

Inspiring Nature Education Strategies for your Outdoor Space

A Two Part Professional Learning Series

Saturday September 23, 2017

Session One - Morning

Educators will explore the benefits of children having ample opportunity to engage in outdoor experiences through the lens of *How Does Learning Happen?*, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and Ontario Children's Outdoor Charter. Participants will also discuss a variety of play types, the difference between an experience and an activity, as well as the concept of *Messing About*. The workshop will include strategies for utilizing higher order thinking prompts and suggestions for practical, hands-on experiences that may be used in all outdoor early learning settings.

Session One - Afternoon

In the afternoon, Educators will have an opportunity to engage in conversation around the importance of risk in play and will explore the concept of completing a risk/benefit analysis. Additionally, participants will consider information that may be shared in conversations for licensing, playground inspections, and communicating the benefits of nature inspired play to parents. Throughout the workshop participants will have an opportunity to explore strategies for facilitating belonging, expression, well-being, and engagement (the Four Foundations of *How Does Learning Happen?*) within their outdoor space. Additionally, suggestions for including the children's interests and voices in the space and engaging fellow educators and families in the transition to a naturalized play space will also be offered.

Saturday October 21, 2017

Session Two - Morning

On this second day of co-learning, educators will engage in experiences linked to air and earth, two of the four natural elements through *Messing About*, utilizing higher order thinking prompts, and through A Thinking Lens® for Reflection and Inquiry, developed by Harvest Resources. This session will include discussions around dispelling myths regarding injury and accidents and participants will share work-arounds for a variety of typical health and safety concerns.

Session Two - Afternoon

This last afternoon together will offer the opportunity for participants to explore hands-on experiences linked to water and fire, the two remaining natural elements, through *Messing About*. A discussion will take place regarding educators' various comfort levels in offering experiences outdoors in consideration of the information gained through the risk-benefit analysis explored on day one. The group will have an opportunity to have a whole group experience to reflect and consider the series learning and impact for implementing the ideas and strategies within daily practice.



Registration Information (both dates)

8:30 am
Registration and
Continental Breakfast

9:00 am
Morning Workshop Opening

12:00 pm
Networking Lunch

1:00 pm
Afternoon Workshop Opening

4:00 pm
Workshop closing

Centennial College Event Centre,
937 Progress Avenue, Toronto
(Spring/Summer Room)

\$75 per session includes training
booklets, workshop materials,
breakfast, lunch and parking pass.
Or, book both dates for \$125

To register

Call 905.646.7311 ext. 304,
email eccdc@eccdc.org
or visit www.eccdc.org