

Spring 2021 Revised Edition

# Professional Learning Opportunities *in your* Community

All sessions  
scheduled from April  
to June 2021 will be  
offered as webinars.

Fall 2021 sessions  
that cannot be  
offered safely in-  
person will be  
offered as webinars.

Please be assured  
your health and  
safety is our priority.

Register for any of our sessions at [www.eccdc.org](http://www.eccdc.org)  
or by calling 905.646.7311 ext. 304

**eccdc**



# In this issue

## In person session locations if Public Health Regulations Permit:

**Niagara:** ECCDC Conference Room, 3550 Schmon Parkway, Thorold ● **Sudbury:** Radisson Hotel Sudbury, 85 Ste. Anne Road ● **Ottawa:** Ottawa Conference and Event Centre, 200 Coventry Road

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## Schema Play Series

Children create understanding and knowledge of their world by interacting with the environment and the 'things' within it. While they are doing this, we often observe them repeating actions over and over again and see repeated patterns in their play. In the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Jean Piaget recognized organized patterns of behaviour in children's play and developed his schema theory around how children learn and acquire knowledge through physical and mental actions. In the 1980s Chris Athey furthered Piaget's work by identifying clusters of play patterns and developed the concept of schematic play or schema play.

If you would like to find out more about schema play and how to support schema play in your early learning and child care setting then we invite you to participate in this engaging, interactive and fun series. There will be opportunities to engage in thought-provoking conversations with fellow Educators and explore a variety of materials and experiences that support schema play.

## Schema Play Series continued

### Mark Making Schemas

This second schematic play session will look at schema play through a lens of early Mark Making, a prerequisite for the development of literacy skills, and explore how educators can introduce schema play materials and experiences to their environment to support mark making.



**Wednesday October 6, 2021**

Presented *In Person in Sudbury*

6:30 to 9:00 pm

\$50 includes training booklet  
and materials



**Wednesday October 13, 2021**

Presented *In Person in Ottawa*

6:30 to 9:00 pm

\$50 includes training booklet  
and materials

### Emotional Schemas

The final session in this series will focus on Emotional Schemas. Educators will have an opportunity to dive deeply into the concept of emotional schemas in an early learning and child care setting. This will include identifying and recognizing emotional play schemas, and how educators can support young children with the development of self-regulation through emotional play schemas.



**Wednesday October  
27, 2021**

Presented *in Person in  
Niagara*

6:30 to 9:00 pm

Niagara Educators: \$10

Outside Niagara  
Educators: \$30



**Wednesday  
November 3, 2021**

Presented *In  
Person in Sudbury*

6:30 to 9:00 pm

\$50 includes  
training booklet  
and materials



**Wednesday  
November 10,  
2021**

Presented *In  
Person in Ottawa*

6:30 to 9:00 pm

\$50 includes  
training booklet  
and materials



## Fostering Lifetime Gardeners and Naturalists Workshop Series

How can we foster children to become lifetime gardeners and naturalists? We know we want to help children connect to nature, and gardening with kids would be great, but let's get real with where we are and what we can do to achieve these lofty goals! Join us for this exciting workshop series to explore:

- how to further integrate and leverage any gardening that you already do and/or have learned about;
- working through blocks or issues that limit food gardening and or nature-based programming that you'd like to do - or do better - where you work or in your career (\*institutional, professional or even personal);
- hands-on activities that work for getting started or for growing a stronger food garden program design elements and activities that work in small spaces; and
- planning and scaffolding - from today's practices to the big goals.

### Garden Soils, Critters and Ecology

- Insects, Bees, Birds, Bats - roles they play in the garden
- Learn about the soil food web and how to help children connect to it
- Working with worms and other garden life (getting past the ick factor at any age!)
- Activities and activity stations for toddlers and pre-schoolers
- Compost tea, seed balls, worm composting, *and more*



Thursday September 16, 2021

Presented *In Person in Niagara* (ECCDC Conference Room and Niagara Region Naturalization Quarry)

6:00 to 8:30pm

Niagara Educators: \$45 includes all workshop materials

Outside Niagara Educators: \$50



## *Fostering Lifetime Gardeners and Naturalists Series continued*

### **Garden Planning, Programming and Play**

Join us in a hands-on design workshop, where you can learn about and plan for including young children in food garden design and growing food.

- Clarify your goals and vision
- Explore how to engage children and adults in a long-term sustainable garden program
- Start designing or enhancing garden play / work stations and elements or activity plans
- Talk through social, resource and site challenges
- Discuss designing for ease of use by staff, child safety, aesthetics, high play value, garden productivity, ecosystem health, variety and diversity, and other goals
- Discuss costs and recommended supplies



**Thursday November 4, 2021**

Presented ***In Person in Niagara*** (ECCDC Conference Room and Niagara Region Naturalization Quarry)

6:00 to 8:30pm

Niagara Educators: \$45 includes all workshop materials

Outside Niagara Educators: \$50







## STEAM Series

Attitudes to science and math are shaped in the early years and carry through to the teenage years (Archer et al. 2019) and the attitudes of adults can directly influence children's attitudes towards STEAM experiences. Educators are often uncomfortable and lack confidence in providing STEAM experiences, which can result in young children not being afforded opportunities to develop a love of STEAM areas.

If you are one of those educators who is struggling with providing STEAM experiences in your practice or you are looking to enhance the everyday **Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and design**, and **Mathematics** experiences available in your early learning and child care centre, then this three-part STEAM series is for you!





### Session 1: STEAM Rich Environments

The first session in this series will consider what STEAM is and what this can look like in an early learning and child care setting. Educators will have opportunities to reflect on how they can integrate STEAM into a variety of program areas that support and encourage inquiry-based learning. Educators will have opportunities to *Mess About* with materials that they can utilize to provide STEAM rich early learning environments and the links to *Tinkering*.

 <p><b>Monday May 3, 2021</b> Presented <i>Via Webinar</i> 6:30 to 8:00 pm Niagara Educators: No Charge Outside Niagara Educators: \$25</p>	 <p><b>Thursday September 30, 2021</b> Presented <i>In Person in Niagara</i> 6:30 to 9:00 pm Niagara Educators: \$10 includes all workshop materials Outside Niagara Educators: \$30</p>	 <p><b>Tuesday October 5, 2021</b> Presented <i>In Person in Sudbury</i> 6:30 to 9:00 pm \$50 includes training booklet and materials</p>	 <p><b>Tuesday October 12, 2021</b> Presented <i>In Person in Ottawa</i> 6:30 to 9:00 pm \$50 includes training booklet and materials</p>
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### Session 2: STEAM for Infants and Toddlers

The second session will consider how educators can bring STEAM concepts into everyday experiences for infants and toddlers while honouring their self-initiated learning. Educators will have opportunities to consider how they can give visibility to STEAM learning and concepts in an early learning and child care setting, and reflect on how they can facilitate STEAM for infants and toddlers. This will then be followed by hands-on exploration of STEAM rich environments for infants and toddlers.

 <p><b>Wednesday May 19, 2021</b> Presented <i>Via Webinar</i> 6:30 to 8:00 pm Niagara Educators: No charge Outside Niagara Educators: \$25</p>	 <p><b>Thursday October 28, 2021</b> Presented <i>In Person in Niagara</i> 6:30 to 9:00 pm Niagara Educators: \$10 includes all workshop materials Outside Niagara Educators: \$30</p>	 <p><b>Tuesday November 2, 2021</b> Presented <i>In Person in Sudbury</i> 6:30 to 9:00 pm \$50 includes training booklet and materials</p>	 <p><b>Tuesday November 9, 2021</b> Presented <i>In Person in Ottawa</i> 6:30 to 9:00 pm \$50 includes training booklet and materials</p>
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## *STEAM Series continued*

### **Session 3: Steam in Outdoor Environments**


This session will focus on how educators can facilitate and support STEAM in outdoor environments. Educators will have opportunities to reflect on how outdoor environments provide real world natural experiences that spark curiosity, encourage exploration, challenge children and encourage them to ask questions and test theories. There will be opportunities to *Mess About* with natural materials that develop a sense of wonder and joy of STEAM experiences.




**Wednesday**  
**June 17, 2021**  
Presented *Via Webinar*  
6:30 to 8:00 pm  
Niagara  
Educators: No charge  
Outside Niagara  
Educators: \$30



**Thursday**  
**November 25, 2021**  
Presented *In Person in Niagara*  
6:30 to 9:00 pm  
Niagara  
Educators: \$10  
Outside Niagara  
Educators: \$30



**Tuesday**  
**November 30, 2021**  
Presented *In Person in Sudbury*  
6:30 to 9:00 pm  
\$50 includes training booklet and materials



**Tuesday**  
**December 7, 2021**  
Presented *In Person in Ottawa*  
6:30 to 9:00 pm  
\$50 includes training booklet and materials



## Take it Outside! A Nature Perspective Series

This series was created to help educators navigate the outdoors and offering opportunities to engage with loose parts, explore in all weathers and encourage opportunities for children to challenge themselves to take a risk. Throughout this series, participants will have an opportunity to reflect and share experiences, brainstorm and engage in group discussions, immerse themselves in hands-on experiences, identify connections to Ontario's Early Learning Frameworks, and strategize how to weave their learning into their daily practice through action planning.

### Session 1: Innovative Ways to Use Natural Loose Parts

Loose parts can be found in our early learning environments and have grown in popularity over the last several years. Participants will develop an understanding of what natural loose parts are and learn about the importance of them in relation to children's development and play experiences. As a group, participants will explore innovative ways to introduce and use natural loose parts in their environment in low cost/no cost ways.



**Thursday April 29, 2021**

Presented *Via Webinar*

6:30 to 8:00 pm

Niagara Educators: No charge

Outside Niagara Educators: \$25



**Tuesday September 28, 2021**

Presented *In Person in Niagara* (ECCDC Conference Room and Niagara Region Naturalization Quarry)

6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Niagara Educators: \$10 includes training booklet & materials

Outside Niagara Educators: \$30

## *Take it Outside! A Nature Perspective Series continued*

### **Session 2: Outdoor Play Throughout the Year**

As Canadians, we are fortunate to have four distinct seasons in which to incorporate outdoor play throughout the year. In this session we will develop an understanding of outdoor play that can be shared with families and colleagues as well as highlight the benefits of outdoor play while using low cost/no cost strategies and materials that can be implemented into your program to support daily outdoor play. We will also look at global outdoor play trends as well as other related concepts that we can transition into our outdoor programs. Finally, we'll review ECCDC's Naturalized Play Space Project where the learning highlighted the importance of outdoor play in relation to children's development and the play experiences offered throughout the seasons.



**Monday May 31, 2021**

Presented *Via Webinar*

6:30 to 8:00 pm

Niagara Educators: No charge

Outside Niagara Educators: \$25



**Tuesday October 26, 2021**

Presented *In Person in Niagara* (ECCDC Conference Room and Niagara Region Naturalization Quarry)

6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Niagara Educators: \$10 includes training booklet and materials

Outside Niagara Educators: \$30

### **Session 3: Risky Play Throughout the Day**

Children's play contains an element of risk and this session looks at opportunities for risky play being woven into a child's day. Participants will explore what risk is and develop an understanding of risky play. What would be the implications of risk-averse attitudes towards play? Participants will be encouraged to have open dialogue to brainstorm the 'why' behind offering elements of risk and challenge for children. As a group reviewing and learning about the importance of risky play in relation to children's development and play experiences using up to date theories, research documents and frameworks as way to increase educator knowledge and confidence.



**Tuesday June 22, 2021**

Presented *Via Webinar*

6:30 to 8:00 pm

Niagara Educators: No charge

Outside Niagara Educators: \$25



**Tuesday November 23, 2021**

Presented *In Person in Niagara* (ECCDC Conference Room and Niagara Region Naturalization Quarry)

6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Niagara Educators: \$10 includes training booklet and materials

Outside Niagara Educators: \$30



## **Integrating Technology to Enhance Daily Practice with Children and Families Series**

In the age of technology, it is helpful to take time to consider how we can integrate technology into our daily practice to enhance the experiences of the children and families we work with. Technology can sometimes be intimidating when you don't have a knowledge base. This series will be building upon those technical basics to enhance our understanding of building and coding with technology as well as how we can use that knowledge to support and increase family engagement.

# optimizing early childhood experiences: developmental program planning, curriculum and pedagogy

## Session 1 - Where to Begin: The Technical Basics

For this session we will be reflecting on how technology has been used within our programs and the basics we need to know. Are there other pieces of the puzzle we need to consider such as policy, best practices, benefits of technology and the right kind of screen time? Participants will have an opportunity to explore these pieces as well as different types of technology you could implement within your program which will be supportive of learning for children, families, and educators.



**Thursday September  
23, 2021**

Presented *In Person in  
Niagara*

6:30 to 9:00 pm

Niagara Educators: \$10

Outside Niagara  
Educators: \$30



**Wednesday  
October 6, 2021**

Presented  
*In Person in  
Sudbury*

6:30 to 9:00 pm

\$50 includes  
training booklet  
and materials



**Wednesday  
October 13, 2021**

Presented  
*In Person in  
Ottawa*

6:30 to 9:00 pm

\$50 includes  
training booklet  
and materials

## Session 2 - Building and Coding with Technology

How do you build and code? In this session we will be exploring the many ways in which you can implement experiences within your program using everyday materials that support the concepts children need to learn to build computer code. We will investigate how coding can be a creative process for children to take their imagination to the next level. Participants will have an opportunity to explore how this is done.



**Thursday October  
21, 2021**

Presented *In  
Person in Niagara*

6:30 to 9:00 pm

Niagara Educators:  
\$10

Outside Niagara  
Educators: \$30



**Wednesday  
November 3, 2021**

Presented *In  
Person in Sudbury*

6:30 to 9:00 pm

\$50 includes  
training booklet  
and materials



**Wednesday  
November 10,  
2021**

Presented *In  
Person in Ottawa*

6:30 to 9:00 pm

\$50 includes  
training booklet  
and materials



## *Integrating Technology to Enhance Daily Practice with Children and Families Series continued*

### **Session 3 - Technology Strategies to Support Family Engagement**

We have a picture of the basics and how we can enhance children's opportunities with technology, so the next step is to put into practice what we have learned with the families we support. We will investigate strategies to move away from paper copies to digital media and pathways to authentically engage our families within our programs. We will also explore different programs, resources and tools in an interactive setting.



**Thursday  
March 25, 2021**

Presented *Via  
Webinar*

6:30 to 8:00 pm

Niagara  
Educators: No  
charge

Outside  
Niagara  
Educators: \$30



**Thursday  
November 18,  
2021**

Presented  
*In Person In  
Niagara*

6:30 to 9:00 pm

Niagara  
Educators: \$10  
Outside Niagara  
Educators: \$30



**Wednesday  
December 1,  
2021**

Presented  
*In Person in  
Sudbury*

6:30 to 9:00 pm

\$50 includes  
training booklet  
and materials



**Wednesday  
December 8,  
2021**

Presented  
*In Person in  
Ottawa*

6:30 to 9:00 pm

\$50 includes  
training booklet  
and materials



## Unpacking Children's Play Series

Do you ever wonder why children play the way they do? When children play, they have opportunities to explore, engage and experiment with their ideas and beliefs of the world around them. Many of our programs have shifted to play-based learning offerings to the children we work with to expand their learning.

This series takes a closer look at the learning taking place in **Block and Construction Play**, **Imaginative and Dramatic Play** and **Rough and Tumble Play**. Each of the sessions in the series build upon each other through research and reflective practice and will offer ideas for you to explore within your centre.

# optimizing early childhood experiences: developmental program planning, curriculum and pedagogy

## Session 1 - Block and Construction Play

In our classrooms we ensure that children have a large, open area filled with different blocks, small world items and props that link to children's interests, experiences, and developmental skill sets. In having these materials available children are growing their problem solving, mathematic, continuity and permanence skills.



**Wednesday September 22,  
2021**

Presented *In Person in  
Niagara*

6:30 to 9:00 pm

Niagara Educators: \$10

Outside Niagara Educators:  
\$30



**Thursday October 7,  
2021**

Presented *In Person  
in Sudbury*

6:30 to 9:00 pm

\$50 includes training  
booklet and materials



**Thursday October 14,  
2021**

Presented *In Person  
in Ottawa*

6:30 to 9:00 pm

\$50 includes training  
booklet and materials

## Session 2 – Imaginative and Dramatic Play

Have you ever watched a child pick up an object and pretend it is a zooming car or put on a cape and become someone else? In imaginative and dramatic play children are using objects to represent something else while giving it an action or motion. The process of pretending builds many skills such as language, emotional intelligence, and thinking.



**Wednesday October 20,  
2021**

Presented *In Person in  
Niagara*

6:30 to 9:00 pm

Niagara Educators: \$10

Outside Niagara Educators:  
\$30



**Thursday November  
4, 2021**

Presented *In Person  
in Sudbury*

6:30 to 9:00 pm

\$50 includes training  
booklet and materials



**Thursday November  
11, 2021**

Presented *In Person  
in Ottawa*

6:30 to 9:00 pm

\$50 includes training  
booklet and materials





## *Unpacking Children's Play Series continued*

### **Session 3 – Rough and Tumble Play**

We can either try to stop children engaging in rough and tumble play or we can stop and unpack what it is and why they are doing it. In rough and tumble play children are smiling and laughing because this kind of play for them is fun! Rough and tumble play is a basic human instinct that helps to develop such skills as strength, movement, body awareness, and socializing.



**Wednesday  
March 31, 2021**

Presented *Via  
Webinar*

6:30 to 8:00 pm

Niagara  
Educators: No  
charge

Outside  
Niagara  
Educators: \$30



**Wednesday  
November 24,  
2021**

Presented  
*In Person in  
Niagara*

6:30 to 9:00 pm

Niagara  
Educators: \$10  
Outside Niagara  
Educators: \$30



**Thursday  
December 2,  
2021**

Presented  
*In Person in  
Sudbury*

6:30 to 9:00  
pm

\$50 includes  
training  
booklet and  
materials



**Thursday  
December 9,  
2021**

Presented  
*In Person in  
Ottawa*

6:30 to 9:00  
pm

\$50 includes  
training  
booklet and  
materials



## **Inclusive Practices Series**

A new three-part series offering opportunities for educators to explore the concept of utilizing inclusive practices to support children through the ever-changing pathway of behaviour. Educators are strongly encouraged to attend all three sessions as the series has been created to build upon each session.

# optimizing early childhood experiences: developmental program planning, curriculum and pedagogy

## Session 1 - Laying the Foundation to Start the Journey

During the first session educators will have an opportunity to revisit their daily practices and consider the impact that this has on both educators' and children's behaviour. Educators will reflect on the use of language, equitability, power relationships, and best practices. The session will also offer an opportunity to explore ways in which both educators' and children's resiliency skills can be enhanced to support change that behaviour can bring to the classroom.



**Tuesday September 21, 2021**

Presented *In Person in Niagara*

6:30 to 9:00 pm

Niagara Educators:  
\$10

Outside Niagara  
Educators: \$30



**Tuesday October 5, 2021**

Presented *In Person in Sudbury*

6:30 to 9:00 pm

\$50 includes  
training booklet  
and materials



**Tuesday October 12, 2021**

Presented *In Person in Ottawa*

6:30 to 9:00 pm

\$50 includes  
training booklet  
and materials

## Session 2 - Reflecting on Inclusive Practices

In the second session educators will consider how utilizing an inclusive approach supports children's behaviour. They will have opportunities to explore inclusive practices and the ways in which the environment, curriculum and pedagogy can either support or hinder their journey.



**Monday March 29, 2021**

Presented *Via Webinar*

6:30 to 8:00pm

Niagara  
Educators: No  
charge

Outside  
Niagara  
Educators: \$30



**Tuesday October 19, 2021**

Presented *In Person in Niagara*

6:30 to 9:00pm

Niagara  
Educators: \$10

Outside  
Niagara  
Educators: \$30



**Tuesday November 2, 2021**

Presented *In Person in Sudbury*

6:30 to 9:00  
pm

\$50 includes  
training  
booklet and  
materials



**Tuesday November 9, 2021**

Presented *In Person in Ottawa*

6:30 to 9:00  
pm

\$50 includes  
training  
booklet and  
materials

optimizing early childhood experiences:  
developmental program planning, curriculum and pedagogy



*Inclusive Practices Series continued*

**Session 3 - Constructing a New pathway**

Completing the journey with the final session, educators will dive deeply into inclusive early learning strategies which they can consider for implementation into both their daily practice and early learning environments. The strategies will offer educators an opportunity to explore their next steps.



**Tuesday March  
30, 2021**

Presented *Via  
Webinar*

6:30 to 8:00 pm

Niagara  
Educators: No  
charge

Outside  
Niagara  
Educators: \$30



**Tuesday  
November  
30, 2021**

Presented  
*In Person in  
Sudbury*

6:30 to 9:00  
pm

\$50 includes  
training  
booklet and  
materials



**Tuesday  
December 7,  
2021**

Presented  
*In Person in  
Ottawa*

6:30 to 9:00  
pm

\$50 includes  
training  
booklet and  
materials



**Tuesday  
December 14,  
2021**

Presented  
*In Person in  
Niagara*

6:30 to 9:00 pm

Niagara  
Educators: \$10

Outside  
Niagara  
Educators: \$30



## Natural and Found Loose Parts for all Ages

What are loose parts? How do they support learning in our centres? Why is it important to implement loose parts into our curriculum? When can we introduce loose parts? Who can benefit from loose parts? Participants will have an

opportunity to consider the who, what, where, when and why of loose parts while considering what implementing loose parts into the curriculum looks like at different ages. Natural and found loose parts can be incorporated into the curriculum on a daily basis supporting children's exploration and imagination. Consider how we communicate to our families and colleagues the importance of loose parts. We will reflect on how loose parts support the Four Foundations of *How Does Learning Happen* and how we can utilize their properties to enhance children's developmental skills. A resource listing will be provided to participants of loose parts they can collect for their program as well as kits and resources available for loan or purchase from ECCDC.



Wednesday September 29, 2021

Presented *In Person in Niagara*

6:30 to 9:00 pm

Niagara Educators: \$10

Outside Niagara Educators: \$30



## What's Your Story?

### Enhancing our Observation and Documentation Skills through the lens of *How Does Learning Happen?*

This session will offer educators a chance to document their journey to share with children, families and colleagues. Participants will have an opportunity to share their stories, reflect on their journey and investigate tools and resources to support their observation and documentation skills. What is Your Story links to the Four Foundations of *How Does Learning Happen?* As educators we are asked to observe and document the lives of the children we work with; however, in our current situation how can we document our story to share with the children and families we work with? Why did you choose this profession? What drives you every day? We will look at our observation skills and how we can further enhance them. We'll also consider what we document, how do we get our message across, and what is the story we want to tell.



Wednesday March 24, 2021

Presented *Via Webinar*

6:30 to 8:00 pm

Niagara Educators: No charge

Outside Niagara Educators: \$25

For the session we would ask each participant to collect some artifacts that tell their story, inspire memories and offer some clues to who they are. We will also be exploring how we can implement these ideas into our everyday practice when we return to our centres. A resource listing will be provided to participants of tools and resources they might consider for their program as well as kits and resources available for loan or purchase from ECCDC.



## Taking Care of Me to Take Care of You – Supervisor Wellness Session

During the session Supervisors will have an opportunity to explore the key aspects of workplace wellbeing that can support not only their wellbeing but also that of their staff team.



Friday October 22, 2021

Presented *In Person in Niagara*

9:00 to 11:00 am

Niagara Educators: \$10

Outside Niagara Educators: \$30

Participants will engage in discussions on returning to the workplace post pandemic, sharing their journey and tips and tricks they have discovered. We will review the reasons for burnout and understanding ways to avoid burnout for their own career and those of their staff team. Links will be made throughout the session to Ontario's Early Learning Frameworks that can be shared with the staff team. To finish off the session, a large group brainstorm will take place exploring ways to share back with team, implement and track success.



## Simple Strategies for Stressed Educators

Join Patrice Palmer, teacher, trainer and writer for this workshop based on her book: *The Teacher Self Care Manual*. Participants will have an opportunity to learn strategies to reduce stress by having a conversation about the mindsets and habits developed throughout our working life that contribute to stress and in extreme cases burnout. Patrice will share her insights and tools that you need to keep your stress in check without sacrificing yourself. You will also receive a copy of Patrice's book.



Tuesday March 23, 2021

Presented *Via Webinar*

6:30 to 8:30 pm

Niagara Educators: \$45 includes a copy of *The Teacher Self Care Manual*

Outside Niagara Educators: \$50





## Mindful Goal Setting

Have you ever set goals and found that you were not as committed to them as you thought? Or perhaps these goals were really set by someone else for you? Of course, you have! When we set goals that are harmonious with who we are and what we truly value, our ability to meet these goals enhance our self-esteem and our wellbeing in general. Mindfulness allows us to be more self-aware of what is truly important to us and understand what might be in our way of achieving these goals. In this workshop, participants will go beyond the “normal” goal setting process and will explore concepts of the intention pyramid, strategic intentions, and time mapping and will leave with a plan to make their goals not only achievable but inspiring.



**Thursday April 8, 2021**

Presented *Via Webinar*

Time for Administrators: 9:30 am to 12:00 pm

Time for Educators: 6:30 to 9:00 pm

Niagara Educators: \$55 for either session includes all session materials

Outside Niagara Educators: \$60



## What is Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and How Can I Best Support Children in a Child Care Setting?

Join Kim McAlpine Service Navigator with Autism Ontario for this new presentation. In this workshop you will gain knowledge about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), strategies that can be easily implemented in a child care setting to help promote children's success, the new Ontario Autism Program (OAP), and resources that you will be able to share with families.



**Wednesday December 1, 2021**

Presented *In Person in Niagara*

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

No Charge, this session has been sponsored by Autism Ontario

You'll also have an opportunity to meet the local Service Navigator and Program Coordinator from Autism Ontario for the Niagara Region, Vanessa Coens.



## Engaging Families in the Early Years in Authentic Ways

This session offers invitations for learning and opportunities to discuss the authentic ways that we may engage families. If you are looking to develop deep, meaningful relationships with families, want to ensure they feel included as a partner within your program, or perhaps you are looking for ways to incorporate families' voices in your planning to help them feel a sense of belonging, this workshop is for you. Participants will have an opportunity to discuss with one another new strategies for building positive relationships with families based on mutual trust and understanding and suggestions for engaging families in their children's learning in meaningful ways.



**Monday October 4,  
2021**

Presented *In Person  
in Sudbury* (Radisson  
Hotel Sudbury, 85  
Ste. Anne Road)

9:00 to 11:30 am

\$50 includes training  
booklet and materials



**Friday October 15, 2021**

Presented *In Person  
in Ottawa* (Ottawa  
Conference and Event  
Centre, 200 Coventry  
Road)

9:00 to 11:30 am

\$50 includes training  
booklet and materials



## Empowering Parents as Partners in Their Children's Play

Play - what is it? What do children learn through play? What is involved in play? Structured vs. unstructured. So many theories and ideas are floating around about play and its role in children's lives. Play is a right of every child and all children need time and space for free play every day. What does that look like in our EarlyON programs? How do we engage parents in the conversation about the intentionality behind play? We will have an opportunity to engage in conversation and reflect on different theories as well as messaging through our documentation for families.



**Saturday April 24,  
2021**

Presented *Via  
Webinar*

9:30 to 11:00 am

Niagara Educators:

No charge

Outside Niagara  
Educators: \$25



**Monday October 4,  
2021**

Presented *In Person  
in Sudbury* (Radisson  
Hotel Sudbury, 85 Ste.  
Anne Road)

1:00 pm to 3:30 pm

\$50 includes training  
booklet and materials



**Friday October 15, 2021**

Presented *In Person  
in Ottawa* (Ottawa  
Conference and Event  
Centre, 200 Coventry  
Road)

1:00 pm to 3:30 pm

\$50 includes training  
booklet and materials



## Sharing the value of unstructured play experiences with families and colleagues

As we are moving away from theme based planning to an emergent approach to learning through play, which is in line with Ontario's Early Learning Frameworks, the way that we are working with children in the early learning and child care field is changing. This workshop will support educators to explore what unstructured play is, the importance and benefits to children, and how they can communicate this to fellow educators and families. The session will look at intentional, open-ended experiences and dispel the myth of it being a 'free for all'. Participants will have an opportunity to try out some practical, interactive ways to convey the importance of unstructured play in an early learning and child care environment.



**Saturday June 26, 2021**

Presented *Via Webinar*

9:30 to 11:00 am

Niagara Educators:  
No charge

Outside Niagara  
Educators: \$25



**Friday November 5, 2021**

Presented *In Person in Sudbury* (Radisson Hotel Sudbury, 85 Ste. Anne Road)

9:00 am to 11:30 am

\$50 includes training  
booklet and materials



**Friday November 12, 2021**

Presented *In Person in Ottawa* (Ottawa Conference and Event Centre, 200 Coventry Road)

9:00 am to 11:30 am

\$50 includes training  
booklet and materials



## Supporting Risk and Challenge

How can we provide risk and challenge for a wide age range of ages and abilities while being mindful of the health, safety, and well-being of children? Educators will have an opportunity to explore ideas and experiences to support the implementation of appropriate risk within their programs.



**Saturday May 15,  
2021**

Presented *Via  
Webinar*

9:30 to 11:00 am

Niagara Educators:  
No charge

Outside Niagara  
Educators: \$25



**Friday November 5,  
2021**

Presented *In Person  
in Sudbury* (Radisson  
Hotel Sudbury, 85 Ste.  
Anne Road)

1:00 pm to 3:30 pm

\$50 includes training  
booklet and materials



**Friday November 12, 2021**

Presented *In Person  
in Ottawa* (Ottawa  
Conference and Event  
Centre, 200 Coventry Road)

1:00 pm to 3:30 pm

\$50 includes training  
booklet and materials



## Reflecting on Pedagogical Leadership Journey

As a follow up to ECCDC's Pedagogical Leadership series, participants are invited to join fellow pedagogical leaders for lively dialogue chronicling their journey. Participants will have opportunities to reconnect with educators, to reflect on and reconsider the evolution of their role as pedagogical leaders. During the session there will be time to engage in informal and facilitated conversations with fellow pedagogical leaders; to celebrate successes, and share thoughts, ideas and strategies that have inspired their thinking and practice on their journey thus far. Participants will then shift into considering new theories, materials and resources to support the continued impact of their role as a pedagogical leader.



**Friday June 25, 2021**

Presented *Via Webinar*

9:00 to 11:00 am

Niagara Educators: No charge

Outside Niagara Educators: \$25



**Friday November 26, 2021**

Presented *in Person in Niagara*

9:00 to 11:30 am

Niagara Educators: \$10 includes training booklet and materials

Outside Niagara Educators: \$30



**Friday December 3, 2021**

Presented *In Person in Sudbury*

9:00 to 11:30 am

\$50 includes training booklet and materials



**Friday December 10, 2021**

Presented *In Person in Ottawa*

9:00 to 11:30 am

\$50 includes training booklet and materials



## Making Children's Learning Visible

Educators can become co-learners with children and families through valuing children's experiences and valuing both children's and families' perspectives. How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years is encouraging educators to move beyond simply providing activities for children and families. We are being asked to think deeply about the context and meaning behind children's and families' experiences, thinking and learning in a more complex way. So how can Educators make children's learning visible with families? How can pedagogical documentation support the shift and highlight the intentionality?



**Tuesday June 29,  
2021**

Presented *Via  
Webinar*

6:30 to 8:00 pm

Niagara Educators:  
No charge

Outside Niagara  
Educators: \$25



**Friday December 3,  
2021**

Presented *In Person  
in Sudbury* (Radisson  
Hotel Sudbury, 85 Ste.  
Anne Road)

1:00 pm to 3:30 pm

\$50 includes training  
booklet and materials



**Friday December 10, 2021**

Presented *In Person  
in Ottawa* (Ottawa  
Conference and Event  
Centre, 200 Coventry  
Road)

1:00 pm to 3:30 pm

\$50 includes training  
booklet and materials





## Lost Art of Music and Movement in Early Childhood

Children in today's society are living more sedentary lives and their opportunities to engage in open music and movement activities are lessening. Come and join in to bring back the lost art of music and movement to the classroom. Educators will have an opportunity to engage together in joyful and fun activities that relate to music and movement to support children in healthy physical, mental, and emotional development. The session will look at the theory behind why music and movement are an important part of children's lives and why it is being lost in today's technology-based society. Educators will take away research, tools and experiences to share with the children and families in their program to reignite the passion for music and movement.



**Wednesday June 23, 2021**

Presented *Via Webinar*

6:30 to 8:00 pm

Niagara Educators: No charge

Outside Niagara Educators: \$25



**Wednesday December 1, 2021**

Presented *In Person in Sudbury* (Radisson Hotel Sudbury, 85 Ste. Anne Road)

6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

\$50 includes training booklet and materials



## Utilizing Shared Spaces in School Age Programs

Are you 'living out of a cart' and trying to provide sufficient, appropriate materials to enhance the play experiences that you offer to the young people in your school age program? Is storage and having to rotate spaces an issue that you are regularly faced with? Is it difficult to highlight the work of the young people in order to make their learning visible in the spaces that you work within? If you have answered yes to any of these questions and would like inspiration in moving forward, this workshop is for you. Join us to engage in reflective conversations, share ideas and gain practical strategies to use in your school age program.



**Thursday June 24,  
2021**

Presented *Via Webinar*

6:30 to 8:00 pm

Niagara Educators: No  
charge

Outside Niagara  
Educators: \$25



**Thursday October 7,  
2021**

Presented *In Person  
in Sudbury* (Radisson  
Hotel Sudbury, 85 Ste.  
Anne Road)

6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

\$50 includes training  
booklet and materials



**Thursday October 14, 2021**

Presented *In Person  
in Ottawa* (Ottawa  
Conference and Event  
Centre, 200 Coventry Road)

10:00 am to 12:30 pm

\$50 includes training  
booklet and materials



## Treasure Baskets for Infants and Toddlers

Treasure Baskets and Heuristic Play affords infants and toddlers open-ended opportunities to explore the world around them through their senses and exploration of everyday objects. This hands-on, interactive workshop will explore the origins and the simplicity and sophistication of Treasure Baskets and Heuristic Play. Participants will investigate the sensory possibilities of Treasure Baskets and the discovery opportunities of Heuristic Play as well as develop a Treasure Basket using interesting everyday household items and items from nature, followed by an opportunity to *Mess About* with it.



**Monday June 28, 2021**

Presented *Via Webinar*

6:30 to 8:00 pm

Niagara Educators: No charge

Outside Niagara Educators: \$25



**Wednesday December 8, 2021**

Presented *In Person in Ottawa* (Ottawa Conference and Event Centre, 200 Coventry Road, Ottawa)

6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

\$50 includes training booklet and materials



## School Age Series 2: Investigating the Theories of Play and the Principles of Playwork to Support Your School-agers

Playwork and the term Playworker are commonly used terms in the United Kingdom and in many parts of the world, and is rapidly spreading throughout North America. In the UK, Playworkers work with children and young people from 4-16 years in school-age programs, holiday programs, adventure playgrounds, on playbus' and as play rangers. Playwork has evolved since post war Britain and is a profession in its own right. Although it shares some aspects of early learning and child care, it has philosophies, principles, and practices unique to Playwork. Play is seen as a process, not a product. Does that sound familiar? And one of the roles of a Playworker is to enrich the environment to provide 'playable spaces' for children, restoring play and lost experiences.

## *School Age Series 2: Investigating the Theories of Play and the Principles of Playwork to Support Your School-agers continued*

### **Workshop Series Session One: Theories of Play**

During session one participants will have an opportunity to dive deeply into what play is for older children and the role of the adult within children's play, thus supporting a move towards a child-led agenda. Participants will be introduced to the 'Playwork Principles' and the 'Play Types' as tools to support practice and playfulness.



**Wednesday May 26, 2021**

Presented *Via Webinar*

6:30 to 8:00 pm

Niagara Educators: No charge

Outside Niagara Educators: \$25



**Thursday November 4, 2021**

Presented *In Person in Sudbury* (Radisson Hotel Sudbury, 85 Ste. Anne Road)

6:30 to 9:00 pm

\$50 includes training booklet and materials



**Thursday November 11, 2021**

Presented *In Person in Ottawa* (Ottawa Conference and Event Centre, 200 Coventry Road)

6:30 to 9:00 pm

\$50 includes training booklet and materials

### **Workshop Series Session Two: Removing the Barriers to Play**

In session two, participants will be introduced - in a playful way - to some of the underpinning theories of Playwork. These will include flexible environments, intervention strategies to facilitate the play process, and responding to children's play cues to support free play and to remove barriers to play



**Monday June 21, 2021**

Presented *Via Webinar*

6:30 to 8:00 pm

Niagara Educators: No charge

Outside Niagara Educators: \$25



**Thursday December 2, 2021**

Presented *In Person in Sudbury* (Radisson Hotel Sudbury, 85 Ste. Anne Road)

6:30 to 9:00 pm

\$50 includes training booklet and materials



**Thursday December 9, 2021**

Presented *In Person in Ottawa* (Ottawa Conference and Event Centre, 200 Coventry Road)

6:30 to 9:00 pm

\$50 includes training booklet and materials



We have had to reschedule this Leadership Institute again but we are pleased to offer **free teaser webinars with Susan Macdonald for all participants who choose to maintain their registration for the new date and/or new registrants**. Please keep an eye on your email for dates and topics of Susan's Teaser Webinars. We hope this will allow everyone to begin thinking together and meeting one another online before our in person institute.

## Inspiring Early Childhood Leadership Institute: Strategies to Ignite Passion and Transform Program Quality

### The Upward Spiral: Key Strategies to Ignite Passion and Transform Program Quality

Positive strength-based energy is the key to transforming the quality of educational programs. Discover the benefits of creating a vibrant, engaging, and strength-based learning environment in which all children and adults thrive. We will examine how focused, intentional, inspirational leadership can mitigate the stress of new initiatives and standards and provide new perspectives and possibilities. Through active engagement in reflective learning activities, you will gain new tools to provide effective staff supervision, observation, feedback and develop strategies for overcoming setbacks. You will also have the opportunity to build a resource kit to guide you on the rewarding path of inspirational leadership.



**Friday February 25, 2022 - new date!**

Presented *in Person Reception and Dinner* (Ramada Beacon Harbourside Hotel, 2793 Beacon Boulevard, Jordan

6:30 registration; 7:00 to 9:00pm dinner and keynote



## Inspiring Early Childhood Leadership: Strategies to Ignite Passion and Possibility

This **full day** workshop lays out strategies designed to support program leaders in finding new ways to reduce the levels of stress on themselves and their staff, and move into a unified, engaging system for leading with passion, intention, and purpose. Through interactive experiences, you will explore well-researched, inspirational and motivational leadership techniques, with a focus on strength-based communication, program transformation, positivity and systemic change. Participants will work together focusing on these vital questions - **how can leaders:**

- motivate and inspire teachers?
- bring renewed energy, joy, engagement and intentionality into our learning communities?
- embrace and facilitate change?
- create healthy, dynamic workplace relationships in our respective contexts?
- reconnect to our own passion with a renewed sense of purpose in our work?

The fundamental goal of this workshop is to inspire and guide leaders to move past their current challenges toward a vision of new possibilities, leave refreshed, recharged, and ready to facilitate positive change in their daily work and learning communities.



### **Saturday February 26, 2022 - new date!**

Presented *in Person Saturday Full-day Workshop* (Ramada Beacon Harbourside Hotel\*, 2793 Beacon Boulevard, Jordan)

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Niagara educators: \$180 includes dinner and keynote on Friday and full day workshop including breakfast and lunch on Saturday, along with a copy of Susan MacDonald's book

Outside Niagara educators: \$190

\*Accommodations may be made by calling the hotel directly at 905.562.4155 (quote "ECCDC" as the group code)



## Deepening Emotional Resilience Through Building Balanced Empathy for Educators

As much as we like to think we are independent, the reality is that we are all inter-connected. This inter-dependence can make many of us feel emotionally overwhelmed, leading to an emotional disconnect towards others. But this inter-dependence also creates an opportunity to develop and embrace the quality of empathy, not only towards others but also ourselves.



Thursday June 3, 2021

Presented *Via Webinar*

6:00 to 9:00 pm

Niagara Educators: \$10

Outside Niagara Educators: \$25

In this workshop, we will examine what may cause us to feel emotionally overwhelmed and disconnected, often creating stress, and will explore vulnerability, emotional resilience and empathy. Through various activities we will learn how to empathize from the heart and from the head. This ability will allow you to: develop and nurture a calmer and more focused mind; identify what pushes us out of balance, allowing the space for wiser choices; develop better self-understanding and therefore real empathy towards others and yourself; develop stronger emotional resilience; foster closer and more nurturing relationship with family, friends and coworkers; and develop great compassion for ourselves and others.





## Sharing the Value of Unstructured Play Experiences with Families and Colleagues

As we are moving away from theme based planning to an emergent approach to learning through play, which is in line with Ontario's Early Learning Frameworks, the way that we are working with children in the early learning and child care field is changing. This workshop will support educators to explore what unstructured play is, the importance and benefits to children, and how they can communicate this to fellow educators and families. The session will look at intentional, open-ended experiences and dispel the myth of it being a 'free for all'. Participants will have an opportunity to try out some practical, interactive ways to convey the importance of unstructured play in an early learning and child care environment.



**Saturday June 26, 2021**

Presented *Via Webinar*

9:30 to 11:00 am

Niagara Educators: No charge

Outside Niagara Educators: \$25



## What does *How Does Learning Happen?* look like with Families?

A foundational principle of *How Does Learning Happen?* is that children thrive in early years programs where families are valued as active participants in their children's learning. The session will offer opportunities for Educators and families to highlight and share in children's learning, utilizing a side-by-side, in the moment approach.



**Wednesday April 28, 2021**

Presented *Via Webinar*

6:30 to 8:00 pm

Niagara Educators: No charge

Outside Niagara Educators: \$25



## Reflecting Upon Your Work in the Early Years and Keeping Your Passion Lit in Uncertain Times

This presentation will inspire reflection and deep conversation to support educators in recognizing the valuable contributions they make, the importance of resiliency during times of significant change and strategies for considering how to include joy, enthusiasm, and fulfillment in our daily practice. The session will also include a fun, interactive quiz and a plan for including self-reflection into our work as part of an ongoing motivational and mindfulness practice. A resource listing will be provided to participants of tools and resources they might consider for their self-reflection as well as kits and resources available for loan or purchase from ECCDC.



Thursday April 15, 2021

Presented *Via Webinar*

6:30 to 8:00 pm

Niagara Educators: No charge

Outside Niagara Educators: \$25



## Self-Care Strategies for Leaders: How a Practice of Self-Care Can Enhance a Leader's Performance and Impact Their Team

It is well known that leaders face constant demands every day; from budget issues to human resource issues, the list never ends. These demands create a huge amount of stress. In order for their teams to be successful, leaders must develop and integrate strategies of self-care. Leaders must lead by example. In this workshop, we will focus on the whole concept of self-care and leadership: how a practice of self-care can enhance a leader's performance and impact on their team. We will explore: The dangers of stress and the importance of self-care for leaders Traits of leaders with a self-care practice Introduction to mindfulness The importance of focusing versus multi-tasking Mindful leadership and its connection to wellbeing of individuals and performance of teams Uncovering values and beliefs vs demands and commitments Blending work and personal life Strategies for self-care Through discussion and experiential activities, the participants will explore ways to integrate more self-care practices in their daily routine and will leave with a personalized plan.



Friday May 28, 2021

Presented *Via Webinar*

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Niagara Educators: \$45

Outside Niagara Educators: \$50



### Licensed Child Care Supervisors Network Meeting

- Tuesday June 1, 2021 • 9:00 to 11:00 am
- Monday September 20, 2021 • 9:00 to 11:00 am

### Nature Network

- Tuesday June 1, 2021 • 5:00 to 6:30 pm
- Monday September 20, 2021 • 5:00 to 6:30 pm

### Cooks Network

- Tuesday June 8, 2021 • 2:30 to 4:00 pm
- Monday November 15, 2021 • 2:30 to 4:00 pm

### Infant/Toddler

- Tuesday June 8, 2021 • 7:00 to 8:30 pm
- Monday November 15, 2021 • 7:00 to 8:30 pm



All Spring meetings will take place in an online format using Zoom. Please ensure you RSVP your attendance so that you are able to receive the meeting link to join.

We hope to offer the Fall network meetings in person, if possible, based on direction from Niagara Region Public Health; however, if we're not able to connect in person the network meetings will be offered via Zoom.



### Preschool Network

- Tuesday June 1, 2021 • 7:00 to 8:30 pm
- Monday September 20, 2021 • 7:00 to 8:30 pm

### School Age Network

- Tuesday June 8, 2021 • 9:30 to 11:00 am
- Monday November 15, 2021 • 9:30 to 11:00 am



All Spring meetings will take place in an online format using Zoom. Please ensure you RSVP your attendance so that you are able to receive the meeting link to join.

We hope to offer the Fall network meetings in person, if possible, based on direction from Niagara Region Public Health; however, if we're not able to connect in person the network meetings will be offered via Zoom.



**Looking for personal protective equipment?** The ECCDC has disposable masks and gloves, disinfectant wipes and spray, face shields and hand sanitizer available to purchase in our E-Store at <https://eccdc.org/product-category/ppe-products/>

The ECCDC extends gratitude to Niagara Region Children's Services for subsidizing costs associated with many of our programs and services in support of Niagara Region's early learning programs.



**eccdc**

Early Childhood Community Development Centre

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Any of the sessions you read about in esteem can be customized to meet the individualized needs of your program or organization.