

Branching Out

Resource Updates to Support the Growth and Goals of Educators



With the warmer weather here, children and their families have begun enjoying the summer sunshine! It's a time of exploration and the discovery of summer critters and crawlers. Below we have shared some resources that the ECCDC offers which provide children with the opportunity to further investigate the summer season creatures.



Provocation for Learning Kits for Borrowing



Exploring Life in A Pond Habitat

With a magnifying glass, clipboard, pond plants, fabric, various wildlife animals and more, this provocation for learning kit offers children the opportunity to explore the habitat of a pond hands-on through dramatic play and inquiry.



Build- A-Bug with Natural Loose Parts

This provocation for learning kit is an excellent open-ended resource that allows children to use their creativity to construct bugs they have seen in their outdoor learning environment with natural loose parts!



Exploring The Characteristics of Insects And Bugs With Infants & Toddlers

Children will enjoy classifying, sorting and investigating bugs in this provocation for learning kit. In addition, this kit contains incredible fiction and non-fiction books in English and French that support children's development of literacy.



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Farr Out Findings

The ECCDC is excited to announce Emily Farr will be supporting our Resource Development and other resource initiatives through the Canada Summer Jobs Program once again this summer. One of her goals while she is with ECCDC is to contribute ideas to the Branching Out Publication. In this edition, Emily will be sharing ideas about sharing bugs in children's lives.

It's that time of year again when children are going Bug-gy for spiders, ants, butterflies, ladybugs, grasshoppers, and more. Teaching children about insects is an excellent way to introduce basic science and math concepts. Listed below are a few examples of ways to spark children's natural curiosity about insects.

- Probing conversations with children about bugs; asking questions about their size, shape, how they feel, what they think or eat, etc.
- Observe and record information about bugs the children see outside in their early learning environment with basic mathematical and scientific tools such as a magnifying glass and clipboard.
- Sorting and classifying bugs based on their colour, shape, size, etc.
- A Scavenger hunt for bugs provide the children with a list of bugs commonly found in their outdoor environment.



Limited Quantities Available for Curbside Pick-Up

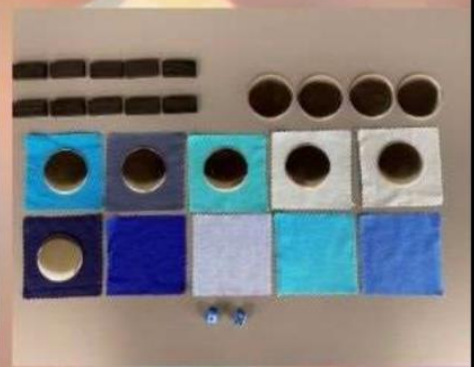
Grab Bag Kit to Go *Exploring Numeracy with Loose Parts*



Patterning with Loose Parts



I Spy Loose Parts Tube



10 Frame with Loose Parts

Get all three sets for only \$25.00

Contact eccdc@eccdc.org to purchase and schedule a curbside pick up



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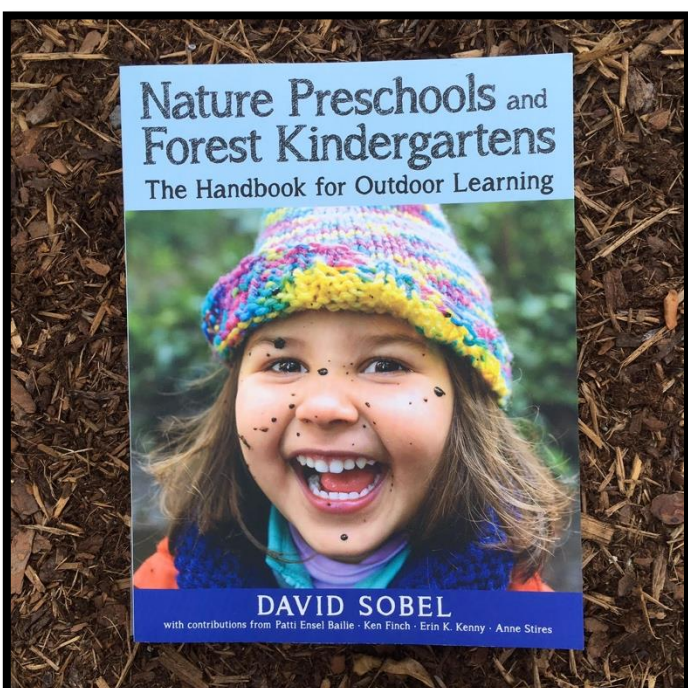
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Teaching Children to BEE-Kind through their interest in Bugs



- Remind children that a bug's home is outdoors so that is where they must stay.
- Do not harm the bugs; share messaging with children such as:
 - "Be gentle" which supports their development of empathy.
 - "Everyone and everything has a purpose; which is why we must be kind to all things including bugs". Provide examples such as bees carry pollen which helps flowers grow.



Check out our Resources online through our E-store!

Check out this interesting & helpful resource from expert David Sobel that will open your eyes to ways you can successfully incorporate nature and forest school practices within you're early learning environment.

[Click here](#) to access the E-store to take a look at other resources the ECCDC has to offer.

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Build a Bug-sy Hotel

What better way to welcome bugs into your early learning environment than a bug hotel! Children will learn how to create and maintain ecosystems for insects. In addition, this fosters skills in empathy as they treat the tiny critters and crawlers as their guests. The opportunities for learning through play are endless in this hands-on building experience. Here are a few tips and suggestions to get you started.

- Go on a nature walk with the children to gather natural materials to ensure they have a bucket or bag to do so. Ask the children to look and gather natural elements such as branches, bark, pinecones, rocks, etc.
- Sturdy string and scissors are needed to make adjustments to the bug hotel as needed.
- Recycled containers shaped like circles and/or cylinders are perfect for “rooms”.
- A large crate or wooden box to store all the natural materials found by the children.
- Add touches of colour with various flowers to attract pollinating bugs such as bees and butterflies.
- Make a mud bath spa for worms with patches of dirt and a little water and grass to further expand the bug hotel amenities.
- A few beneficial plants for bugs are sweet alyssum (a nectar-rich flower), dill (an annual herb), and the cornflower. These will bring ladybugs, green lacewings, hoverflies, and more to your bug hotel!
- Get the children to start a nature journal where they observe and document any interesting bugs they see and more.

Building a Bug-sy hotel will bring an assortment of critters and crawlers to your early learning environment which will instill the importance of bugs to our world for children. In addition, it will create an abundance of meaningful learning experiences for children of all ages and capabilities.



Social Media

The ECCDC loves to share ideas and inspiration on our social media platforms. Follow us! Find us on

Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram to stay connected!



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Canada Through the Seasons: A Four-Part Series

Studies have shown the importance of providing young children with physical fitness activities, connecting with nature, and the opportunity for engaging in playful experiences outdoors whatever the weather or the season.

This series will focus on each of Canada's four seasons and include thought-provoking discussions, information sharing, and tools and resources for review, as well as curriculum strategies designed to keep children active and engaged in our outdoor environments during all twelve months of the year.

This interactive series will inspire early learning and child care professionals to get outside with the children and explore the great Canadian landscape no matter the season.

Webinar Sessions

- **Canadian Summer:** Tuesday July 13, 2021 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- **Canadian Fall:** Tuesday September 14, 2021 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- **Canadian Winter:** Monday December 13, 2021 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- **Canadian Spring:** Tuesday March 8, 2022 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Cost: Niagara Educators - No charge; Outside Niagara Educators - \$15 per session or \$45 to attend all four sessions.

To register, visit www.eccdc.org, call 905.646.7311 ext. 304 or email eccdc@eccdc.org



Resources Through the Seasons for Lending



Investigating Winter Weather and Seasonal Changes

This provocation for learning kit is loaded with winter wonders, including various loose parts, science tools, books in English and French and so much more for you and the children to explore.



Children's Literature About Fall

Wonderful Fiction and Non-Fiction books about Fall to further children's interest and understanding of the season.



Loose Parts for Spring

This provocation for learning kit is bursting with splendid spring-filled loose parts from branches, wooden flowers, lady bugs, stones, etc. In addition, it includes other resources to spark children's curiosity about spring such with English and French books.



Summer Sports Equipment

Soccer, Baseball, Basketball, Pylons, and more! This provocation for learning kit has everything you need for children to enjoy the summer sun and the sports it brings along with it.