

YMCA Child Care Resource and Referral

Saturday
FEBRUARY
22
2025

EARLY LEARNING & CHILD CARE CONFERENCE

 8:45 AM - 4:00 PM (REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8:00 AM)



5 PRO-D
HOURS!
ECPN EXHIBIT!
GIFT BAGS!
PRIZES!
VENDORS!

\$25 - Lunch included!



**EXECUTIVE PLAZA
HOTEL**

Coquitlam, BC
405 North Road #1



Online
registration:
myYMCA.ca



ChildCareBC

Funding for the CCRR is provided by the Province of British Columbia.



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Child Care Resource & Referral

Our Mission

The year 2025 marks 33 years of the YMCA Child Care Resource and Referral providing support for families and offering training and development opportunities for child care professionals. We have so much to celebrate and be proud of after all these years!

**In honour of this occasion, we warmly invite you to The YMCA CCRR
Early Learning & Child Care Conference! #YMCACCRRConference**

This event was created as a way to bring together early childhood educators, students and facilitators in the hope of moving practice forward, and we have planned for it to be an inspirational day in which you can learn from and grow on your personal journey to best practice.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Stay connected with the YMCA Child Care Resource for conference updates and future training options:
[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Subscribe to our Monthly Newsletter](#). We appreciate your support!

Conference Overview

The conference features a keynote address by Dr. Deborah MacNamara, followed by morning and afternoon workshops focused on early childhood care and education for all learning professionals. A catered lunch will be provided during the mid-day break and during this time **Early Childhood Pedagogy Network**, (ECPN), will have a special Dinosaur Exhibit set up on the 2nd floor.

AGENDA OF THE DAY

- 8:00 am - 8:45 am: Registration
- 8:45 am - 9:15 am: Welcome and Acknowledgement
- 9:15 am - 10:15 am: Keynote Address: Dr. Deborah MacNamara
- 10:15 am - 10:45 pm: Morning Break - Snack provided
- 10:45 am - 12:45 pm: AM WORKSHOP Session
- 12:45 pm - 2:00 pm: Lunch Break (provided)*
(Visit ECPN Exhibit on 2nd Floor)
- 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm: PM WORKSHOP Session
- 4:00 pm: Conference Ends.

If you have dietary restrictions or allergies, please bring your own food and drinks. Vegetarian options will be available.

The conference starts promptly at 8:45 a.m. Late participants will not be admitted 15 minutes after start time.

Keynote Address

CULTIVATING CARING CHILDREN: The Roots of Social Responsibility

WITH DR. DEBORAH MACNAMARA



We all desire caring and considerate children but there is much confusion regarding how to get there. This presentation addresses the developmental roots of these highly held virtues, and the negative effects prevailing parenting practices have on caring. This presentation will focus on how parents, teachers and early childhood educators can best cultivate these characteristics and social responsibility as a whole. It will include the story behind "The Sorry Plane" and this book aims to help adults preserve a child's caring spirit and cultivate empathy.

Deborah MacNamara, Ph.D., is a Counsellor and Educator in private practice with over 15 years experience working with children, adolescents, and adults. From working with parents of young children, youth-at-risk and university students, she has a range of experience and contexts to draw from in her practice. Based in Vancouver, British Columbia, Deborah helps parents and professionals make sense of children and adolescents in their care, providing insight into learning and behavioural challenges.

Deborah is an authorized Neufeld presenter and practitioner having interned with Dr. Gordon Neufeld. Her educational background is in counselling psychology and education, having studied at the University of British Columbia. As a Mother of two young children, she strives to cultivate an attachment village to raise her children in.

Workshop Overview

AM Sessions: 10:45AM to 12:45PM

- A** Tears and Tantrums: Understanding Frustration and Aggression
Dr. Deborah MacNamara
- B** Understanding Artistic Expression with Infants and Toddlers
Andrea Dawson
- C** Understanding and Mitigating Sensory Processing Disorder in Children
Debra Smith
- D** Deep Learning Made Playful with Everyday Materials
Misty Paterson

PM Sessions: 2:00PM to 4:00PM

- E** Nurturing the Natural Roots of Self Esteem
Dr. Deborah MacNamara
- F** Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) in Early Childhood Curriculum
Andrea Dawson
- G** Physical Literacy in the Early Years
Debra Smith
- H** Designing for Inquiry: Concepts vs Topics and Why This Matters
Misty Paterson

Workshop Descriptions: AM Sessions

A **Tears and Tantrums: Understanding Frustration and Aggression** Dr. Deborah MacNamara



The expression of frustration and aggression in children and teens can take on many forms including temper tantrums and various forms of attack. Part of making headway requires understanding the roots of frustration and aggression and how to deal with the resulting behaviours. This presentation will focus on strategies for dealing with a frustrated child while preserving one's relationship with them. It will address the importance of setting limits and helping children learn they can survive the futilities that are part of life.

Please see Dr. Deborah MacNamara's bio on the previous page.

B **Understanding Artistic Expression with Infants and Toddlers** Andrea Dawson



This workshop reminds us that very young children are creative individuals who are worthy of having their ideas recognized. We will explore examples of infants and toddler's creative expression and mark making and learn about why these early forms of artistic expression are important for wholistic development and sense of self.

Andrea has worked with young children and their families for the past 25 years working in non-profit early childhood centres as well as Vancouver Coastal Health's Early Childhood Mental Health team. Andrea is the department chair of the Early Childhood Education programs at Langara College, in Vancouver.

C **Understanding and Mitigating Sensory Processing Disorder in Children** Debra Smith



In this workshop participants will gain an insight into how Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD) can impact how young children engage with their environment, peers and adults. We will look at what SPD is, what we might observe in young children in our care and explore strategies to support children with SPD in our care.

Deb received her ECE from Douglas College and later completed a Bachelors Degree in CYC and a Masters in Education; Counselling Psychology. She has worked extensively with a range of children in diverse programs and is passionate about working with children with diverse abilities, physical literacy, learning environments and advocacy in early childhood education.

Deb continues to work at Douglas College in the ECE Program and enjoys her connections with the ECE community through workshops.

D **Deep Learning Made Playful with Everyday Materials** Misty Paterson



We know touch is the primary way we learn and make sense of the world, and especially as a young child. If you're looking for simple but powerful ways to amplify children's intellectual engagement with materials and tactile inquiry, or you want a playful, thinking child care space on a budget, join us! We'll practice pairing everyday materials with three brain-boosting learning experiences that are fun too. Walk away feeling curious and uplifted!

Misty is a teacher, mentor, parent, international speaker and certified Concept-Based consultant with over 20 years of teaching experience. As the founder of Pop-Up Studio and author of the best-selling Pop-Up Studio book, Misty champions a creative approach to education. She empowers teachers of all kinds to integrate concepts, inquiry and play into multimodal studio spaces at a kitchen table, around a microscope, under a tree, across a classroom desk-- anywhere really! Spanning dozens of countries and thousands of learners, Misty's research and practice supports a global movement to 'pop-up' curriculum with hands-on experiences that inspire meaningful, memorable, and merry learning for all. Visit her at: www.popupstudioed.com on Twitter @PatersonMisty and Instagram @popupstudioed.

Workshop Descriptions: PM Sessions



Nurturing the Natural Roots of Self-Esteem

Dr. Deborah MacNamara

Self-esteem has become a popular concept, with varying ideas on how to cultivate it in our children. There are two main strategies used to develop self-esteem, one built on shaky ground and another that is more sustaining and enduring. The developmental roots of natural self-esteem will be discussed, along with strategies for providing for its growth. Parents and Early childhood educators are ideally positioned to nurture an intrinsic sense of self-worth in their child which will help grow them into their full human potential.

Please see Deborah's bio on page three.



Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) in Early Childhood Curriculum

Andrea Dawson

This workshop will introduce the ideas behind STEM curriculum and why introducing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics exploration to the early childhood curriculum is so important for our young learners. During the workshop, participants will explore ideas for activities that invite children to explore STEM concepts in a way that is open ended, encourages innovative thinking and creativity!

Please see Andrea's bio on page four.



Physical Literacy in the Early Years

Debra Smith

Physical literacy is a crucial concept for the development of young children, encompassing the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for engaging in physical activities throughout life.

While we always consider children's exposure to physical exercise in our early years' settings, this workshop delve into what is physical literacy, the rationale, key components of physical literacy, discuss the stages of skill development in physical literacy, look at some challenges we face in introducing this concept as a curriculum component as well as how to put together a curriculum that focuses on all children's abilities and further development of physical skills.

Please see Debra's bio on page four.



Designing for Inquiry: Concepts vs Topics and Why This Matters

Misty Paterson

Do you want to go "deeper" with inquiry at your child care centre, want to work more Reggio-inspired, child-led, or emergently? Looking for ways to design learning that is inclusive? This is a foundational session that will help you achieve your teaching dreams. We'll work through a tactile inquiry experience to help clarify the critical, yet often missing, element needed to co-create the inclusive, emergent child care space we desire. Join us for a practical, hands-on session that might just change your life.

Please see Misty's bio on page four.

Early Childhood Pedagogy Network Exhibit



This year we will be hosting an *exhibit by the Early Childhood Pedagogy Network (ECPN). Purpose Society's, Cameron Children's Centre, with the support of an ECPN Pedagogist, created an exhibit which will be showcasing a pedagogical narration focusing on the children's interest; dinosaurs.

*You will find this exhibit on the 2nd floor of our Conference venue.



Vendors

The following vendors will be on site and selling their early learning resources and materials! An ATM is located just outside of the Executive Plaza Hotel Coquitla:



Christine's Felt Creations

christinekopp@gmail.com

Accepts: Cash, Credit & Debit

Creations by Roslyn
Handmade



Creations by Roslyn

rozybear007@gmail.com

Accepts: Cash, Credit, Debit & E-Transfer



Kinder Books

<https://kinderbooks.ca/>

Accepts: Cash, Credit, Debit & Cheque



My Little Woodshop

<https://www.mylittlewoodshop.net/>

Accepts: Cash, Credit & Debit

natural pod™
Better learning furniture, because it matters.

Natural Pod

<https://naturalpod.com/>

Accepts: Credit & Debit via Website

SWEETGRASS
Soap



Sweetgrass Soap

<https://sweetgrasssoap.com/>

Accepts: Cash & E-Transfer

Important Information

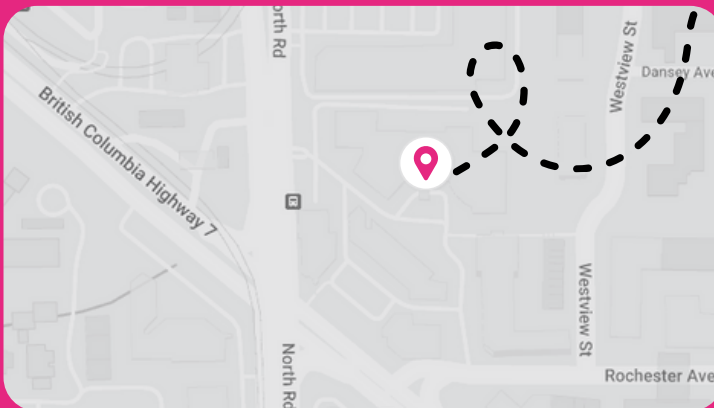
Registration Information:

- Participants are to choose one AM and one PM workshop to register for (in addition to the keynote).
- **Register online via myymca.ca or by phone at 604-931-3400 or 604-294-1109.**
- Payment options available: American Express, MasterCard, Visa or Debit.
- No refunds for this event will be administered after Monday, February 17th, @9:00AM.
- All refunds will be subject to a \$5.00 administration fee, regardless of notice given.

Workshop Policies:

- The conference starts promptly at the time indicated. Participants will not be admitted 15 minutes after start time.
- Participants leaving early will have their certificate adjusted.
- If you are feeling unwell and exhibiting flu like symptoms please do not attend & risk infecting others.
- We cannot guarantee a scent-free environment, but as a courtesy to others please refrain from using scented products.
- We are unable to accommodate children during the conference.

VENUE & PARKING INFORMATION



**Executive Plaza Hotel Coquitlam:
405 North Road #1
Coquitlam, BC V3K 3V9**

- Google Maps link:
<https://g.page/executiveplazahotel?share>
- FREE parking is available on site.
 - Please remember your license plate number when you sign in the morning of the event.
- Coming by transit? Lougheed Town Centre is the closest skytrain station, and is within walking distance.



Funding for the CCRR is provided by the Province of British Columbia.

YMCA Child Care Resource & Referral

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4460 Beresford Street, Burnaby BC V5H 0B8
604-294-1109

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www.gov.bc.ca/ChildCareResourceReferralCentres