



## LOCAL PROJECT PROVIDED OBSERVATION AND DOCUMENTATION TOOLS TO LINK YOUNG CHILDREN'S PLAY WITH LEARNING

The ECCDC, with support from community partners, recently wrapped up the **Interactive Classroom Observation & Documentation Tool Project** which took place from September 2012 to June 2013. Through the project, tools for observing and documenting children's play were piloted within twenty-two (22) early learning and child care programs across Niagara for four months. After interviewing staff and observing their implementation of the tools, the materials were refined and distributed to early learning and child care professionals within licensed child care programs, full day early learning kindergarten classrooms and family support programs. Two hundred and seventy seven (277) early years professionals received training where they gained strategies for using the tools to plan innovative activities for children, design supportive early years environments and to communicate effectively with families on how their children's play connects to the expectations within Ontario's Early Years frameworks. In total two hundred and eighty (280) sets of the Observation and Documentation Tools were distributed to early learning programs community-wide.

The ECCDC is grateful to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for funding the project and Brock University for leading the research components. We also extend our deepest appreciation to the following agencies for providing a representative to offer guidance through the Project Advisory Committee: Niagara Region Children's Services, A Child's World, Family and Children's Services of Niagara, Adolescent's Family Support Services of Niagara, YMCA of Niagara, District School Board of Niagara, Niagara College Child Care, Niagara Catholic District School Board, Quality Child Care Niagara, and Niagara Child Care Sector.

The ECCDC will be providing follow up workshops this fall and winter to offer ongoing opportunities for Niagara's early learning and child care sector to continue ongoing conversations on implementing the tools to support their observation and documentation efforts. For further information on the tools and the training please visit the ECCDC's website at [www.eccdc.org](http://www.eccdc.org).