



ISSUE 12: January 2024

# The Here and Now: Reimagining Early Childhoods In Urgent Times



Photo Credit: ECPN Pedagogist, Kirsten MacDougall Seiler

## ECPN Updates

### Updates about ECPN

The first six months of ECPN's Pedagogist Program 2023-2024 contract year have been busy. So far this year a total of 22 pedagogists have been providing direct and continuous pedagogical support to 1070 educators working in more than 200 early childhood programs across B.C. Several examples of how this work is being lived by pedagogists, educators, children and communities can be found in the [ECPN website](#).

Pedagogists and the ECPN leadership team have also been creating collaborative dialogue opportunities for educators working in centres without a pedagogist. These are offered either as focused dialogues (1 to 2 sessions) where educators are introduced to or deepen their understanding of a specific pedagogical or curricular

idea/concept relevant to their lived practices, or as ongoing monthly engagements (learning circles), where ideas/concepts are explored deeply over time. To date, 622 educators have participated in these dialogues. We are looking forward to the months ahead and our continued efforts to support collective thinking among early childhood centres and educators across British Columbia.

## re:materia Course Pilot

We're very excited to share that this autumn ECPN and ECEBC partnered to develop a new online course with funding from the Professional Learning in the Early Childhood Sector in BC grants. This initiative is part of the emerging program called re:materia, inspired by the REMIDA project in Reggio Emilia, Italy and the work of the Common Worlds Research Collective. The online course, Waste-As Material: Reimagining the ECE Classroom, is the first re:materia community offering.

November through January, 74 educators across B.C. participated in a pilot of the course. We learned much from their journey with us! Drawing from a range of disciplines, Waste-As Material invites a rethinking of waste materials in transformative ways. We share below images from educators participating in Northern BC.

The next offering is being planned for March 4–May 26, 2024. By participating in this course, educators will be supported to think about and reimagine waste flows in their own context, as well as connect with colleagues to rethink waste creatively. Remember to visit the [BC EYPD Hub](#) for information about the course and registration.

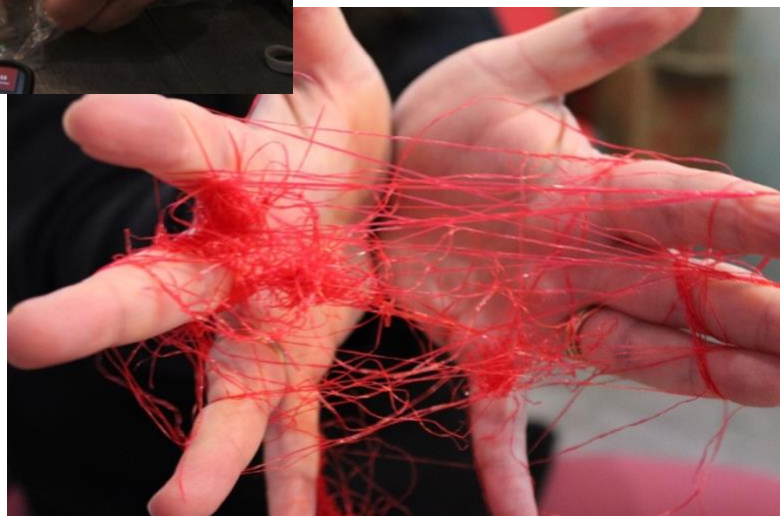
*"This entire experience has been so uplifting personally and professionally. It is so evident that this course's content was intentionally and carefully created with our learning at heart. Thank you all!"*

Course participant, survey response, January 2024



*"Making music with plastic" -  
Chelsea Hann and Gloria Albarracin,  
ECPN Pedagogists*

*"Cat's Cradle with plastic fibers" -  
Chelsea Hann and Gloria Albarracin,  
ECPN Pedagogists*




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# ECPN Highlights

This month, we are pleased to highlight a few resources recently uploaded to our [revamped website](#). Discover these enriching offerings under the [Library](#) page, where we are dedicated to curating valuable content for our community. New offerings for January include a new Pedagogical Narration titled "[X is for ELSA and O is for Anna: Letters That Tell Stories](#)," offering unique insights into a pedagogical project that reimagines children's writing as a social practice. Additionally, delve into the latest Field Notes entry, "[Wasps Live Here](#)," which captures the essence of our experiences and observations as it describes what might happen when we nurture alternative relationships with wasps, different from framing them as villains or victims. Our commitment to knowledge-sharing continues with a compelling new blog post, "[Anti-Extraction and Intimacy: Storytelling Pedagogies of Place in the North](#)," shedding light on the incredible work undertaken by our ECPN pedagogists. Be sure to visit the library page regularly as we will unveil fresh and inspiring offerings each month.

## LIBRARY

ALL LIBRARY




### Wasps Live Here

26 Jan 2024

In the centre of the play yard stands a magnificent Pacific crabapple tree. Throughout the year, the...

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### X is for Elsa and O is for Anna: Letters...

23 Jan 2024

This narration shares a pedagogical project that reimagines children's writing as a social practice. It documents what might be possible...

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### Anti-extraction and Intimacy: Storytelli...

19 Jan 2024

On the margins of the inland rainforest, near Bowron FSR, BC  
Tied to the Land: An...

READ MORE

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# Upcoming Events

## Conversations VII Part II

### ***“We Need These Ideas”*: Co-Creating Spaces for Collective Thinking and Learning**



In this conversation, ECPN pedagogist April Martin-Ko and ECPN Co-Director Kathleen Kummen discuss pedagogical practices that invite children and educators to engage deeply with ideas, questions and curiosities over long periods of time.

April shares vignettes from her work that illustrate what might be possible when collective thinking, learning and doing are nurtured in early childhood spaces.

[See Details](#)

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## Continuing the Conversation

In November, [The Here and Now, Issue 10](#) explored the compelling idea of reimagining the role of educators in relation to diversity and inclusion. As an extension of that discussion, we share here how this vision is actively shaping the work of pedagogists, in particular, how a group of children and educators are working together to think about the complex topics of race and racism.

The [BC Early Learning Framework](#) advocates for the creation of pedagogical conditions that enable children to live and learn well together. [ECEBC's \(2022\) position paper](#) asks: How can educators reimagine their role to disrupt the legacies of the past and ignite transformative change for the future?

One inspiring example is the work of two pedagogists in the interior who are actively engaging with educators and children in ongoing dialogues at the Kamloops Art Gallery. As part of the now two-year inquiry that shifts with the changing exhibitions, the group spent Fall 2023 with *Black Drones in the Hive* by artist [Deanna Bowen](#), which presences 'racism,' 'colour,' and 'anti-Blackness' in Canada.

These themes brought the group face to face with tensions that often make these concepts unspeakable in early childhood education. In this inquiry, pedagogists and educators experiment with creating a pedagogical space that makes these concepts *speakable*.

We at the ECPN acknowledge the ongoing injustices of systemic racism in education and in the specific educational contexts in which we work and live. We hope that many of you will join in the events and offerings that are shared in your community during [Black History Month in Canada](#) (February 1-29). This year's theme is Black Excellence: A Heritage to Celebrate; a Future to Build.

We encourage our readers to revisit [ECPN's anti-racism statement](#), first posted in July 2020. Like many, we recognize that much has not changed since this statement was written in response to the murders of unarmed Black people by police in the United States and equally the state violence levelled against Indigenous, Black, and people of colour in Canada. As we wrote in 2020, the murders of Elijah McClain, Rayshard Brooks, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Chantel Moore, Chief Allan Adam, Rodney Levi, and so many others laid bare systemic racism and state-sanctioned violence. It is worth noting that in Canada, the [number of Black and Indigenous people that are killed by police](#) continues to rise.

Racism does not emerge later in life; we know it is [alive and well in very young children](#). We encourage our readers to use this month to engage in the critical self-reflection called for in the [BC ELF](#) and ECEBC's position statement the [Role of the Early Educator](#). Thinking with Drs. Fikile Nxumalo and Veronica Pacini-Ketchabaw, how can we each examine our own practice so that we actively work to [centre the lives of black children and families in Canadian early childhood education](#)?

Join the Conversation

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