

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! We invite you to join Ginette Wilson, Early Learning and Child Care Trainer, and Patricia Couroux, Coaching & Mentoring Services Coordinator with the Early Childhood Community Development Centre, and fellow Educators to engage in lively discussions and fun hands-on experiences that support STEAM in early learning and child care centres.

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*.

Registration Information

Session 1 - Tuesday January 28, 2020

Session 2 - Tuesday February 25, 2020

Session 3 - Monday March 23, 2020

6:00 to 9:00 pm (6:00 pm Networking and light refreshments; 6:30 pm Workshop Beginning; 9:00 pm Workshop closing)

ECCDC Conference Room,
3340 Schmon Parkway,
Thorold

Niagara Educators: \$45 per session includes all materials and nutrition break; Outside Niagara Educators \$50

To register, contact the ECCDC at 905.646.7311 ext. 304, eccdc@eccdc.org or visit www.eccdc.org

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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.

Session 3: STEAM in Outdoor Environments

The third and final session in this series 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.



Patricia Couroux is a Registered Early Childhood Educator who has worked in the field of Early Childhood Education for twenty-five years, including eleven years as Supervisor of Niagara Nursery School & Child Care Centre. Patricia has worked as a Quality Child Care Niagara (QCCN) Trainer since 2007 and also volunteered on the Quality Child Care Niagara Advisory Committee. She has both a comprehensive knowledge of Niagara's early learning and child care community and a true passion for designing exceptional learning experiences and high quality environments for Niagara's children.



Ginette Wilson, BA (Hons), RECE, DiP L3
Ginette has enjoyed a 30 year career in early learning and child care in North America and the United Kingdom in a variety of positions including working directly with children, managing early learning and child care teams and consulting with not for profit and private organizations and government and social service agencies. Most recently, Ginette has worked with DSBN as a Designated Early Childhood Educator and with Rosalind Blauer as a Registered Early Childhood Educator. In the United Kingdom, Ginette worked as a Childcare Development Officer, promoting high quality child care services for children from birth to 16 and their families. She also worked as a Play Training Development Instructor; developing, delivering and coordinating a variety of workshops and network sessions. Ginette also served as a Childcare Manager in addition to holding various early childhood educator positions.