

ISSUE 21: November 2024



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. In the last two issues of *The Here and Now* we highlighted some of the 2023–2024 school year participation in our virtual education stream ([Issue 19](#)) and in the stream where pedagogists work directly with educators in their early childhood programs ([Issue 20](#)). Pedagogists also provided more than 5,300 hours of “instruction” and reached 1,131 educator participants through structured collaborative dialogue opportunities in the form of ongoing engagements (e.g., monthly) and focused dialogues (e.g., 1-, 2- or 3-part gatherings focused on a particular topic). Survey data indicates that these opportunities were impactful for participants, with respondents reporting that the content/material presented

added to their knowledge (39% “somewhat added”; 55% “very much added”) and that it was likely they would bring ideas from the session(s) to their work with young children (36% “somewhat likely”; 51% “extremely likely”).

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, Program Manager, Island Region)

We will continue to foster collaborative dialogue opportunities this school year and look forward to meeting and working with both returning and new educator groups!

re:materia



Since launching at the ECEBC Conference in May, re:materia’s exhi’pit has travelled to Surrey and Castlegar, appeared at MNBC Early Years Conference in Kelowna, and is now set up at the [Kamloops Art Gallery](#) where it invites visitors of all ages to engage with local waste materials by knotting and stitching waste pieces into fabric.

In the tentacular manner of any project that invites re/configuration of knowledges by thinking with others, the exhibit has evolved to include more waste pieces and has attracted questions generated by educators, ECE students and allies, and young children who engaged with it in Castlegar: What is the (un)seen beauty of waste? How do we make visible the complexity of waste relations? How do we hold the unevenly tension filled waste compositions collectively? How do we support each other in the difficult labour of per/forming waste pedagogies?



The [exhi’pit catalogue](#) is available to be viewed on the ECPN website and is offered as a provocation to further conversations on waste relationships in ECE. You can also read more about the re:materia exhi’pit in atelierista Tatiana Zakharova-Goodman’s blog post [One Woman’s Trash](#).

ECPN Highlights



[Read More](#)

Blog Post – Ruptures in the Margins: Storytelling Outside of Euro-Western Practices

This blog post is the first of three in a series that considers how stories and storytelling live within early childhood education. ECPN pedagogist Chelsea Hann provokes us to consider what stories are and how storytelling in early childhood education takes shape. Through examining a portion of a pedagogical narration, “Monsters Transform a Place,” Chelsea invites us to rethink stories and engage with knowing beyond dominant narratives present in early childhood education.

Some stories unfold boldly and energetically, while others emerge slowly, with subtle transformations over time. Stories resist being pinned down by rigid definitions.



[Read More](#)

Field Note – The Impossibility of Mapping Skʷakʷan’t

On the unceded territory of the Sinixt, Sylix and Ktnuaxa peoples in the B.C. interior, educator Pippa Bowley and children from a licensed family childcare have been walking with water for two years, mapping the flows and rhythms through drawings, stories and photography. This latest field note from pedagogist Tracy Barkman shares some of the complexities of relating with Skʷakʷan’t (little waterfall) during catastrophic times of drought and fire.

ECPN field notes are partial accounts of curriculum-making processes that unfold in early childhood centres. Field notes relate minor moments from pedagogists’ work with children and educators with an aim to invite responses and dialogues that might spark creative pedagogical processes.

Upcoming Events

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

Zoom Webinar

Thursday, November 28, 2024

6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Pacific Time

[Click here to Register](#)



Join ECPN pedagogist Kirsten MacDougall Seiler, pedagogical coordinator Meagan Montpetit and co-director Kathleen Kumen 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 childhood in early childhood education.

If you missed Conversation X Part I: Encounters with Lights, the recording is available on the ECPN [website](#).

We are currently planning a 4-part Conversation Series for 2025, Conversation XI: Pedagogists' Engagements in Early Childhood Centres. This series will feature pedagogists discussing various aspects of how they collaborate with educators to create vibrant pedagogical spaces across B.C. Watch for more information and registration links coming soon to the [Events](#) page of the ECPN website.

Continuing the Conversation

The [B.C. Government](#) has committed to expanding the \$10 a Day ChildCareBC spaces from more than 15,000 to 20,000 by 2026. They have also committed to investing \$500 million in capital over two years to build more childcare spaces (BC NDP Releases, [October 7, 2024](#)). We look forward to collaborating with government and the community to create a plan that will attract early childhood educators to work in the newly created childcare centres.

Looking nationally at the \$10-a-day childcare plan, in March 2024 the [Government of Canada](#) announced continuing measures for building more affordable childcare spaces. These measures include an additional \$1 billion in low-cost loans and \$60 million in non-repayable grants, a \$48 million investment over four years toward student loan forgiveness for educators working in rural communities and \$10 million over two years to train early childhood educators. In addition, the Government of Canada is providing British Columbia with \$69.9 million through the Early Learning and Child Care Infrastructure Fund to create new childcare spaces and support inclusive childcare across the province.

We invite you to join us to work with governments toward realizing these political intentions into formal legislation. Thus, we encourage you to continue engaging politically in the years ahead. For instance, you might return to the [Action Plan](#) to embed yourself in the political and social landscape of child care. This can be done by creating questions you deem important to bring to your government representatives.

Looking back at political party platforms after an election and holding them in mind throughout the next four years might be another example of remaining politically aware.

It is important to stay connected in order to actively extend conversations that complexify issues in early childhood education.

