

Professional learning opportunities related to optimizing child development, health and well-being, professionalism and organizational performance with links to the College of Early Childhood Educators' Standards of Practice

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**The Board: A Winning
Team™ A Four Part
Evening Training Series**

From the ECCDC



Our Team at the ECCDC is so excited to bring you this spring issue of **esteem** to help you bud, grow and flourish within your early learning role. This issue has carefully chosen sessions to support your growth and inspire your reflection as well as encourage you to get out and about in the warmer weather to network with your colleagues. Developing communities of practice are critical in provoking our thinking and reflecting upon our daily practices with critical friends.

Many early learning programs are very curious about the benefits of naturalized play spaces and nature inspired practices. Whether you'd like to consider revitalized your playground, considering your pedagogy and materials from an outdoor lens or implementing a full Forest School Program, this issue of Esteem offers a variety of opportunities to help you consider different perspectives. We invite you to join Sinéad Raffery, a Registered Early Childhood Educator and a Forest School Practitioner, on Saturday June 16 for her very timely session on **Ecological Literacy**. Nationally known **Garden Jane** is back, offering a popular hands-on gardening session to highlight a variety of seed to table experiences that programs could invite children to participate in throughout the summer months. Lastly,

the next **Niagara Nature Alliance** meeting will bring together a range of educators and community partners to share ideas for nature inspired play.

The ECCDC is offering one more free **Developing an Intergenerational Program** session on May 3 that is complimentary for Niagara early learning programs thanks to a grant received by the Federal Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program. Don't miss this informative session to learn how to engage children and seniors together in fun and authentic ways. The **free toolkit** is full of great children's books, art supplies, baking supplies, and all you need to develop an intergenerational program with ease that will in turn make a lasting impression on children and seniors.

ECCDC's Ginette Wilson is offering two professional learning opportunities that are sure to inspire, provoke your thinking, and have you reflecting on simple ways for incorporating the four foundations and principles of *How Does Learning Happen?* within your daily practice. Don't miss an opportunity to learn more about **Provocations and Invitations for Learning** on May 26 and **Including The Voices of Children within Your Pedagogy** on June 23.



Due to the ongoing need for Board training to ensure effective and efficient not for profit practices, the ECCDC will be offering an evening series in the newly launched four-part Training entitled **The Board - A Winning Team™**. Through an exclusive partnership with Gay Douglas and Associates and Big Bay Publishing, this series is based on three comprehensive, time-tested books written in Canada for the Canadian not for profit sector.

Lastly, as always there is also a fabulous slate of motivational, inspiring and informative presentations being offered by longstanding presenter **Michael Lewis** and our community partners at **Speech Services Niagara**. Please do have a peek at their upcoming workshops and join us to reflect upon team collaboration and emergent literacy practices.

We hope to see you at one or all of these exciting professional learning sessions this spring!



Upcoming Events of Interest



NAREA Summer Conference 2016

Engaging Children, Families, and Educators in a Spiral of Learning: Embracing Openness and Uncertainty

Ryerson University June 23-25. For further details, please visit <http://ontarioreggioassociation.ca/event/narea-summer-conference/>

ORA's Fall Closing Conference

The Value of Listening - An Ongoing Process for Reflection and Dialogue

November 11-13, 2016. For more information, visit <http://ontarioreggioassociation.ca/event/the-value-of-listening-an-ongoing-process-for-reflection-dialogue-change-and-sharing-perspectives/>



Find the esteem sessions that are right for you!

Legislative Core Training

These sessions are related to legislation that affects child care programs licensed under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*. They cover any training needs that are identified during the annual license renewal or during inspections by Ministry of Education Program Advisors, Public Health Inspectors/ Nurses, Fire Prevention Officers, and officers of the Ministries of Labour, Environment, or Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Examples include: First Aid Training, Food Handlers Certification, WHMIS, and sessions that focus on other health and safety items or amendments to current regulation. Meetings of local child care network groups also fall into this category.

Quality Child Care Niagara (QCCN) Core Training

These training sessions are required for individuals who work in licensed child care centres that are recognized as a participant in QCCN. These sessions include: DPS, ECERS, Documentation, Speech/ Language Checklist, Behaviour Checklist (CARE), and Phase 2 Curriculum Planning.

Quality Child Care Niagara (QCCN) Related Training

These sessions supplement and support the QCCN training modules, but are not required components. Some examples include: Speech Services Niagara workshops and certain sessions on managing difficult behaviours in children.

Professional Development and Leadership Training

These training sessions are designed specifically to give you the skills and confidence you need to develop your ongoing leadership abilities, perform with excellence and build strong collaborative relationships with families, children and your fellow colleagues.

Streams

- Early Childhood Educators, Full Day Early Learning Teams, Family Support Staff, Home Child Care Practitioners, Students and other Early Learning and Child Care Professionals
- Supervisors and Managers of Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/Ontario Early Years Centres, and other children's service agencies
- Executive Directors, Owners, Boards of Directors and Administrators of Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/Ontario Early Years Centres, and other children's service agencies



Linking to the College of Early Childhood Educators' *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice*

As you may recall, in the last issues of ESTEEM, the ECCDC began aligning its professional learning opportunities to support the College of Early Childhood Educators' *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice*. The College of Early Childhood Educators' *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice* prescribe the basis on which professional practice is conducted in a sound and ethical manner, regardless of the context in which that practice occurs. While the Standards of Practice cannot be considered outside of the scope of the Code of Ethics, for the purpose of aligning the seminars we will be referring to the Standards of Practice. The six Standards of Practice are: Standard I: Caring and Nurturing Relationships that Support Learning; Standard II: Developmentally Appropriate Care and Education; Standard III: Safe, Healthy and Supportive Learning Environments; Standard IV: Professional Knowledge and Competence; Standard V: Professional Boundaries, Dual Relationships and Conflicts of Interest; and Standard VI: Confidentiality and Consent to the Release of Information Regarding Children and their Families.

Going forward, our vision is that all ECCDC Workshop Facilitators will highlight areas in their training which apply to the *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice* to

help participants have a greater practical understanding of how to apply the *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice* into their daily work. We believe this alignment will support participants in becoming effective educators by ensuring they are following the ethical and professional standards each and every day.

To support this vision, each ECCDC Workshop Facilitator will be provided with a *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice* Introductory Package containing information on the College and the *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice*, as well as tips and strategies to further assist them with incorporating the *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice* into their workshop presentation. Ultimately, we envision workshop facilitators will have an awareness of the *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice* themselves and will demonstrate how their workshop content supports the *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice* in a variety of ways.

We thank all of our workshop presenters in advance for supporting the alignment of professional learning opportunities offered through the ECCDC and the College of Early Childhood Educators' *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice*.

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optimizing early childhood experiences



Designing the Early Learning Environment

Professional learning opportunities in this category support: Standard I: Caring and Nurturing Relationships that Support Learning; Standard II: Developmentally Appropriate Care and Education; Standard III: Safe, Healthy and Supportive Learning Environments; Standard IV: Professional Knowledge and Competence

Developmental Program Planning, Curriculum and Pedagogy

Professional learning opportunities in this category support: Standard II: Developmentally Appropriate Care and Education; Standard III: Safe, Healthy and Supportive Learning Environments; Standard IV: Professional Knowledge and Competence



Designing the Early Learning Environment



Learning Literacy Together Within An Authentic Environment

Join in an evening to share ideas, explore and discuss authentic environments that foster a strong literacy foundation. This is an evening to “talk” about how we as educators are supporting an environment that encourages children to become thinkers and how we foster those opportunities to support emergent literacy. We encourage you to bring along some of your own learning stories to share with other professionals. April Shaw, Emergent Literacy Consultant with Speech Services Niagara will be joined by Lori Brady, Ontario Early Years Centre Erie Lincoln for this interactive evening of discussion and exploration.

Thursday May 19, 2016 • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Community Boardroom) • No Cost

- Early Childhood Educators, Full Day Early Learning Teams, Family Support Staff, Home Child Care Practitioners, Students and other Early Learning and Child Care Professionals
 - Supervisors and Managers of Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/Ontario Early Years Centres, and other children's service agencies
- QCCN Related Training



This workshop has been generously sponsored by Speech Services Niagara's Emergent Literacy Program



Designing the Early Learning Environment



Jane Hayes "Garden Jane"



Gardening With Kids: From Seed to Table

Join us for an inspiring evening in the garden to learn strategies for creating planters with herbs and edibles with your kids. Learn how to use garden food in your programs and to offer young children an edible experience. Our workshop facilitator, Jane Hayes/Garden Jane will share design ideas and tips for getting started. Jane will walk you through some hands-on gardening activity ideas to use within your early learning and child care program. Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions about their own gardening projects or how to start an edible garden within the context of your own early learning space. An informal presentation along with fun, interactive components will be offered.

Tuesday June 14, 2016 • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • OEYC - Mary Ward Catholic School Main Site (Courtyard), 2999 Dorchester Road, Niagara Falls • \$45 includes all workshop materials

- Early Childhood Educators, Full Day Early Learning Teams, Family Support Staff, Home Child Care Practitioners, Students and other Early Learning and Child Care Professionals
- Supervisors and Managers of Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/Ontario Early Years Centres, and other children's service agencies

Professional Development and Leadership Training

Submit Your Play Based Learning Experiences or Unique Room Design Ideas for Highlighting Within Esteem!

If you'd like to submit a unique play based learning experience or suggestions for early learning environments with photos to be published in Esteem, please send your ideas and photographs to the ECCDC at eccdc@eccdc.org with the caption - ESTEEM HIGHLIGHT. All entries will be eligible to win a \$50 training gift certificate which will be drawn at the end of each training calendar year.

Designing the Early Learning Environment



Sessions to Support Your Nature Education Exploration and Forest School Inquiry *with Sinéad Rafferty*



Intrinsic Connections: Nature and Ecological Literacy in Early Childhood

Children are often the first to notice a worm crawling on a sidewalk, a puddle to jump in, or a ladybug resting on a slide. They are also notorious for pocket-filled collections of rocks, sticks or leaves. If children come into the world intrinsically connected to “nature” and biologically designed to form attachments with the world, then what are we doing as educators, and more broadly as a culture, to nurture such connections? This interactive workshop explores modern trends in thinking about “nature” and how this influences practice in early childhood education. The current movement to connect children and nature is an important one, but seems to be moving forward without deeper and more critical considerations of what “nature” is. Through hands-on, collaborative, and reflective experiences, we will explore meanings of “nature” and ecological literacy as it relates to our life and early childhood practice. Further, we will investigate meanings of “nature-deficit disorder” in the lives of children and ourselves. This workshop aims to help deepen our understanding and perception of “nature” so that educators may more genuinely tune into children’s emerging relations with the world. For full session details, including the agenda, please refer to the flyer or visit www.eccdc.org.

Saturday June 11 • 8:30 am to 4:00 pm • \$75 includes workshop materials, breakfast and lunch • Amici’s Conference Centre, 2740 Merrittville Hwy, Thorold • Note - some components of the workshops will be held outside and participants are asked to bring a device to document their workshop experiences

- Early Childhood Educators, Full Day Early Learning Teams, Family Support Staff, Home Child Care Practitioners, Students and other Early Learning and Child Care Professionals
- Supervisors and Managers of Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/Ontario Early Years Centres, and other children’s service agencies

Professional Development and Leadership Training



Designing the Early Learning Environment

Ecologies of Childhood: Linking Place, Play and Pedagogy

The tides are shifting in early childhood education towards recognizing the value of outdoor play-based experiences and supporting children's relationship with "nature". Yet, most of our background and training in early childhood settings and child development research is focused on indoor and human-made elements of the environment (Davis, 1998; Davis, 2009; Fisher, 2013). This hands-on, experiential workshop aims to widen our consideration of early childhood communities to include the local land, flora, and fauna that exist in our surroundings – which are inextricably part of the fabric of children's encounters with the world. Outdoor Preschools, Nature Kindergartens, and Forest Schools are leading the way in creating places where children play – and make meaning – with a wild array of ecological encounters. This session will also highlight pedagogical approaches drawn from place-based learning; environmental education, and principles of Forest School, in relation to familiar early learning frameworks, such as *How Does Learning Happen?* and how educators and children engage wonder and curiosity, while fostering care and concern for "nature", will also be considered. For full session details, including the agenda, please refer to the flyer or visit www.eccdc.org.

Saturday October 1 • 8:30 am to 4:00 pm • \$75 includes workshop materials, breakfast and lunch • St. Catharines Musuem (Lockwood Rm), 1932 Welland Canals Parkway, St. Catharines • Note - some components of the workshops will be held outside and participants are asked to bring a device to document their workshop experiences

- Early Childhood Educators, Full Day Early Learning Teams, Family Support Staff, Home Child Care Practitioners, Students and other Early Learning and Child Care Professionals
- Supervisors and Managers of Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/Ontario Early Years Centres, and other children's service agencies

Professional Development and Leadership Training



Developmental Program Planning, Curriculum and Pedagogy



Two workshops with Ginette Wilson

ECCDC's Early Learning & Child Care Program Consultant



Provocations and Invitations to Play

Are you trying to get to grips with taking children's interests, particularly toddlers and infants, and linking them to 'provocations for learning' and 'invitations to play'? If so, you're invited to attend this interactive workshop which will take an in-depth look at the concept of *Messing About*, developed by David and Frances Hawkins, and explore how it supports educators to provide meaningful, developmentally appropriate experiences for children of all ages. This workshop will also consider the importance of trying activities out before offering them to children and include an in-depth look at *A Thinking Lens® for Reflection and Inquiry* developed by Harvest Resources and the *Higher Order Thinking Prompts* resource. Participants will have opportunities to practice using these resources with fellow educators and have meaningful conversations regarding their experiences, hopes and fears.

Thursday May 26, 2016 • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Community Boardroom) • \$45 includes materials and nutrition break

Including The Voices of Children within Your Pedagogy

Do children have a voice in your program? Do you engage children in the ways you have learned from their voices or do you plan experiences based on what you feel is best for them? If you would like to gain strategies on how to truly involve children within your program, then come along and join us for this fun, interactive workshop. The session will look at the importance of empowering children and how this is underpinned by Ontario's Early Learning Frameworks and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Participants will develop a knowledge base of innovative ideas and activities, including consultation methods that children can use with each other, which afford them meaningful opportunities for participation. The session will also look at how children can be involved in planning experiences that are based on their interests.

Thursday June 23, 2016 • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Community Boardroom) • \$45 includes materials and nutrition break

The sessions above are suitable to the following streams

- Early Childhood Educators, Full Day Early Learning Teams, Family Support Staff, Home Child Care Practitioners, Students and other Early Learning and Child Care Professionals
- Supervisors and Managers of Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/Ontario Early Years Centres, and other children's service agencies

Professional Development and Leadership Training

health, safety and well-being



Professional learning opportunities in this category support: Standard III: Safe, Healthy and Supportive Learning Environments; Standard IV: Professional Knowledge and Competence

health, safety and well-being



Tools and Strategies for Hosting an Intergenerational Program with Local Seniors' Residences

Join this informative and innovative session to receive a free toolkit with a selection of hands-on materials and a strategies handbook to support you in establishing an Intergenerational Program. The kit aligns with *How Does Learning Happen?* Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years and is valued at approximately \$150. The kit was piloted locally with three early learning programs and three seniors' residences: Niagara Nursery School and Childcare Centre, A Child's World-Lookout Ridge, Fort Erie Regional Child Care, Chartwell Niagara, Lookout Ridge Retirement Home, and Niagara Region Seniors Services - Gilmore Lodge.

Some of the innovative items included within the kit are: seeds native to the Niagara Region; unique creative art supplies; and *Love You When* by Linda Kranz, *If You Find a Rock* by Peggy Christian, and *Tap the Magic Tree* by Christie Matheson.

The workshop facilitator, Ginette Wilson, will provide an overview of the Intergenerational Pilot Project and will share the toolkit and strategy handbook that was created as a result of the pilot project. Participants will have an opportunity to learn more about the successes of local intergenerational projects, will *Mess About* with the materials, and discuss strategies for implementing their own intergenerational pilot project.



There is no cost for the session, Intergenerational Toolkit, and Strategies Handbook as these costs were subsidized through a grant awarded to the ECCDC by the New Horizons for Seniors Program, a program of the Federal Government of Canada.

- Tuesday May 3 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Americana Hotel, 8444 Lundy's Lane, Niagara Falls

■ Early Childhood Educators, Full Day Early Learning Teams, Family Support Staff, Home Child Care Practitioners, Students and other Early Learning and Child Care Professionals
Professional Development and Leadership Training

This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada.



professionalism & relationships

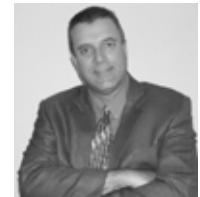


Professional learning opportunities in this category support: Standard IV: Professional Knowledge and Competence; Standard V: Professional Boundaries, Dual Relationships and Conflicts of Interest; and Standard VI: Confidentiality and Consent to the Release of Information Regarding Children and their Families

professionalism & relationships



Michael Lewis is back in Niagara!



Mediating: How to Make Things Right, When Things Go Wrong!

When things are said, feelings are hurt and healing isn't optional, supervisors and managers must take on the pivotal role of mending fences and building bridges. But where to start? And what questions must be asked and answered before, during and after an issue or incident. Rebuilding trust and working through anger means being skilled and patient, firm and understanding and above all...caring enough to help wounded parties heal and move on. Join Michael Lewis for this workshop which explores a restorative process and tools that supervisors can use when they need to step in and mediate after conflicts and incidents between staff and parents/families.

Tuesday May 24, 2016 • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Community Boardroom) • \$45 includes materials and nutrition break

Greater Employee Engagement: Pathways to Ensuring Positive Attitudes and Sustainable Morale

It is an old adage that we all manage to bring our hands and feet to work every day but seemingly few of us are bringing our hearts and minds. Disengaged employees are highly visible and their attitudes and outlooks have far greater impact and influence than we can imagine. This workshop explores the issue of employee engagement and in particular our role as leaders to positively influence those we lead on a consistent and sustainable basis, a general positive and productive attitude, workplace atmosphere and environment, and morale that is conducive for the common good of all.

Thursday June 9, 2016 • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Community Boardroom) • \$45 includes materials and nutrition break

The sessions above are suitable to the following streams

- Early Childhood Educators, Full Day Early Learning Teams, Family Support Staff, Home Child Care Practitioners, Students and other Early Learning and Child Care Professionals
- Supervisors and Managers of Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/Ontario Early Years Centres, and other children's service agencies

Professional Development and Leadership Training

organizational performance



Professional learning opportunities in this category support: Standard IV: Professional Knowledge and Competence; Standard V: Professional Boundaries, Dual Relationships and Conflicts of Interest

organizational performance



QCCN Reflective Practice Institutes

Each institute is limited to 140 seats and centres are asked to sign up as a team for the same institute which includes two Saturdays. The Institutes will run from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and include a light breakfast and lunch on both days. The Institutes will be held at the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre – Lockview Lounge at 1932 Welland Canals Parkway in St. Catharines. The cost of the QCCN Reflective Practice Institutes and materials are generously being subsidized through Niagara Region Children’s Services, thus there is no cost to participate.

Expectations

All centres are required to participate in QCCN training and implementation as part of their contractual agreements with Niagara Region Children’s Services. The investment over the years in QCCN by Niagara Region Children’s Services has been over one million dollars.

Please note that attendance by all staff is mandatory for both dates. The participation of the entire staff team is critical to the success of the training. As supervisor, please speak with the whole team to pick a date that supports everyone’s availability.

As a participant in the QCCN Reflective Practice Institute, you and your team will commit to:

- engaging as a team in conversation about *How Does Learning Happen?* Ontario’s Pedagogy for the Early Years and other Ontario Frameworks prior to the session (copies may be accessed online at www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/HowLearningHappens.pdf or hard copies are available at the ECCDC);
- attending both days of the Institute; and
- participating in a training evaluation at the end of the Institute as well as a post-evaluation at a later time.

Institute 1 - Saturday May 28 and Saturday June 18, 2016 • 8:30am to 5:00pm • St. Catharines Museum (Lock 3), 1932 Welland Canals Parkway, St. Catharines • No charge, Reflective Practice Institutes and materials are generously being subsidized through Niagara Region Children’s Services • Please see the flyer for all 2016-17 Institute dates and registration form

organizational performance

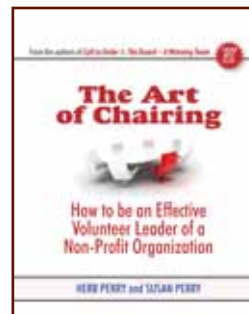
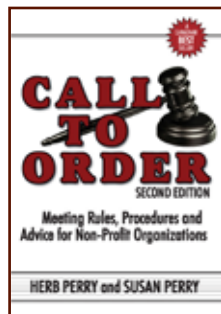
The Board: A Winning Team™

A Four Part Evening Training Series with Gay Douglas

The ECCDC is once again pleased to offer The Board: A Winning Team™. This four part workshop series will focus on developing a high-performing board of directors, how to have productive and enjoyable meetings and the unique, challenging and rewarding role of the Board Chairperson.



Through an exclusive partnership with Gay Douglas and Associates and Big Bay Publishing, the workshop series is based on three comprehensive, time-tested books written in Canada for the Canadian not-for-profit sector: The Board: A Winning Team™, Call to Order™ and the Art of Chairing™. Written in a clear, easy-to-read style, thousands of not-for-profit organizations have benefited from these publications. A copy of the books will be provided to participants attending the entire 4-part series, along with a free one-year subscription to The Association Consultants Report™.



The series is facilitated by Gay Douglas, a Niagara-based board governance consultant with more than 25 years of experience as a volunteer serving on boards and as an Executive Director reporting to boards. Her practical, hands-on knowledge of how effective boards work will provide you with handy tips, tools and techniques you can apply in your organization. Her energetic facilitation style will keep the sessions lively and interactive. For further details, view the flyer or visit www.eccdc.org.

continued on next page

organizational performance



Workshop Session 1 - Board Basics: Developing a High Performing Team

Topics to be explored within this session are Board roles, responsibilities, authorities, succession, board evaluation, and the Board-Staff relationship.

Thursday May 12

Workshop Session 2 - Choosing & Designing Your Board's Governance Style

Participants will have an opportunity to learn about three key board styles, policies to support each style, tips for implementation.

Thursday June 2



Workshop Session 3 - Call to Order™: Strategies and Tools for Productive Board Meetings

The strategies that will be shared during the session include all about quorum, agendas, motions, minutes, elections and effective meetings.

Thursday June 23

Workshop Session 4 - The Art of Chairing™: Leading for Results

Workshop participants will leave this session with a clear understanding of Chair roles, responsibilities, competencies, opportunities and challenges of the chief volunteer leader both inside and outside the boardroom.

Thursday August 18

5:30 to 9:00 pm • Holiday Inn & Suites Conference Centre, 325 Ontario Street, St. Catharines
• \$285 includes all four workshops plus Wine and Cheese Networking Session (Thursday September 8, 2016 from 4:00 to 5:30 pm), set of three books: The Board - A Winning Team™, Call to Order™ and the Art of Chairing™, A free one-year subscription to The Association Consultants Report™ and refreshments at all sessions • Individual Session Cost is \$75. The book set may be purchased for \$65

■ Executive Directors, Owners, Boards of Directors and Administrators of Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/ Ontario Early Years Centres, and other children's service agencies

Professional Development and Leadership Training

early learning & child care community networking



early learning & child care community networking



Child Care Centre Supervisors Network

Child care centre supervisors, including supervisors from the Francophone community and co-op teachers are invited to attend this session for an opportunity to network with fellow supervisors and engage in meaningful conversations. Shari Hill, Early Learning and Child Care Resource Consultant, will highlight the ECCDC's new 'provocations for learning kits' and give an overview of the evolution from 'play based learning kits' to the new format. There will be an opportunity for supervisors to share their centre's program statement and reflect on how they will revisit the program statement, going forward, to ensure that it is a living document. This will include an opportunity for centres to share strategies that they have used to involve staff, children, families and the community in the development of the program statement and strategies that they plan to use when reviewing the program statement. Ministry of Education, Niagara Region Children's Services and Public Health updates will be provided. This meeting will take place at North End Co-operative Preschool and will include a tour of the centre.

Tuesday June 7, 2016 • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • North End Co-operative Preschool, 677 Niagara Street, St. Catharines

Early Learning Executive Directors Network

The ECCDC is excited to invite you back to have beginning conversations about this new network, future goals and desired next steps. Additionally, the Niagara Community Foundation will be joining us to share information about their new Not-for-Profit Foundation and opportunities for local early learning executive directors to tap into this exciting initiative.

Friday June 10, 2016 • 8:30 to 10:00 am • ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold (Community Boardroom)

Reflective Emergent Practice Network

This network is open to all educators who are looking to share and develop their reflective practice techniques. The network meeting will be held at St. Catharines Regional Child Care Centre and participants will have an opportunity to tour the centre and engage in conversations with educators regarding their journey from a theme based approach to an emergent approach. There will be opportunities for educators to share how they have utilized A Thinking Lens® for Reflection and Inquiry within their practice, as a result of the photo activity which took place in the last network meeting. Educators are encouraged to bring photographs for discussion and interpretation to give meaning to children's emergent learning.

Wednesday June 15, 2016 • 6:30 to 8:30 pm • St. Catharines Regional Child Care, 179 Carlton Street, St. Catharines

early learning & child care community networking



Niagara Nature Network

Educators and community partners interested in participating in Niagara's Nature Alliance are invited to join us at this next meeting hosted at Rosalind Blauer Centre for Child Care. Helene Randle and her team will share some of their beginning insights and learning related to their recently established Forest School Program. Following our conversations indoors, we will take a peek into their Forest School environment. Please dress appropriately for a walk. Following the tour, we will preview and prioritize upcoming network activities.

Wednesday June 22, 2016 • 5:30 to 8:00 pm • Rosalind Blauer Centre for Child Care, Brock University, 1812 Sir Isaac Brock Way, St. Catharines

- Early Childhood Educators, Full Day Early Learning Teams, Family Support Staff, Home Child Care Practitioners, Students and other Early Learning and Child Care Professionals
- Supervisors and Managers of Licensed Child Care Centres, Family Resource Programs/Ontario Early Years Centres, and other children's service agencies

Professional Development and Leadership Training

eccdc

**Naturalizing
Play Spaces**



www.eccdc.org/naturalizing-play-spaces/



ECCDC's Coaching & Mentoring Services

The ECCDC is pleased to announce the re-launch of its Program Support Services as Coaching and Mentoring Services. We believe the new name better describes the important relationships that are formed when our team works closely with programs to assist them in achieving the highest quality possible.

Our Coaching and Mentoring Services are available to ECCDC Group Members as part of their membership, and to other individuals and programs for a small fee. Learn more about ECCDC Group Memberships by visiting www.eccdc.org.

All of the recommendations the ECCDC provides align with Quality Child Care Niagara (QCCN), as the ECCDC is a proud partner along with Niagara Region Children Services in implementing QCCN in early learning programs across the region. Coaching and Mentoring Services include guidance and support related to the following areas: naturalizing indoor and outdoor spaces; early learning room layout and design; purchasing (and borrowing) innovative resources, furniture and equipment; strategies for providing invitations to play; support in developing an inquiry based approach; aligning curriculum planning with Ontario's Early Year's Frameworks; enhancing adult/child interactions; effective reflective practice strategies; moving from "scheduling" activities to facilitating a "sequence of events"; *and much more*.

To learn more about the ECCDC's Coaching and Mentoring Services please contact the ECCDC at eccdc@eccdc.org or 905.646.7311 ext. 314.

Resource Delivery & Demonstration

Did you know that one of the benefits of having a group membership at the ECCDC is access to our resource delivery and demonstration service, which brings resource materials directly to your early learning and child care program? Use of this service includes the delivery of provocation for learning kits, loose parts, and treasure baskets to your program's location, as well as some unique ideas for using the materials. Please contact eccdc@eccdc.org for more information, or to arrange a delivery!

Like us on Facebook and Follow us on Twitter!

Visit the ECCDC's Facebook page for a quick look at what's new in our resource lending library and workroom services, upcoming professional learning opportunities, updates for home child care providers, and exciting work that the ECCDC's staff, students, and volunteers have been involved in. Like us on Facebook by visiting www.facebook.com/eccdc. Follow [@eccdc1](https://twitter.com/eccdc1) on Twitter to stay current with all of the exciting things happening at the ECCDC



An Exciting Naturalized Playground Partnership with Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds and the Early Childhood Community Development Centre

Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds and the ECCDC are joining forces to support you in naturalizing your early learning and child care playground. The Bienenstock Team will offer design recommendations to transform your outdoor environment, while the ECCDC will offer customized nature education through supporting the selection of innovative materials and offering strategies for creating inspiring outdoor experiences for children.

The Bienenstock Team will visit your centre to assess the space and learn more about your hopes for the naturalized playground. Following their visit, they will send in a surveyor to complete some preliminary mapping which will be used to design your customized plan. The visits will result in your program receiving a 3D drawing, list of costing for desired installations and work, standards specification sheets, and a technical construction plan.

The ECCDC will offer guidance in the selection of resources and materials that may be borrowed or purchased for use in your outdoor space and will facilitate customized training to your team; sharing recommendations and strategies in planning nature experiences for children. Additionally, we'll support you in the ongoing maintenance of your naturalized playground.

We are looking to trial this innovative new partnership with ECCDC Group Members. Any programs wishing to be a part of the pilot will receive a discount off the design consultation and customized training package cost.

To learn more about the Consultation and Training Service and associated fees please call the ECCDC at 905.646.7311 ext. 321 or email lial@eccdc.org.

Not a Group Member? To learn more about becoming an ECCDC Group Member, visit www.eccdc.org.



We invite you to drop by the ECCDC and preview our Beautiful Stuff Store!

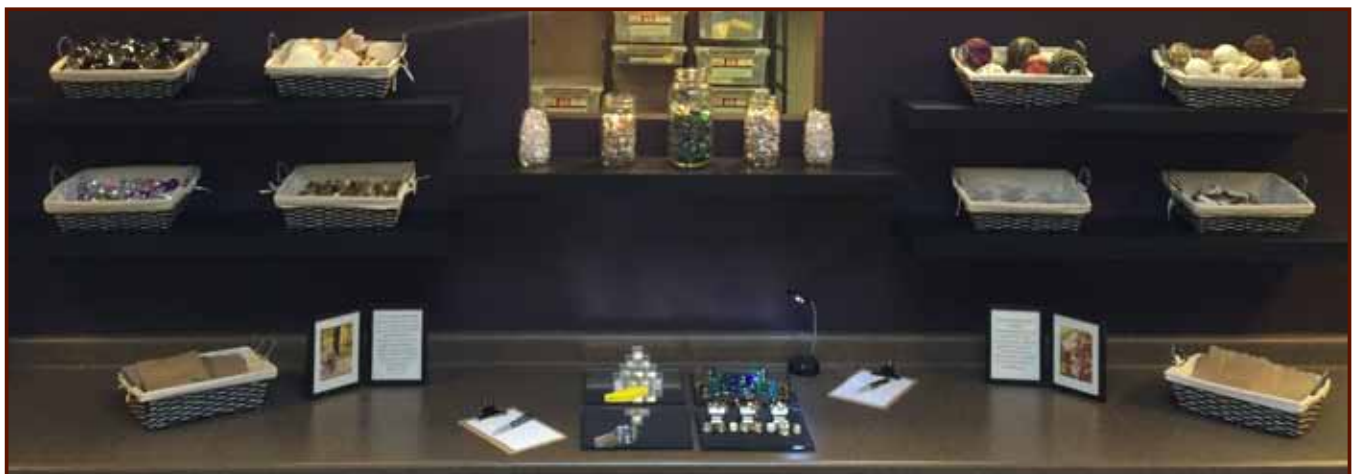
“When children interact with loose parts, they enter a world of ‘what if’ that promotes the type of thinking that leads to problem solving and theoretical reasoning. Loose parts enhance children’s ability to think imaginatively and see solutions, and they bring a sense of adventure and excitement to children’s play.”
(Daly & Belaglovsky, 2015, p. X)



The Early Childhood Community Development Centre (ECCDC) would like to invite you to join us in the celebration of the new **Beautiful Stuff Store** in our workroom. This area includes a variety of natural, unique and captivating items available to purchase. These loose materials allow educators to create provocations for learning where they become collaborators with the children as they discover, create, construct, and experiment in their early learning environments.

Come **mess about** with the materials, fill a bag for \$5, and see the provocations we have created with the beautiful stuff on display. Several of the items can be found in many of the revitalized play based learning kits which are now called **Provocation for Learning Kits**, as well as the new collection of **Natural Materials Treasure Baskets for Infants and Toddlers**, which are available in our lending library for members to borrow.

We hope to see you soon!



registration form

1. workshop information (PLEASE PRINT)

Staff Name	Name of Workshop	Cost

2. participant information (PLEASE PRINT)

Program Name _____
Organization _____
Address _____
Postal Code _____
Phone _____
Fax _____
E-mail Address _____

Please add our organization's e-mail address to the ECCDC's Upcoming Events email listing to receive upcoming training opportunities, articles of interest, and Resource Library updates.

3. payment information (WHERE APPLICABLE)

- Cheque
- Cash
- Invoice my organization*
- Visa**
- MasterCard**

* authorization required ** fill out info below

Supervisor signature for invoicing

Name as it appears on card

Card # _____
Expiry Date _____
Total Enclosed _____

4. registration procedures

professional development events with registration fee

- Submit completed registration form with payment information (cash, cheque, credit card, or invoice) to the ECCDC prior to the event (contact information below)
- Walk-in registrations permitted if space & trainer allows
- Once processed, payments are non-refundable; however, registration is transferable to another individual
- In the event of cancellation due to low registration or other unexpected circumstances, refunds will be issued within 30 days
- Invoices are issued to organizations upon receipt of registration by fax or mail, with supervisor authorization

professional development events with rsvp

Where there is no charge for a workshop a phone call, fax, or e-mail to confirm your attendance is required.

did you know

Fees for training & workshops cover;

- Nutrition breaks & meals
- External cost for Facilitators
- Training materials & handouts
- Off-site facility costs.

Participants in our training never pay for;

- ECCDC coordination & design of events
- Training facilitation by ECCDC staff
- Facility costs at ECCDC
- Specialized equipment costs
- Advertising, flyers, and mailing costs.

Return form to: ECCDC, 3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold L2V 4Y6 or fax it to 905.646.2692



The ECCDC wishes to recognize Niagara Region Children's Services for its ongoing partnership, support and investment in the ECCDC's mission within Niagara's early learning and child care community.



Registering for **esteem** sessions has never been so easy!
Simply visit www.eccdc.org/professional-learning/workshop-registration/

For details about any of these unique training sessions, contact:
Early Childhood Community Development Centre
3340 Schmon Parkway, Thorold, ON L2V 4Y6 | 905.646.7311 ext. 304 | eccdc@eccdc.org | www.eccdc.org



And remember, any of the sessions you read about in esteem can be customized to meet the individualized needs of your program or organization.

Esteem is designed by the Early Childhood Community Development Centre