementary play based learning kit contains materials to engage children in activities that investigate colour and light. This new kit contains flashlights, transparent Duplo blocks, as well as 3 sensory tubes and coloured splats.

## Visit the ECCDC to Experience an Authentic Dramatic Play Centre

The ECCDC invites the community to enter a **Cane Den** where they can **Mess About** with authentic resources in an innovative **Dramatic Play Centre**.

The Dramatic Play Centre was developed through the ECCDC Coaching and Mentoring Services Team to support educators on their emergent journey

Opportunities will be available to engage in reflective conversations utilizing **A Thinking Lens® for Reflection and Inquiry** and participate in an interactive evaluation activity. ***As an evaluation participant you will be entered to win the Cane Den for your centre!***

Visit the ECCDC's Learning Café, at 3340 Schmon Parkway in Thorold, to see this innovative space and ask to speak to Ginette or Patricia regarding unique suggestions for your early learning environment, to request a program visit or obtain flyers to continue the conversation with your team.

Thank you to Cathy Elliott and Louise Kool & Galt for making the furniture and some accessories available for the centre. For further information regarding Louise Kool & Galt produces visit [www.louisekool.com](http://www.louisekool.com) or contact Cathy Elliott at [celliott@louisekool.com](mailto:celliott@louisekool.com).



## Some Fun Tips from the Team in the Resource Lending Library

### Promoting Literacy

Add literacy components to your kitchen play centre by placing some cookbooks in the environment. As an extension, provide the children with paper and writing tools and invite them to write their own recipes!

#### Check out these related ECCDC Lending Library Resources

- Pretend Soup And Other Real Recipes - A Cookbook for Preschoolers & Up (Cat. #1020)
- Rethinking Nutrition - Connecting Science and Practice in Early Childhood Settings (Cat. #5044)
- Everyday Places & the People We Know: Community Places: At the Bakery Kit (Cat. #1313)

### Classroom Displays in a Pinch

Use fabric on your display boards to make them last longer and to incorporate a variety of textures in your displays. An added bonus is that many fabrics won't show holes when items are added and removed!

#### Check out these related ECCDC Lending Library Resources

- Learning Stories - Constructing Learner Identities in Early Education (Cat. #5771)
- Windows On Learning: Documenting Young Children's Work (Cat. #2954)
- Creating Rooms Of Wonder - Valuing And Displaying Children's Work To Enhance The Learning Process (Cat. #287)

### Eco-Friendly Matching Activity

Provide the children with a basket of clean, recycled containers with their matching lids removed, and invite them to try and find the pairs! This quick activity will help to enhance cognitive and fine motor skills.

#### Check out these related ECCDC Lending Library Resources

- Mastering Math Collection: Sorting & Classifying with Natural Materials (Cat. #5513) - NEW PLAY-BASED LEARNING KIT COMING SOON
- Science Concepts & Natural Wonders: Schoolagers Discover Methods of Exploring and Caring for the Environment Kit (Cat. #5275)

### Pumpkin Art

Invite the children to spread glue onto a small pumpkin and stick on a variety of tissue paper to create a decoupage effect. To extend this activity, a variety of other materials such as glitter and/or stickers may be provided to enhance the children's experience.

#### Check out these related ECCDC Lending Library Resources

- Everybody Is An Artist: Enhancing Children's Creativity Through Creative Art Experiences Kit (Cat. #1881)
- Art Experiences for Little Fingers - Open-ended Art Experiences that help Young Children Explore the World (Cat. #5054)

### Tip for Mess-Free Glue

For mess free glue, cut up a sponge to fit a plastic container, pour in some glue and place the sponge on top. Invite the children to press their materials onto the sponge to apply glue, then simply place a lid on the container when finished to prevent it from drying out!

## Follow eccdc on

twitter

The ECCDC has a brand new Twitter page! For the latest updates on our Resource Lending Library and Specialized Workroom, Professional Learning Opportunities, as well as quick links to the latest news in the field of early learning and child care, please follow us @eccdc1 to stay connected.





# registration form

## 1. workshop information (PLEASE PRINT)

Staff Name	Name of Workshop	Cost
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

## 2. participant information (PLEASE PRINT)

Program Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please add our organization's e-mail address to the ECCDC's Upcoming Events email listing to receive upcoming training opportunities, articles of interest, and Resource Library updates.

## 3. payment information (WHERE APPLICABLE)

- ☐ Cheque
- ☐ Cash
- ☐ Invoice my organization\*
- ☐ Visa\*\*
- ☐ MasterCard\*\*

\* authorization required \*\* fill out info below

Supervisor signature for invoicing

\_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on card

\_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. registration procedures

### professional development events with registration fee

- Submit completed registration form with payment information (cash, cheque, credit card, or invoice) to the ECCDC prior to the event (contact information below)
- Walk-in registrations permitted if space & trainer allows
- Once processed, payments are non-refundable; however, registration is transferable to another individual
- In the event of cancellation due to low registration or other unexpected circumstances, refunds will be issued within 30 days
- Invoices are issued to organizations upon receipt of registration by fax or mail, with supervisor authorization

### professional development events with rsvp

Where there is no charge for a workshop a phone call, fax, or e-mail to confirm your attendance is required.

## did you know

Fees for training & workshops cover;

- Nutrition breaks & meals
- External cost for Facilitators
- Training materials & handouts
- Off-site facility costs.

Participants in our training never pay for;

- ECCDC coordination & design of events
- Training facilitation by ECCDC staff
- Facility costs at ECCDC
- Specialized equipment costs
- Advertising, flyers, and mailing costs.

Return form to: ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold L2V 4Y6 or fax it to 905.646.2692



The ECCDC wishes to recognize Niagara Region Children's Services for its ongoing partnership, support and investment in the ECCDC's mission within Niagara's early learning and child care community.



For details about any of these unique training sessions, contact:

**Early Childhood Community Development Centre**

3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold, ON L2V 4Y6 | 905.646.7311 ext. 304 | [eccdc@eccdc.org](mailto:eccdc@eccdc.org)

And remember, any of the sessions you read about in Esteem can be customized to meet the individualized needs of your program or organization.

Esteem is designed by the Early Childhood Community Development Centre