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The Here and Now: Reimagining Early Childhoods In Urgent Times

ECPN Updates

Early Childhood Pedagogist Program

Funded by the B.C. Ministry of Education and Child Care and hosted by ECPN, the Early Childhood Pedagogist Program has been supporting educators in B.C. since 2020. Our comprehensive website includes examples of pedagogical projects that ECPN pedagogists engage in alongside educators.

Preliminary analysis of the pedagogist program shows that pedagogists worked with more than 3,000 early childhood professionals in B.C. in 2023-2024. Our next newsletter will include a summary of the many positive responses from educators, directors, families and other professionals in the field. The feedback we have received across the year have been instrumental to our maintaining and strengthening the Pedagogist Program's supports to the sector.

> *Our work with the ECPN allows our centre and educators to thrive in a way that no educational institute or professional development opportunities would be able to support us. Thank you*
>
> June 2024, Island educator, Ongoing Engagement participant

As we plan for the 2024-2025 schoolyear, and we are looking forward to continuing our work with the early childhood sector and to growing new pedagogical connections and opportunities with children, educators, families, communities and other professionals. More to come . . .

re:materia

As described in previous issues of The Here and Now, re:materia is a partnership between ECPN and ECEBC that engages early childhood educators in creatively and critically reimagining pedagogical processes and curriculum making around waste. Grounded in social and ecological justice frameworks, re:materia proposes new directions for early childhood education that rethink the Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) and refigure young children's waste futures. To date, two initiatives have been developed as part of the re:materia program: an online (e-learning) course and a participatory artistic installation and exhibition space called exhi'pit.

We plan to offer the Waste-as Material course to cohorts again starting in the fall. For more information about the course, you can read the description on the EYPD Hub.

Following the successful launch of the re:materia exhi'pit at this year's ECEBC Conference, atelierista Tatiana Zakharova-Goodman has brought exhi'pit to the Kwantlen Polytechnic University (Surrey Campus) ECCE Studio. Interested in visiting exhi'pit? Read the Upcoming Events for details about how you can participate with the exhi'pit at KPU in August.

Over the next few months we will be updating the re:materia project pages on the ECPN website as the program continues to emerge. Keep checking back for more information!

ECPN Highlights

Field Note: Bear Painting

Field Notes are incomplete accounts of ECPN pedagogists' work with educators and children in early childhood centres. They relate minor moments that take place and *invite response*. In the latest Field Note, Bear Painting, ECPN pedagogist Maria Jeong shares a glimpse of an ongoing curriculum inquiry that attends to children's thoughts about bears, both their interests and their

fears, as an avenue for creating conditions in early childhood spaces that respond to the complexities of 21st-century life.

Read More

Blog Post: Contamination

The final installment in the "Storying With" series, Contamination, draws on insights derived from ECPN pedagogists Tracy Barkman, Mary Kim, Rachel Phillips and Karen Rodden's presentation at the 2023 ECEBC conference, *Power of Story*. Inspired by the work of early childhood education scholars such as Cristina Delgado Vintimilla, Alex Berry, Veronica Pacini-Ketchabaw, Nicole Land and Emily Ashton, this fourth blog focuses on the concept of contamination as a generative force for collective thinking.

Our histories and experiences contaminate how we work in early childhood education. The people we read and think with contaminate our work. The stories we hear and engage with contaminate our work. Our networks of relationships contaminate our work. There is no possibility of entering a situation as a completely objective observer or a blank slate . . .

Read More

Upcoming Events

We are currently planning for webinar events for the 2024–2025 school year. Keep an eye on the Events page of the ECPN website for future offerings.

If you will be in the lower mainland in August, you might be interested in visiting the re:materia exhi'pit currently at the ECCE Studio at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (Surrey campus). This interactive space encourages participants to engage with artifacts, videos, and installations that challenge traditional notions of waste, urging a creative and critical reimagination of waste as an integral aspect of our collective lives. There are two ways to participate in August:

Register for a facilitated session where you will join local pedagogists and atelierista to explore and experiment with rethinking waste in a small-group dialogue.

Saturday, August 10th: 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Register here: https://bit.ly/4eR4KTh

Professional development certificates will be provided for this facilitated session.

Drop in during public open hours to engage with the exhi'pit and dialogue with the facilitating atelierista, pedagogists and educators.

Wednesday, August 14th: 4–8 p.m.

Thursday, August 15th: 4–8 p.m.

Saturday, August 17th: 12–4 p.m.

No registration required

Continuing the Conversation

August is an important planning time for early years programs as some children transition to kindergarten and new families join programs. This time can provide educators opportunities to consider how they nurture new and continuing relationships. Such reflections help educators decide which pedagogical processes foster a thriving community and if there are some practices they may want to change.

The B.C. Early Learning Framework emphasizes creating a curriculum that supports respectful and ethical relationships. In June, the Ministry of Education and Child Care released their inclusive child care strategy and the Equity, Inclusion and Child Care in B.C. Engagement Report. These Ministry resources are calling on the sector to create early years programs "where all children belong."

We at the ECPN encourage all educators to think deeply and carefully with these resources and to consider the how inclusion is understood and lived in the context of their work. We also recommend educators think with varied, multidisciplinary resources in their conversations toward nourishing inclusive practices. We invite educators to continue the conversation with following:

- ECEBC and ECPN hosted a webinar on June 19, 2024, with Dr. Laura Coulman who discussed some of the barriers to inclusion she's found in her research. The webinar recording can be viewed on the ECPN website.
- ECPN (2020) Anti-Racism Statement
- ECEBC (2022) position paper, The Role of the Early Childhood Educator in British Columbia

ECPN Early Childhood Pedagogy Network

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