

ISSUE 15: April 2024



The Here and Now: Reimagining Early Childhoods In Urgent Times



Photo by: April Martin, ECPN Pedagogist

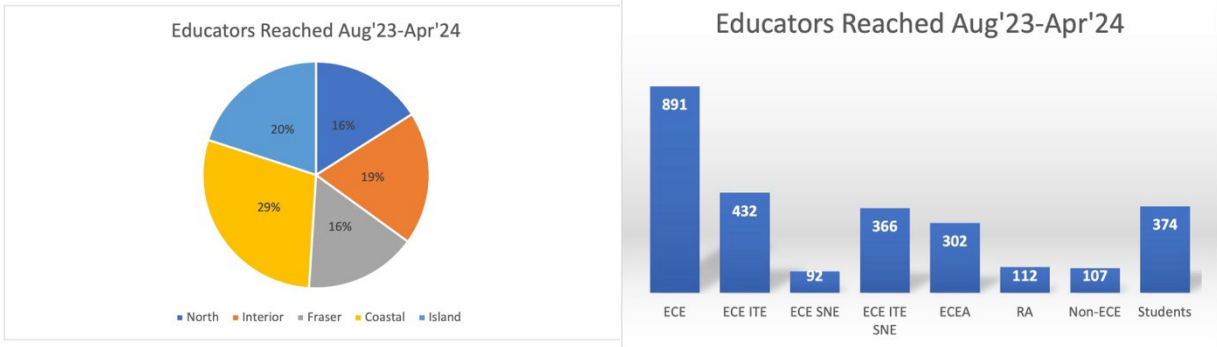
ECPN Updates

ECPN's Pedagogist Program 2023-2024

The [Early Childhood Pedagogist Program](#) – funded by the BC Ministry of Education and Child Care and hosted by ECPN – supports early childhood educators in British Columbia. Through three interrelated approaches, ECPN pedagogists, coordinators and directors work to orient beginning and experienced educators to the principles outlined in Ministry-approved frameworks and support their theory-practice integration. These three interrelated approaches are: (1) direct and continuous pedagogical

support and working alongside educators and children in curricular projects, (2) sustained and collaborative dialogues with educators and the early childhood sector, and (3) early childhood education virtual learning opportunities and [digital library resources](#). The overall goal of the Pedagogist Program is to improve the quality of early childhood education programs and educators' ability to deliver such programs across the province.

In August 2023, the ECPN began this current phase of the Pedagogist Program. Since then, we have had the honour of providing professional learning opportunities to more than 2600 early childhood professionals through pedagogists' direct work in early childhood centres, gathering educators for collaborative dialogue in ongoing monthly engagements and focused sessions and series, in-person community events, and virtual webinars and other online learning opportunities. As of April 27, these offerings have provided more than 19,000 hours of instruction and support to the sector and we are very much looking forward to engagements still to come this school year!



re:materia

The [re:materia project](#), a partnership between ECPN and [ECEBC](#), is an emerging program with an aim to engage 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.

Look for us at the ECEBC Conference, May 23-25, where we will launch the re:materia exhibit in the Vice Regal room to (re)think our collective wasting practices!

Also, we are currently working with the Spring cohort of the re:materia course [Waste-as Material: Reimagining the Early Childhood Classroom](#), located on the BC Early Years Professional Development Hub. The course is designed as a hybrid virtual synchronous (live) and asynchronous (at your own pace with the course timeline) course with content delivered across 4 interrelated modules. Upon course completion, participants receive 22 hours of professional development hours. We hope to offer the course again to a Fall cohort. For more information about the course, please visit the BC EYPD Hub.

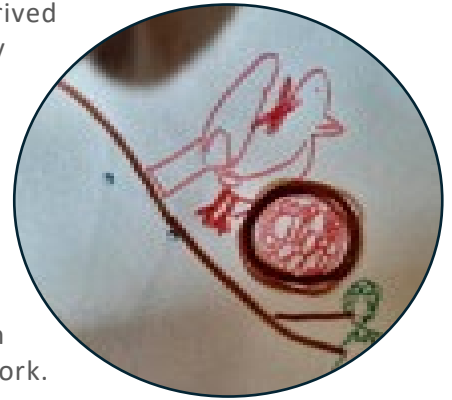
The concept of incorporating tangible waste materials into the classroom was truly remarkable. Examining waste through an educational lens, especially with such a young group of children, was truly extraordinary. While maintaining a clean classroom is typically a key criterion for quality childcare, this experience revealed the innovative thinking of educators who can transcend conventional boundaries. It demonstrated how educators can leverage materials typically deemed inappropriate for children's education to engage in remarkable inquiries and foster a unique learning experience.

Coastal Educator, course survey, January 2024

ECPN Highlights

Blog Post: Intentionality

This blog post is the first in a series of posts that share insights derived from the presentation “Storying With” offered by ECPN community pedagogists Tracy Barkman, Mary Kim, Rachel Phillips, and Karen Rodden at the 2023 Early Childhood Educators of BC (ECEBC) conference, Power of Story. This first post, Intentionality, unpacks how questions such as ‘what is my pedagogical intention’ guide pedagogical decisions in curriculum making as Tracy, Mary, Rachel, and Karen respond to the specific 21st-century conditions of children’s lives. Subsequent posts will unpack the concepts of situatedness, provoking and contamination and explore how such concepts are enacted in their pedagogical work.



[See Details](#)

Field Notes: Bears

Children at one early childhood centre in the District of Houston, situated on the unceded lands of the Wet’suwet’en peoples in the northwestern interior of British Columbia, have shared various curiosities about bears in the three years that ECPN pedagogist Chelsea Hann has been working with them. In the ECPN’s latest field note, Chelsea shares moments and documentation from one of the classroom’s thinking with bears over the past two years. It’s an inquiry that is ongoing in the centre, one that is grounded not in learning facts about “bears of the world” but rather in the children’s and educators’ experiences within their community. We hope this note invites conversation among educators that might spark creative pedagogical processes and possibilities.



[See Details](#)

Upcoming Events

Presentation Series: Centring Black Life in Canadian Early Childhood Education

Join Dr. Fikile Nxumalo, Associate Professor in the Department of Curriculum, Teaching & Learning at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, as she shares her research and insights in conversation with ECPN co-directors, Veronica Pacini-Ketchabaw and Kathleen Kummen.

In this first of two sessions, Dr. Nxumalo will discuss the potential for pedagogical engagements with relational Black knowledges that are anti-colonial, affirm Black childhoods, are place-based, and unsettle neoliberal multiculturalism.

Location: Zoom

Date: Thursday, May 2, 2024

Time: 6:00–7:00 p.m. Pacific Time

[See Details](#)



Presentation Series: Centring Black Life in Canadian Early Childhood Education - Part II

Join Dr. Fikile Nxumalo for a second session, this time in conversation with ECPN pedagogists Chelsea Hann and April Martin-Ko and ECPN co-directors Veronica Pacini-Ketchabaw and Kathleen Kummen. Together they will continue to explore how relational Black knowledges hold possibilities for early childhood education in British Columbia.

Location: Zoom

Date: Thursday, May 14, 2024

Time: 6:00–7:00 p.m. Pacific Time

[See Details](#)

Continuing the Conversation

As we enter May, Child Care Month, we invite readers to revisit [ECEBC's](#) position paper, the [Role of the Early Childhood Educator in BC](#). This visionary document reminds us that being an educator is always a process of becoming as we respond to an ever-changing world. During Child Care Month, we invite you to join your colleagues to celebrate and reimagine how we can collectively work to create more liveable worlds for children. For example, this could be coming together with your team to develop a statement articulating a pedagogical commitment within your room. Perhaps after listening to Dr. Nxumalo's presentation on [Centring Black Lives in Early Childhood Education](#), as a group of educators, you might reflect on your practices so that you are creating classrooms that celebrate the diverse histories and lives of children as you work to disrupt racism.

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