



early childhood community development centre

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For Immediate Release

## **AUTHOR TIM GILL TO SPEAK ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF OUTDOOR PLAY**

On Wednesday May 13, the Early Childhood Community Development Centre and Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds will be presenting a seminar by researcher and author Tim Gill. The event will take place at 6:00 p.m. at Amici's Banquet & Conference Centre in Thorold and is of interest to educators, parks and recreation staff, community outdoor planners and service providers involved in children's learning, health and well-being. Tickets are \$55 each and the cost includes a copy of Tim's book *No Fear: Growing Up in a Risk Averse Society*.

Tim Gill is one of the UK's leading thinkers on childhood, and an advocate for positive change in children's everyday lives. His work has focused on the changing nature of childhood, children's play and free time, and their evolving relationship with the people and places around them. Tim's cross-Canada speaking tour, which includes presentations in eight cities, is sponsored by the Canadian Wildlife Federation. Niagara's presentation is also being supported by Walker Industries. Gill's appearance in Niagara is one of just two Ontario stops on his Canada-wide tour.

Best-known for his 2007 book *No Fear: Growing Up in a Risk Averse Society*, Gill makes the case that many of the experiences commonly associated with childhood have been relabelled as dangerous, resulting in unreasonable restrictions on children's play. Gill's book has sparked widespread debate about how these new societal anxieties can actually wind up harming children's learning and development. Gill's Niagara talk will help educators and service providers revisit their own assumptions and strike an appropriate balance between protecting children from genuine threats and giving them rich, challenging opportunities to learn and grow.

"When you work with children each day, it's easy to become so focused on ensuring their safety that you sometimes forget about the importance of helping children learn how to assess risks and overcome challenges, so they can develop their self-confidence," says Lorrey Arial-Bonilla, Executive Director, ECCDC. "Creating opportunities for children to have time outdoors in natural landscapes is part of that. We're thrilled to be working with Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds, Walker Industries, and the Canadian Wildlife Federation to offer Niagara's educators and service providers this exceptional opportunity to deepen their understanding of beneficial risk and the role it plays in children's social and emotional health."

Those interested in attending are asked to register by contacting [eccdc@eccdc.org](mailto:eccdc@eccdc.org) or 905.646.7311, ext. 304.

**For further information, please contact Lorrey Arial Bonilla at 905.646.7311, ext.321 or [larial@eccdc.org](mailto:larial@eccdc.org).**

*The ECCDC is a leading source of innovative supports working to inspire excellence in early learning and child care by offering resources, training, and coaching and mentoring services. It is committed to strengthening the early years sector because it contributes to the healthy development of children, the wellness of families, and the prosperity of Niagara. In the more than 20 years since its creation by local volunteers, the ECCDC has become Canada's leading early learning and care resource, referral, and support organization.*

