

ISSUE 20: October 2024



The Here and Now: Reimagining Early Childhoods In Urgent Times



Continuing the Conversation

For those familiar with the ECPN newsletter, *The Here and Now*, you'll know that across the years we have worked to illuminate important issues that impact the lives of educators, children, families and communities, and invited the sector to deeply consider our ethical obligations to such issues and how we are implicated in them. With this aim in mind, we want to highlight some issues that might be worth a (re)visit with colleagues to think together about how issues and calls to action related to diversity and inclusion continue to require our collective attention.

The *Here and Now* Issue 2 considered [educators' obligations and responsibilities towards difference and diversity](#). Two years later, [Issue 10](#) explored the importance of reimagining

educators' role in relation to diversity and inclusion. In [Issue 12](#), January 2024, we extended that discussion to share how that vision had been actively shaping the work of a group of children, educators and an ECPN pedagogist thinking about the complexities of race and racism with Kamloops Art Gallery's Fall 2023 exhibit *Black Drones in the Hive* by artist Deanna Bowen.

[Issue 5](#) promoted the newly published position paper from ECEBC, *The Role of the Early Childhood Educator in BC*, and considered this vision of the educator alongside the role of the pedagogist for radically reconsidering what it means to live well together within the here and now of a rapidly changing world. ECEBC's new [position paper on inclusion](#) is another visionary statement that calls on early childhood educators to live their everyday practices beyond the status quo where "inequities and inequalities are often created and maintained" ([ECEBC, 2024](#), p. 2).

ECEBC acknowledges that an inclusive society must first disrupt dominant and social constructions of what it means to be human that reflect idealized images (Kafher, 2013). For inclusion to thrive, we must first refuse predetermined hierarchies based on ability, body shape and form, chromosome composition, gender, race and other forms of human categorization. (ECEBC, 2024, p. 1)

In June 2024 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](#). In August 2024 they updated the [Inclusive Child Care Resources and supports](#) listed on the ChildCareBC website, which include the CanAssist Foundations of Inclusive Child Care online training and the CanAssist Behaviour in the Early Years Initiative. Other resources related to supporting educators in recognizing and valuing [diversity and inclusion](#) and protecting individuals from discrimination and harm (e.g., [anti-racism](#), [sexual orientation](#) and [gender diversity](#)) can also be found on the B.C. government website.

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 such resources and to consider *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 the 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.
 - ECEBC and ECPN, through the Early Childhood Pedagogist Program, also collaborated to bring the presentation series *Centring Black Life in Canadian Early Childhood* with Dr. Fikile Nxumalo. This series explored the potential for pedagogical engagements with relational Black knowledges that are anti-colonial, affirm Black childhoods, are place-based, and unsettle neoliberal multiculturalism. The webinar recordings can be viewed on the ECPN website: [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#).
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Upcoming Events

Conversation X Part I: Encounters with Light

Join ECPN Pedagogist Camilla Fusar Poli, ECPN Pedagogical Coordinator Meagan Montpetit, and ECPN Co-Director Veronica Pacini-Ketchabaw as they discuss an inquiry with toddlers on light and shadow. This conversation will emphasize the role of photography in pedagogical narration.

Zoom Webinar

Wednesday, October 30, 2024

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Pacific Time

[Click here to Register](#)



Conversation X Part II: Becoming, Inheriting and Unbounding with Bodies

Join ECPN Pedagogist Kirsten MacDougall Seiler, ECPN Pedagogical Coordinator Meagan Montpetit, and ECPN Co-Director Kathleen Kummer as they discuss an ongoing inquiry that takes seriously children's theories and lived experiences related to bodies. This conversation will delve into moments when educators and pedagogists engage with children's ideas that challenge idyllic notions of childhoods in early childhood education.

Zoom Webinar

Thursday, November 28, 2024

6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Pacific Time

[Click here to Register](#)

We continue to plan for webinar events for the 2024–2025 school year. Keep an eye on the [Events](#) page of the ECPN website for more future offerings!

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. As noted in The Here and Now Issue 19, the Pedagogist Program during the 2023-2024 school year reached more than 3,100 early childhood professionals in B.C. In our last newsletter, we highlighted some of the 2023-2024 activities and positive feedback from participants in our knowledge mobilization and virtual education stream. This month, we share a few highlights and feedback from our Service Stream 1, pedagogists' direct work with educators in early childhood programs.

In the 2023–2024 school year, pedagogists provided direct ongoing support to more than 1200 educators in 194 programs/classrooms across 83 sites in 28 different B.C. communities. Pedagogists engaged educators in a wide variety of curriculum inquiries with children and supported educators in numerous areas of practice.

Self-reported survey data from Service Stream 1 educators, at both the midpoint and yearend, indicates an increase in working with Ministry-approved resources (e.g., the B.C. Early Learning Framework, Inclusive Child Care Toolkit) since an ECPN pedagogist started to support their centre. The survey data also indicates that educators perceive that their knowledge, understanding and use of certain practices has increased and that their practices have experienced several changes for the better since working with an ECPN pedagogist.

The ECPN Pedagogist supporting our centre has played a vital role in my ability to understand the BC Early Learning Framework (ELF). As someone who recently moved from another province and was only recently introduced to the ELF, this has made such a huge difference in my practice!

Island, Educator, ECE ITE SNE, 1-3years, Licensed Group Child Care, Working w/Pedagogist 3-6mos, February 2024

We consider ourselves very fortunate to have access to a professional (pedagogist) that is part of our team, works with us, thinks with us and helps us channel our team's focus on how and what helps children grow and develop in all developmental areas. We thank the ECPN for all the hard work to help the child care sector and for all the resources (includes the pedagogist) that they put at ECE's and child care centre's disposal.

Fraser, Program Director, ECE ITE SNE, 10+years, Licensed Group Child Care, Working w/Pedagogist 18+mos, June 2024

The best part is the professionalism brought to the centre and opportunity to have different types of discussions with the pedagogist especially when curriculum was not discussed previously in a team manner. I appreciated all efforts put to modelling play with children and including the importance in play during meeting [discussions].

Vancouver Coastal, Educator, ECE ITE SNE, 10+years, Licensed Group Child Care, Working w/Pedagogist 18+mos, February 2024

For myself, the ECPN pedagogist that is involved with our centre has opened up ways of thinking and engaging with children that I would not have otherwise. They enhance knowledge and help guide quality curriculum daily. Pedagogists are an asset to centres and educators. They are helping to elevate the ECE field and education for young children.

Northern, Educator, ECE Basic, 10years+, Licensed Family Child Care, Pedagogist 18+mos, June 2024

This is a very inclusive space and a lot of that is because of the centre's commitments that my pedagogist, my co-teacher and I have worked on - with the families, with the children - and the kind of space that we wanted to create. . . . we really worked hard to create those conditions with our pedagogist; what this space is and what this centre is going to uphold and prioritize.

Northern, Educator, June 2024 Focus Group

I am extremely excited and feel very fortunate to have the support and insights of our centre's pedagogist. I have learned a tremendous amount, and it's provided me with an even greater passion for my role as an early childhood educator.

Interior, Educator, ECE Basic, 5-10 years, Licensed Preschool, Working w/Pedagogist 18+mos, June 2024

Over the next few months, we will be creating new Evaluation Briefs to share back some of the insights, impact and reach of the Pedagogist Program last year. We will also be adding glimpses of pedagogists' work with educators and children last school year to the ECPN website as Pedagogical Narrations, Field Notes, and Blogs in our [digital library](#).

We are looking forward working alongside educators in programs and continuing to strengthen the Pedagogist Program's supports to the sector this school year!

re:materia

New information pages about the [re:materia project](#), a partnership between ECPN and [ECEBC](#) that engages early childhood educators in creatively and critically reimagining pedagogical processes and curriculum making around waste, can now be found on our ECPN website.

Exhi'pit is re:materia's participatory artistic installation and an invitation for educators and their allies across the province to take up the labour of disrupting cycles of consumption and waste production in early childhood centres. Since its launch at the ECEBC Conference in May 2024, the exhi'pit has begun to travel to and be reimagined with early childhood communities in B.C. The [re:materia exhi'pit catalogue](#) can be viewed on the ECPN website.



Exhi'pit's next installation will be at the Kamloops Art Gallery starting late October and running through January. Work/live in the Kamloops area and want to know how you might participate with the exhi'pit? Please contact us at ecpn@uwo.ca or email Kerry Watts, re:materia Project Manager at kwatts@ecebc.ca.



Early Childhood
Pedagogy Network

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