



Presents ...

Branching Out

Resource Updates to Support the Growth and Goals of Educators

ISSUE 2 • 2020

As we begin to see the warmer weather, children and families start to get excited about plans for camping, picnics and getting outside. During this unique time of physical distancing and the barriers and challenges that come with it, our Provocation for Learning Kits can support you in bringing some of those experiences to life for the children from the comfort of your own backyard.

New and Updated Provocation for Learning Kits



Introducing Children to a Camping Experience

This provocation for learning kit offers everything you need to set up a backyard camping adventure. From maps, to animal sounds, to going fishing and cooking over a fire, this kit has you covered.



Loose Parts for Summer

This provocation for learning kit takes going on a picnic to a whole new level! Children will delight in manipulating these loose parts and sharing in the wonder that natural materials can provide.



Happiness Blooms Subscription Box

In the first edition of Branching Out, we shared our excitement to announce that we will soon be launching our Happiness Blooms Subscription Boxes. The first box will focus on Educator Well-Being and we would like to offer you a chance to win our first box! Keep an eye out in an upcoming ECCDC publication for this pink flower. When you find it, send us an email at eccdc@eccdc.org and let us know what publication it was in and share one thing that you are doing at this time to support your own well-being. We look forward to hearing from you and sharing your ideas in a future edition of Branching Out.



Free Resources Available on our E-store

Would you like to learn a few tips and tricks to turn your neighbourhood stroll into a mindful experience? [Click here](#) to download your free copy of **Mindful Moments**. Over the next couple of weeks, we will also be sharing a video created by one of our ECCDC Team members as she shares a *Mindful Moments* stroll in her own neighbourhood!



Support Highlight

ECCDC staff receive many questions about setting up provocations or invitations to play. Here are some of the ways that we are here to support you on this journey:

Provocation for Learning Kits

Our Provocation for Learning kits include **Educator Booklets** and highlight two photos of how to get started with the materials, along with some tips for setting up or adding to a provocation.

Below are the photos that are included in the recently developed *Exploring the Colours of the Rainbow with Loose Parts* kit along with some things to consider when setting up your provocation!

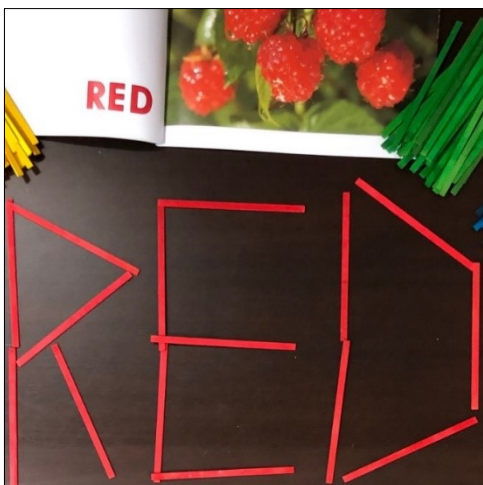
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As you can see, offering the materials in a variety of ways will promote different learning outcomes. The first photo simply shows all the materials offered in the kit, the second photo uses coloured wooden sticks, a colour book and an invitation to create words or letters, and the third photo uses a sorting tray and colourful loose parts as an invitation to sort and classify the materials.



PROVOCATION IDEAS

Tips for setting up provocations for play.

- What are the children's interests/developmental stage/age?
- Are there learning outcomes you are hoping to see?
- Its all about the presentation. How will you set up the learning materials attract the children's attention? What draws your eye to provocations that you see?
- Consider open-ended questions you can ask the children while they are engaged with the material.
- Observe and document what actually happened to extend on the learning/interest.

Group Tours and Team Meetings

Our Library staff offers the opportunity for staff teams to visit us at the ECCDC for an informal, hands-on experience to get your creative juices flowing! These experiences are tailored to the group we are supporting. In some cases, we have set up provocations and encouraged the team to “mess about”, think about what some learning outcomes could be, and what questions they could ask to prompt higher order thinking and extend the learning experience.

In other cases, our team has provided a variety of open-ended materials and some learning outcomes and encouraged the group to set up provocations. We expand on this by inviting them to share what they set up and why they chose those materials. Our library team supports this experience with adaptation ideas, questions and reflections.

Once we are able to safely hold small gathering together again, we would be delighted to host your Team in our new workspace and lending library. Feel free to contact us at eccdc@eccdc.org and we'll put your Team on a waiting list for when we are able to safely welcome your group with open arms. On the topic of moving, please note the ECCDC is currently still located at 3340 Schmon Parkway as our relocation was impacted by COVID-19. Once we have relocated to our new home at the corner of Schmon Parkway, we will be sure to let you know.

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!

