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The Here and Now: Reimagining Early Childhoods In Urgent Times



ECPN Updates

Pedagogist Program

In 2019–2020, as we began rolling out the pedagogist position in communities, we worked closely with several CCRR programs to share information about the ECPN, the role of pedagogists, and how centres could express interest in working with a pedagogist. During the first phase of the pedagogist program, 25 different CCRR programs collaborated with the ECPN to support pedagogists' work. For more details on this phase, please see the [Phase 1 Snap Shot Evaluation Brief](#). Many CCRR programs continue to play a vital role in supporting pedagogists, connecting them with centres, collaborating on community initiatives for educators, and contributing to their local early years sector.

This year, we are piloting new supports for CCRR programs, including two initiatives designed to foster collaborative dialogue between pedagogists and CCRR staff. One program will focus on “materials,” while the other will explore “conversations with children.” Over 30 CCRR staff members from 13 locations across B.C. have registered for these six-month offerings. Each group will participate in monthly learning circles to discuss program content and collectively consider how the resources activate practices in their specific contexts.

Together, pedagogists and CCRR staff will co-create this emergent program month by month, aiming to deepen our work with educators, children, families, and communities. We’re excited about this journey and look forward to sharing insights from these groups throughout the year!

re:materia

The re:materia exhibit was housed at Kamloops Art Gallery from October 26, 2024 to January 25, 2025 and will be at Vancouver Island University (VIU) in Nanaimo in February. For more information about the Kamloops exhibit, see the ECPN Highlights section of the newsletter and for more information about the exhibit coming to VIU in Nanaimo, please see Upcoming Events below.

Registration is now closed for the Winter cohort offering of the course, Waste-as Material: Reimagining the ECE Classroom, which will run January 20 to April 15, 2025. Registration for the Spring cohort will be available in the months ahead. For more information, please visit The Hub and the [Waste-as Material](#) course landing page.

Upcoming Events

Conversation XI

January 29th is the first session of the 4-part series, Conversation XI: Pedagogists’ Engagements in Early Childhood Centres. Join us for Part I, when pedagogists will discuss how they collaborate with educators to attend to children’s processes in curriculum-making.



[Register for Part I Here](#)

Registration links for all four sessions can be found on ECPN’s website [Events](#) page.

Part I: Engaging Children’s Processes

Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2025

Time: 6:30–8:00 p.m. Pacific Time

How pedagogists work with educators to attend to children’s processes in curriculum-making.

Part II: Attending to Children’s Lifeworlds

Date: Thursday, February 27, 2025

Time: 6:30–8:00 p.m. Pacific Time

How pedagogists engage observation practices that connect to pedagogical processes.

Part III: In Conversation with Children

Date: Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Time: 6:30–8:00 p.m. Pacific Time

How pedagogists work alongside educators to foster rich and meaningful conversations with children.

Part IV: Working with Pedagogical Commitments

Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025

Time: 6:30–8:00 p.m. Pacific Time

How pedagogists work alongside educators to create situated and relevant pedagogical commitments.

exhi'pit at VIU

Register to visit the re:materia exhi'pit at Vancouver Island University (VIU) in Nanaimo to rethink wasting practices in Early Childhood Education and beyond. This interactive space encourages participants to engage with artifacts, videos, and installations that challenge traditional notions of waste, urging a creative and critical reimagining of waste as an integral aspect of our collective lives. There are two ways to participate. In **facilitated sessions**, participants join local pedagogists to explore with other educators in small-group dialogues. In **group visits**, local educators and children are invited to experiment together through creative engagement with artefacts, videos, and installations. **Advance registration is required for all sessions. Space is limited.**

Sessions will take place at Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo Campus, Room 412, Building 180.

Facilitated Sessions

Session 1

Register for Session 1

Wednesday, February 19, 2025
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Session 2

Register for Session 2

Saturday, February 22, 2025
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Light refreshments provided.

ProD certificates will be available.

Group Visits

Part 1: Educator Introductory Session

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Join local pedagogists, the re:materia atelierista, and other educators to explore the exhi'pit and think critically about how to engage with the installations and prepare for the group visit with children.

Part 2: Visit with Children

Sign up for Visit with
Children

Sign up for a time on February 19, 2025

OR

Sign up for a time on February 20, 2025

For more information,
please contact
kwatts@ecebc.ca

Part 3: Educator Debrief Session

Date TBD, will take place in Zoom



ECPN Highlights

re:materia exhi'pit

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 travelled to and been reimagined with four early childhood communities in B.C. Most recently, it has been at Kamloops Art Gallery (October 26 – January 25) where, over three months, pedagogists invited groups of educators, Thompson Rivers University students, and members of the public to engage with the installation's offerings. Of note were conversations that centred around education's implication in consumer practices, with one educator remarking that many toys in her program look different to her since encountering the exhi'pit. As she imagined unwrapping new trucks freshly

purchased for her in-home program, she said “The day it is made, it is already waste.” Her question will remain in Kamloops as the exhi'pit leaves, calling on us to ask: “How might we think with children about the materials we bring into the classroom, where they come from, and where they go?”

Many thanks to Emily Hope and Teresa Donck-Matlock at Kamloops Art Gallery for collaborating with ECPN and ECEBC on the Kamloops iteration of the exhi'pit. We are very grateful for your support.





Continuing the Conversation

In November's [issue](#) of The Here and Now, we highlighted the B.C. NDP's commitment to investing \$500 million in capital over two years to build more childcare spaces ([BC NDP Releases, October 7, 2024](#)). The [Government of Canada](#) also announced continued measures to create affordable childcare spaces nationwide. Creating spaces in early childhood education has dominated political and public forums for decades and continues to sit at the forefront of new initiatives and policies. While these initiatives aim to address the scarcity of childcare spaces, they raise an urgent question: who will care for the children in these spaces?

The shortage of qualified early childhood educators (ECEs) in B.C. presents a significant challenge. According to recent reports, B.C. requires 3,750 new ECEs to staff the childcare spaces the government promised for 2025-26 ([Seward et al., 2023](#)). However, at the current rate of ECE graduation, this goal will take eight years to achieve. This gap highlights the pressing need for both investment in spaces and a parallel focus on strengthening the ECE workforce.

As we consider the urgent need for early childhood educators in B.C., it is essential to revisit the ideas emphasized in December's [Issue](#) of The Here and Now. The ECEBC position paper, [The Role of the Early Childhood Educator in British Columbia](#), underscores that educators are far more than technicians who apply predefined knowledge. They are reflective professionals engaged in complex, ethical, and context-responsive practices. Educators play a vital role in creating vibrant, relational, and transformative learning environments rather than merely meeting staffing requirements.

In B.C., ECEs are grappling with the legacies of colonization, fostering responsive relationships and co-creating lively, situated curriculum that address today's challenges. These practices go beyond functionality; they hold the potential to reimagine early childhood education as a space where we might learn to live well together.

As Canada continues to prioritize expanding childcare spaces, it is equally important to recognize and address the vital role of early childhood educators. Ensuring adequate support, education, and recognition for ECEs is essential for the future of the sector and the communities it serves. While striving to meet staffing goals, we also continue to advocate for the professionalism and education of the sector.

