

# ART AND ECOLOGY OF NATURAL MATERIALS

AN INSTITUTE  
FOR EARLY YEARS  
EDUCATORS

## TECHNIQUES AND APPROACHES FOR ARTMAKING WITH NATURAL MATERIALS

Educators will have hands-on practice and discussions about using three different types of materials for artmaking with children. Build your own creative experience to respond in new ways to children's questions and inquiries.

- **Fibre skills** - Explore stitching, weaving, 3-D building with fabrics, yarns, needles, and gathered materials such as reeds, grasses, branches.
- **Hands On Clay** - What are helpful techniques and tools for sculptural work? What are the sensory opportunities? How do you store clay for use over time?
- **Delve into Drawing** - Discover ways to use charcoal, graphite, and pastel with children of various ages, and create your own natural pigments from collected materials.

Are you looking for creative ways to support children's learning in and about outdoor environments? Are you interested in more hands-on skills using natural art materials such as fibers, clay, and drawing materials with children?

Join **4elements Living Arts** for this innovative and interactive experience.

- ➔ **With each of the materials** - Try observation practices for the classroom and outdoor environments, to encourage multi-sensory awareness and development. Looking with an artist's eye, through the lens of colour, pattern, line, shape, texture in the learning environment, we see anew!



Photo courtesy of <http://www.re-cognition.ca/>

**4elements Living Arts** has developed and offered programs linking the arts, land, and communities for over 15 years in Northern Ontario. Their approaches engage children and adults with creative arts practices and natural art materials to encourage ecological learning. In 2017 they produced two resource books for early years educators: *The Art of Land Based Early Learning, Volumes 1 and 2.*

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Saturday October 13, 2018

District School Board of Niagara  
Walker Living Campus, 1 Taylor Road  
Niagara-on-the-Lake

8:30 am Doors Open,  
Light Breakfast and Networking; 9:00  
am Morning Workshop 12:00 pm  
Lunch; 1:00 pm Afternoon Workshop;  
4:00 pm Workshop Closing

\$45 per session or attend both for \$75  
which includes continental breakfast,  
lunch and all art materials

Copies of *The Art of Land Based Early  
Learning, Volumes 1 or 2* may be  
purchased for \$35 each

## DEEPENING ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIONS THROUGH ART MATERIALS

Do you want to build your knowledge about natural art materials (clay, fibres, drawing, natural dyeing materials)? Where do they come from? How can we encourage children to see the stories of the connections between the materials and the environments around them, even in the middle of the city?

What about the production process of the materials themselves? What questions can we ask when making choices for purchasing art materials?

What materials are available outdoors, in the environments where you and the children live and play? What are the questions and seasonal considerations related to gathering and collecting materials outdoors?

How can art engage community? Where are community relationships related to art and craft materials? Gather ideas for farm visits, bringing in local artists, potters, First Nations community members, or ecological experts to build a local context for the art materials you use.

Explore "place" in the context of art: We will use the location of the workshop itself as a model to see your own places in new ways as multi-dimensional learning environments.

