



Reflection, Resilience, Reconnection:

Celebrating 25 years of early care and learning



REGISTRATION OPENS NOVEMBER 1ST, 2021

childcareoptions.ca



February 4 & 5, 2022
Bell Performing Arts Centre
6250 144 St., Surrey, BC

OUR MISSION

The Children the Heart of the Matter Conference brings together all those involved in the care and education of young children. Our mission is to raise the awareness and profile of child care and early learning programs. Through professional development, networking, and sharing of information and resources between child care professionals, we aim to help provide the best for young children.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

We are so excited to return for this year's Children the Heart of the Matter conference, celebrating 25 years of early care and learning through Reflection, Resilience, Reconnection.

The conference begins Friday, February 4th with a welcome reception, followed by a keynote presentation with Dr. Jody Carrington. Saturday, February 5th will be a great day of learning with a morning keynote presentation by Monique Gray Smith, followed by a number of workshops reflecting diversity, inclusive practice, the implementation of the BC Early Learning Framework, and other topics in the early care and learning field.

The Children the Heart of the Matter conference will be of interest to all those who work with young children and their families in early years settings.

WELCOME RECEPTION

Friday evening will feature light refreshments, live music, and a chance to catch up with friends and colleagues. This is also a great time to meet new people. For up to date information on the Marketplace and Friday night Welcome Reception, please go to our website: childcareoptions.ca and click on Conference.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Friday evening will feature light refreshments, live music, and a chance to catch up with friends and colleagues. This is also a great time to meet new people. For up to date information on the Marketplace and Friday night Welcome Reception, please go to our website: childcareoptions.ca and click on Conference.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no parking, equipment and materials available for the early care and learning field, as well as local community resources, in our Marketplace!

Please note, there are no ATMs on site.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATES

Conference attendees will receive certificates for sessions attended.

Friday: 2 hour keynote

Saturday: 2 hour keynote
2 x 2 hour workshops

Total for all sessions: **8 hours**

CONFERENCE UPDATES

Twitter @chccareoptions
Facebook @childcareoptionsccrr
Instagram @childcareoptions
Website childcareoptions.ca

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING COVID-19

The Children the Heart of the Matter conference committee is closely monitoring all health guidelines and developments to ensure the health and safety of our attendees, staff, and volunteers. At this time we are planning with the intention of coming together in person, with the understanding that we may need to adapt the format of the conference if required. Changes to the format of the conference and updates to health guidelines will be communicated via email, on our website, and on social media.

We have reduced the number of participants in classrooms, and increased the number of workshop offerings.

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH

- 6:30 PM Welcome reception
Registration table and Marketplace open
- 7:15 PM *Braver Together*
Keynote with Dr. Jody Carrington
- 9:30 PM Book signing
with Dr. Jody Carrington
- 10:00 PM Marketplace closes



DR. JODY CARRINGTON

Renowned Psychologist and Bestselling Author, *Kids These Days*
Dr. Jody Carrington is a renowned psychologist sought after for her expertise, energy and approach to helping people solve their most complex human-centred challenges. Jody focuses much of her work around reconnection – the key to healthy relationships and productive teams.

A speaker, author, and leader of Carrington & Company, she uses all she has been taught in her twenty-year career as a psychologist to empower everyone she connects with. Jody has worked with kids, families, business leaders, first responders, teachers, farmers and has spoken in church basements and world-class stages; the message remains the same – our power lies in our ability to acknowledge each other first.

Her approach is authentic, honest and often hilarious. She speaks passionately about resilience, mental health, leadership, burnout, grief and trauma – and how reconnection is the answer to so many of the root problems we face. Her wildly popular book, *Kids These Days*, was published in 2019 and has sold 150,000 copies worldwide. Jody’s message is as simple as it is complex: we are wired to do the hard things, but we were never meant to do any of this alone.

With a Ph.D. in clinical psychology, work with major institutions and thriving clinical practice, she brings a depth of experience and insight that is unmatched in the industry.

Jody lives in small-town Olds, Alberta, with her husband and three children (she had three kids in 2 years to test her own resilience) and leads the amazing team at Carrington & Company.

FRIDAY KEYNOTE *Braver Together*

We’re on the heels of one of our most disconnected years. This means that we need to remind ourselves—and each other—that we can’t tell our children how to be brave, we have to show them. It’s a day for educators, parents, caregivers, grandmas, and aunties. It’s for anyone who has a kid, teaches a kid, or loves a kid. We will talk all things trauma, mental health, joy, and staying connected with each other as we come together, braver than ever, to walk one another home.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH

- 7:30 AM Registration table & Marketplace open
- 8:15 AM *Weaving Love and Joy into the Journey of Truth and Reconciliation*
Keynote with Monique Gray Smith
- 10:15 AM Morning break
- 10:45 AM AM Session workshops
- 12:45 PM Lunch break
- 1:45 PM PM Session workshops
Marketplace closes
- 3:45 PM Conference ends



MONIQUE GRAY SMITH

Monique Gray Smith is a proud mom of teenage twins and an award-winning, best-selling author. Her first published novel, *Tilly: A Story of Hope and Resilience* won the 2014 Canadian Burt Award for First Nation, Métis and Inuit Literature. Since then, Monique has had six books come out that cover a broad spectrum of ages, topics and emotions.

Woven into all of Monique’s writing, speaking engagements and online courses is the teaching that Love is Medicine. Monique’s novel, *Tilly and the Crazy Eights* was longlisted for Canada Reads 2021.

Monique is well known for her contributions to the journey of Truth and Reconciliation, including being honoured with the 2019 City of Victoria Leadership Award for Reconciliation. She is an appointed member of the Board of Directors of Royal Roads University and the Minister’s Advisory Council for Indigenous Women for the Government of BC. Monique is Cree, Lakota and Scottish and has been sober and involved in her healing journey for over 29 years. She is well known for her storytelling, spirit of generosity and focus on resilience.

SATURDAY KEYNOTE *Weaving Love and Joy into the Journey of Truth and Reconciliation*

In this dynamic and inspiring keynote, Monique will share her personal journey of truth and reconciliation and how that journey has transformed her and her family. She will share stories and offer readings from her various books. We will delve into both the truth and reconciliation. Through our time together, we will explore the importance of story and the integral role love and joy have in the education of the hearts and minds of our young citizens.

Workshop Overview

AM SESSIONS 10:45 AM - 12:45 PM

- A1

What’s Love Got to do With it? Books, Brains, Hearts and Spirits
Monique Gray Smith
- A2

Reimagining Professional Development
Nicola Byres, Jacqueline Ewonus, Jennifer Vanderberg, & Lisa Nicholson
- A3

Supporting Children During Uncertain Times
Malgosia Tomanik
- A4

Mentoring Nature Connections
Lauren MacLean
- A5

The Value of Forest Education in the Early Years
Erin McDougall & Brittney Hennessey
- A6

What Your History Class Didn’t Teach You About the Colonization of Canada’s First People
Katelyn Moon & Karla Joseph
- A7

Sparkling Children’s Curiosity and Co-Constructing Learning in the Outdoor Environment
Dr. Beverlie Dietze
- A8

Critical Literacy and Diversity: A Look at Diversifying Your Bookshelf
Ashleigh Davies
- A9

Maachi Kashkihtow Mamawii (Learning Together) Sharing Métis Culture
Lisa Lightening & Kim Hodgson
- A10

Pathways to Kindergarten
Stephanie Sagmoen Siqueira & Bobbie Felix
- A11

Caring for You
Angela Low
- A12

Childcare BC
Stakeholder Engagement Team, Ministry of Children and Family Development

PM SESSIONS 1:45 - 3:45 PM

- P1

Tantrums and Tears: Understanding Frustration and the Importance of Tears
Bridgett Miller
- P2

The Meaning of Language in Pedagogical Practice – Language We Live by, Through Reflection and Reconnection
Ana Vojnovic
- P3

Cultivating Calm in the Classroom
Karen LeSage
- P4

Enacting Social Justice in the ECCE Classroom
Tahmina Shayan
- P5

Collaborating with Families: A Journey Co-Creating Supportive Relationships with Families
Etovre Vese
- P6

Intergenerational Trauma Explained: Canada’s First People
Katelyn Moon & Karla Joseph
- P7

The Magic of Outdoor Play on a Rainy, Cold, or Gloomy Day
Dr. Beverlie Dietze
- P8

Celebrating Diversity in Children’s Picturebooks
Nadine Lincoln
- P9

Bringing Back the Village - Indigenous Awareness in the Early Years
Jade Brass
- P10

Math is Everywhere, Why Not Math Tasks Too?
Dr. Ann Anderson
- P11

Connections in Conflict
Monique Carlos
- P12

Raising Authentic Humans
Monica Chan

A1 What’s Love Got to do With it? Books, Brains, Hearts and Spirits

In this dynamic and inspiring session, Monique will share her personal journey, offer readings from her various books and provide stories of love, hope and joy. She will begin with an overview on how stress and trauma may be impacting us and those we work with; including what happens in our bodies when trauma is experienced. We will explore the integral role books have in fostering love and joy and the impact of those emotions in our ability to be resilient.

Monique Gray Smith

See the keynote section for Monique’s biography.

A2 Reimagining Professional Development

A Community of Practice (COP) is a group of people who “share a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly” (Etienne Wenger). The idea behind a COP is that through the process of sharing experiences and knowledge with others, we enable dialogue among members and begin to explore new possibilities and new ways of doing something. We believe Early Childhood Educators are looking for the Reflection, Resilience and Reconnection that can be found when learning is done in community, over time with opportunities for deep dialogue and practical classroom application. Communities of practice across British Columbia have allowed ECE’s to make the critical pedagogical choice (ELF) to grow themselves and their practice in community. Come and hear about the power of this reimagined profesional development journey and how it can work for you.

Nicola Byres, Jacqueline Ewonus, Jennifer Vanderberg, & Lisa Nicholson

Nicky Byres, Jen Vanderberg, Lisa Nicholson and Jacqueline Ewonus are administrators, educators and ECE instructors who have led professional learning for over 2 decades in various settings.

A3 Supporting Children During Uncertain Times

According to Health Canada, it will take some time to go back to life as it was before January 2020. The new normal depends on several unknowns which can cause further stress and anxiety. It is not possible to protect children from the ups and downs of life. However, it is possible to provide them with tools they can use to respond to challenges. Parents and child care providers have the biggest role to play in helping children develop resilience. This workshop will provide information on creating a positive environment and handling stress in ways that increase resilience among children, their families, and child care providers. We will discuss strategies to manage stress in predictable, moderate, and controllable ways.

Malgosia Tomanik

Malgosia Tomanik, M.Ed., is a Family Consultant who specializes in supporting children from preschool to high school age and their parents/caregivers in a variety of environments, including homes, school, and child care settings. Malgosia is experienced in addressing concerns associated with the daily challenges of caring for a child/youth who requires support, helping to make sense of difficult behaviour and supporting the big people for each child in finding a way through.

Mentoring Nature Connections

No matter our age, developing and sustaining a connection with the land we live on is critically important for our well-being. Using nature routines allows us to support deeper and authentic relationships with the outdoors. Together, let's investigate how to use the Sit Spot as an approach to being mindful and observant of nature. How can we use thematic or guided nature walks to spark curiosity with our learners? How can we effectively use field guides to help sustain those inquiries? Also, how can learning about our local birds and "bird language" help us see the environment in a new lens? Let's go outdoors and play some nature games that are fun, active, and also teach us about expanding our sensory awareness skills.

A note from the presenter:

Please be prepared to go outside to play some games! Make sure you dress for the wide range of weather possibilities that the lower mainland can "gift" us.

Lauren MacLean

Lauren is a Mentoring Support Teacher for the Coquitlam School District and is the host of the Mentoring Nature Connections podcast where she interviews outdoor educators from across North America. She is the author of Me and My Sit Spot and is often presenting workshops on how nature routines support deeper connections with the outdoors. You will often find Lauren out on the forest trails with her two amazing little kids!



The Value of Forest Education in the Early Years

Children today are spending more and more time on screens, both in academic and leisure activities leaving them disconnected from themselves and nature. We seek to support the growth of the whole child but how can this be achieved when academic fluency is the only focus? Are we helping to educate the next generation to be creative, imaginative, inquisitive and inclusive? Forest Education is not a new concept but one that has not received enough understanding and discussion in North America. This workshop will explore and explain in-depth the core values of connecting with nature and how this connection will lead to a child who is more self-aware and self-confident. By establishing these core needs, academic milestones will be achieved more easily and with an inner-desire to learn. Join us as we work together to let the forest be our guide and teach us how outdoor education is the way of the future.

Erin McDougall & Brittney Hennessey

Erin has been an Early Childhood Educator for nearly 20 years with extensive experience working with children from infancy to age 6. She has managed and operated daycares and pre-schools as well as worked in the Independent School System for almost a decade as an Educational Assistant. Connecting children to nature and themselves is her passion and she seeks to support all children to develop a love for learning, creativity and to be inquisitive as they explore, play and grow.

Brittney has spent most of her career as an Early Childhood Educator with the YMCA, operating their early emergent program for children aged 3-5 for 10 years. She is well versed in inquiry-based curriculum and has married that experience with her love of the outdoors. She seeks to include children of all abilities and skill levels to have an opportunity to experience a forest space and allow the outdoors to guide their learning.

What Your History Class Didn't Teach You About the Colonization of Canada's First People

Did you know that the last residential school in Canada did not close until 1996? It's common that many non-Indigenous Canadians have limited knowledge of the devastating impacts of colonization on Canada's First Peoples. The first contact of European settlers took place hundreds of years ago but continues to negatively impact systems and experiences Indigenous people face today. Through it all, Indigenous people continue to show their resilience and strength to heal and reclaim culture and identity.

This workshop welcomes child care providers to expand their knowledge of Canada's history and to be active in the journey of truth and reconciliation. During our time together you will gain an understanding of colonization, residential schools, the sixties scoop and millennial scoop that impact all of Canada's Indigenous people. You will have the opportunity to develop as an ally and advocate for the Indigenous families you serve.

Karla Joseph & Katelyn Moon

Karla is Xwisten from Statimc Nation in the interior of BC. She completed her BSW at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, and went on to complete her MSW in Indigenous Trauma and Resiliency at the University of Toronto. Karla has extensive experience working with Indigenous children, youth, their families and communities. She is honoured to provide workshops to support understanding of the impacts of colonization and trauma and the strength and brilliance of healing through culture and relationship. As an intergenerational survivor of Indian Residential Schools, Karla is passionate about sharing knowledge and advocating for systemic change.

Katelyn is a white settler of mixed European decent who resides in the unceded territory of the Sto:lo peoples (Chilliwack BC). Katelyn has been an early childhood educator since 2007; she has been highly regarded for her work focused on child-led learning and social emotional development. Over the last several years Katelyn has worked in community and regional child and youth roles supporting indigenous peoples. Katelyn is a student in the Master of Arts in Leadership with a health focus at Royal Roads University.





A7

Sparkling Children's Curiosity and Co-Constructing Learning in the Outdoor Environment

Outdoor environments can be magical spaces and places for and with children. When environments are intriguing, children will engage in them, make meaning of their world and gain new learning from their play and experiences. Adults examine children's interests, ideas, and the outdoor space to support the cycle of inquiry, exploration and discoveries through "inquiry". This interactive workshop will discuss strategies that adults and children may use to co-construct learning and a culture of inquiry.

Dr. Beverlie Dietze

Dr. Dietze is the Director of Learning and Applied Research at Okanagan College. She is a researcher focused on projects examining strategies to advance children's outdoor play through training and space design. She is the author of seven textbooks related to play and children's programming and has several peer-reviewed articles. She is the recent publisher of the Play Outdoors magazine.

A8

Critical Literacy and Diversity: A Look at Diversifying Your Bookshelf

Through the lens of critical literacy, we will look at how to diversify your bookshelf! This session will include tips on how to critically review children's literature, diversity considerations, and examples of books that may diversify your classroom. Participants can expect to leave the workshop with tips on how to critically review children's literature and a variety of new books to explore!

Ashleigh Davies

Ashleigh is an ECCE post-basic instructor at Sprott Shaw College with a love of children's literacy. Ashleigh is focused on advocating for diversity and reconciliation to be a part of early childhood education.

A9

Maachi Kashkihtow Mamawii (Learning Together) Sharing Métis Culture

Métis Nation British Columbia Ministry of Education presents a workshop in understanding, identifying, and supporting Métis children and culture in early years programming. Through an interactive workshop, facilitators will share information on Métis history and culture in Canada. Understanding who Métis are, and ways individuals can connect. Through cultural resources, facilitators will demonstrate how to incorporate cultural items into early years programs and activities, to ensure children learn more about the Métis culture. Métis children and families will begin to see themselves reflected in the programming provided within their community. Throughout the workshop participants and facilitators will encompass and reflect on the Métis core values while engaging in an interactive workshop that focuses on relationships, connectivity and collaboration of knowledge and learning.

A note from the presenter: Please wear comfortable footwear for jigging and moving. Prepare to move and engage.

Lisa Lightening & Kim Hodgson

Lisa has been in the Early Childhood Education field for 30 years. She has managed and developed a number of early learning programs for Indigenous communities throughout the north. Lisa has experience facilitating parenting programs, child care focused workshops and creating workshops to meet the needs of the community she works in. Lisa has been working with Métis Nation British Columbia since February 2019, showcasing passion in early years, within the Ministry of Education team.

Kim is the Métis Family Connections Navigator for the Thompson and Nicola regions. She is a proud Métis descendant of the Red River Settlement and Hodgson, Manitoba. Kim has extensive experience both as an educator in K-12 and as a volunteer and community leader for Métis Nation BC. She is passionate about Métis culture and committed to learning and sharing Métis traditional knowledge with children and families.

A10

Pathways to Kindergarten

Cohesive transitions into kindergarten from early years services require a collaborative approach between families, ECEs and kindergarten teachers. This workshop is focused on exploring this transition from the perspectives of families and educators. We will dive into the relevant documents for families including the BC Early Learning Framework - A Guide for Families, Let's Play for Families and When I go to Kindergarten. We will share what we have been doing to strengthen this transition including our process and what we have learned along the way.

Stephanie Sagmoen Siqueira & Bobbie Felix

Stephanie is a kindergarten teacher in Surrey and teaches in the ECCE department at VCC. She enjoys supporting educators through professional learning opportunities focusing on social emotional and play-based learning. She began her career as an ECE in the lower mainland and has since developed a love for global education working in classrooms across Canada, Europe and Brazil. Stephanie is passionate about bridging the gap between ECE and early primary and holds a BA ECE, BED, and M.ECEC.

Bobbie is a Strong Start Facilitator in the Surrey School District with an extensive background in early childhood education. With a passion of learning through play and the 100 Languages of Children, she focuses on the well being and belonging of the family. This focus allows for collaboration to be meaningful and visible in the development of the child through the Early Learning Framework.

One of the key elements in building resiliency is being able to focus on self-care. Self-care encompasses and nourishes our whole beings (heart, mind, body, and spirit). It's good for others, too. It's much easier to help grow someone else's well-being and social and emotional skills if you also take care of your own well-being. It's difficult to help children feel secure if you are feeling anxious and stressed out, or to teach peaceful problem solving if you have a hard time managing conflict. Have you ever successfully learned to be kind from someone who is, themselves, not kind? Social and emotional competence of the caregiver plays a big role in whether children are able to learn these life skills. We can model that self-care matters and in turn help children to build resilience. In the workshop participants will: Explore self-care strategies including self-compassion, breathing exercises, mindfulness, gratitude and happiness practices, and stress management techniques.

Angela Low

Angela is a specialist in emotional intelligence and child development who is committed to bringing social and emotional learning to the forefront of communities that support children, youth and their families. Angela has been developing resources and facilitating workshops on emotional intelligence for 15 years in China and Canada, and has been a consultant with the Dalai Lama Center for a number of years.

In this session we will be offering an overview of where the province is in the 10-year Childcare BC Plan, including what funding and supports are currently available to different operators and the families they serve. We'll discuss the progress and next steps towards inclusive, Universal Child Care in BC and the child care division's move from the Ministry of Children and Family Development to the Ministry of Education. There will also be time for a question and answer period.

Presented by the Stakeholder Engagement Team, Ministry of Children and Family Development

Tantrums can include various aggressive behaviours including hitting, biting, irritability, impatience, acting mean or rude. These actions are deeply rooted in instinct and emotion and are often resistant to conventional discipline practices. To support children to grow through their tantrums, we need to understand what's going on for them from the inside out and most importantly, we need to value the role of tears.



Bridgett Miller

Bridgett is the author of "What Young Children Need You to Know: How to See Them So You Know What to do For Them". She is an educator, remedial therapist, presenter, parent consultant and an authorized facilitator of the Neufeld Institute who combines almost two decades of personal experience as a preschool teacher and parent to support adults to nurture the child in their lives using their heads and hearts.

The Meaning of Language in Pedagogical Practice – Language We Live by, Through Reflection and Reconnection

Our practice is grounded in the use of common language, designed to make situations and designed circumstances predictable, manageable, and devoid of difference-attentive mode of thinking. Today, more than ever, we are called to take an active role in reflecting on the meaning of language that connects us and governs our ways of engaging in practice, and it is only through this process of interrogation and re-thinking of the language we live by that we'll be able to create possibilities for creative and unexpected outcomes.

Ana Vojnovic

Ana works as an educator (UBC Child Care), artist, design researcher and a lecturer. Her pedagogical and creative practices are an integrated interdisciplinary response to basic questions of how built/designed environments affect and condition human perception, communication, learning, and socialization.

Cultivating Calm in the Classroom

Participants will learn strategies to create a calming environment and to promote relaxation in their programs. Learn why mindfulness, meditation and gratitude practices are important to children. Leave with mindfulness and gratitude activities that you can implement right away.

A note from the presenter: Wear comfortable clothes as we will be moving as we practice activities.

Karen LeSage

Karen has over 25 years of experience working with children from birth to nineteen years of age in child care and community settings. She is a certified Community Resiliency Model Teacher through the Trauma Resource Institute. She is passionate about creating spaces where children feel safe, connected and included.



P4

Enacting Social Justice in the ECCE Classroom

Often diversity is seen as something beautiful. Working with and acknowledging diversity is much more complex than realized. Whose cultures, languages, races, and knowledges are valued and why? To acknowledge diversity is to live with the tensions it brings and to follow an anti-racist pedagogy and deconstruct the power relations that are embedded in early childhood education policy, curriculum, practice, pedagogy, and philosophy. This presentation draws from critical race theory to discuss an early childhood educator and researcher's encounter with "diversity" in the ECCE classroom. Sensory and DiAngelo (2017) write that race is socially constructed. Where do children's acts of racism come from? How are children positioning their race when they encounter a race that is different from them? By sharing stories from practice and research, I invite participants to critically engage with the topic of diversity and to embrace an anti-racist and anti-colonial pedagogy.

Tahmina Shayan

Tahmina is a faculty in School of Childhood Studies at Capilano University. She is also an early childhood educator. Her research focus on how place, state, and federal policies and global discourses shape and impact early childhood curriculum and pedagogical practice.

P6

Intergenerational Trauma Explained: Canada's First People

When looking at the world through an Indigenous lens, we see seven generations into the future. Our present time and place is only borrowed from those yet to come. In this workshop we will explore the intergenerational effects of the colonization of this place called Canada and it's First People. Historical and ongoing oppression has impacted all Indigenous people on a cellular level and can be explained through a phenomenon known as epi-genetics. Thankfully, these impacts can be repaired, by attachment to healthy adults such as care providers! Connection is the correction to healing intergenerational trauma and it begins with our children.

Karla Joseph & Katelyn Moon

See A6 for Karla and Katelyn's biographies.

P5

Collaborating with Families: A Journey Co-Creating Supportive Relationships with Families

Early childhood educators interact daily with primary caregivers, parents and guardians. These interactions increase our capacity to understand and meet the needs of individual children in our care and provide opportunities to build supportive relationships with families. The significance of respectful, collaborative and supportive parent-educator relationships in child care programs that support young children's healthy development resonates throughout evidence-based research and literature on the subject. However, engaging with parents can feel daunting particularly if there is conflict, it can also feel inspiring and fulfilling knowing you are having a positive impact in the life of a family. We will explore the value of partnering with families; discuss internal and external influences on these relationships and practice strategies for co-creating supportive partnerships with families.

Etovre Vese

Etovre has enjoyed 25+ years in the ECE field working with children, families, community partners and ECE post secondary students. Engaging in many roles over the course of her career has provided a diversity of experiences that are gifts and have contributed to an open and curious attitude working with children and adults in early childhood education.



P7

The Magic of Outdoor Play on a Rainy, Cold, or Gloomy Day

What magical moments outdoors might children experience on a rainy, cold or gloomy day? This presentation will introduce participants as to why and how these weather conditions offer children unique opportunities to engage with nature, science, language and literacy and physical literacy. Just imagine the possibilities of the joyful experiences that children might engage in. Come hear and think about the types of provocations that could contribute to magical moments or how umbrellas can become magical.

Dr. Beverlie Dietze

See A7 for Dr. Dietze's biography.

P8

Celebrating Diversity in Children's Picturebooks

Picturebooks are a great way to promote diversity and inclusion! Children can learn so much about others from picturebooks, and it is equally powerful for children to see themselves represented in books. In this presentation Surrey Libraries staff will share a rainbow of beautiful picturebooks that feature the many aspects of diversity including BIPOC, cultural, family make-up, ability, developmental, gender identity, and more. In this fun and interactive presentation, we will demonstrate ways to share these important narratives and engage children in learning. Presented by Surrey Libraries. There will be prizes!

Nadine Lincoln

Nadine is the Youth Services Coordinator at Surrey Libraries. She is a children's librarian and previously worked as an English Language teacher. Nadine is passionate about narratives of inclusion and diversity, beginning with Guyanese folktales her Grandma told her.



P9 **Bringing Back the Village - Indigenous Awareness in the Early Years**

This workshop will take the participants on a journey of pre-contact, contact and today's realities for Indigenous people across Turtle Island. This journey will allow the participants to understand ways of life before contact, the challenges brought on by colonization with discussion on the Indian Act, residential schools, 60's/millennial scoop and then ways to bring Indigenous people's resilience into our lives in an authentic way. This journey will be facilitated with respect and vulnerability.

Jade Brass

Anin nitisinihkas Jade Brass nitonci The Key iskinokanir Treaty four. Coast Salish Territory known as Vancouver ndidaa. Jade studied at Native Education College and has a diploma in Aboriginal Early Childhood Education. She continues her education at UBC to obtain a Bachelor of Indigenous Education. She is currently working at Uy'sqwalawun Headstart on Snaw-naw-as reserve. The centre facilitates Infant Toddler, 3-5 program and pre-k all in one building.

P11 **Connections in Conflict**

Challenging and stressful situations in early childhood may be seen as disruptions or breaks in relationships. However, we can also turn these experiences into opportunities for deepening bonds in early childhood environments. In this workshop, we explore how we can use these conflicts to facilitate self-awareness, acknowledge and regulate emotions, and encourage a more genuine connection with others.

Monique Carlos

A mom of three, Monique has a BSc in Family Life and Child Development, a Diploma in ECE, Citation in IT, and a MA in Counseling Psychology. She has worked as an early childhood educator and supervisor for many years now, currently serving as director for a family resource program and will soon join a local college as an ECE practicum supervisor. Facilitating workshops for educators, caregivers, and parents is a passion of hers.

P12 **Raising Authentic Humans**

Imagine a world where ideas and thoughts can be safely shared and appreciated by open minds. A space of compassion where we respect and consider each other while we challenge, create, and accept one another from a place of security in our own self-worth. This world of trust, openness, and acceptance doesn't have to be one of pure imagination. This is a possibility if we collectively do one thing: raise authentic humans. This workshop highlights the importance of being afforded space to develop individuality and self in early childhood. It also addresses the important question of how educators and caregivers can support early identity development of each child while still maintaining the balance and needs of a classroom and care space. Together, we can create a nourishing care space where children can flourish and become confident, considerate, and authentic humans.

Monica Chan

Monica is a mother of two, recovering perfectionist, and a passionate early childhood advocate. Applying her background in Developmental Psychology and Early Childhood Education, she founded Imperfect Parent to deliver the latest research and best practices in both fields to parents in a way that not only is relatable and useful, but also helpful in alleviating the stress and guilt that comes too often with new parenthood.

P10 **Math is Everywhere, Why Not Math Tasks Too?**

Despite recognizing children's everyday mathematics, math tasks remain unpalatable for many proponents of play-based early childhood education. In contrast to early childhood educators' 'school math' experiences which may contribute to this perception, this workshop engages participants with, and through, young children's (ages 4-6 years) mathematical thinking shared during problem solving tasks. Over the two hours, we will 'play' with these mathematical problems as provocations to reconnect with the mathematical curiosity of children (and our inner child). We will critically reflect on how we might "create space, time, and materials for children to communicate", and how we might "intentionally listen" as we "converse with children", about math (BC Early Learning Framework, p. 82). Trusting in our diversity as a path of resilience, we will build our individual and collective capacity to nurture each child's (and our own) growth mindset in mathematics.

Dr. Ann Anderson

Dr. Anderson is a mathematics educator at UBC whose research focuses on children's mathematics learning in the early years. She has studied parent-child engagement with mathematics prior to school and collaborated with literacy researchers to study family literacy and numeracy with immigrants and refugee families in the lower mainland. She has worked with, and studied, teachers and children, over a span of 30 years, as they engage with mathematical problem solving in preK-3.



REGISTRATION

	EARLY BIRD PRICE November 1-30, 2021	REGULAR PRICE Until January 28, 2022 at 4:00 PM
Friday only	\$20.00	\$20.00
Saturday only	\$105.00	\$130.00
Friday and Saturday	\$120.00	\$150.00

- ✧ Registration is available online only. Visit our website (childcareoptions.ca) and click on the registration link on the conference page.
- ✧ Workshop changes are not permitted once registration is processed.
- ✧ Registration is first-come, first-served; we do not maintain waitlists for full workshops.
- ✧ An email address is required to complete your registration. If you are registering multiple people, make sure you have a different email address for each registrant. All workshop confirmations, receipts, and information about the conference are sent by email. Please add childcareoptions@options.bc.ca to your contacts to ensure you don't miss any important correspondence.
- ✧ Certificates of attendance will be provided for the completion of each keynote and workshop session attended. Duplicate certificates will be available for five years after conference. Fees may apply.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Friday-only registrations are non-refundable.

Friday and Saturday, and Saturday-only cancellations are accepted until January 28, 2022 at 4:00 PM. Cancellations will be subject to a \$25.00 administration fee. Participant substitutions are accepted at no additional cost. We are unable to process registration changes after this date and time.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Food and Beverage

Refreshments at the morning break and individually packaged lunches will be provided. Vegetarian, gluten-free, and dairy-free options will be available. If you have additional dietary restrictions or allergies, please bring your own food and beverages.

Water fountains are available; please bring a refillable water bottle.

Parking

Parking in the main lot is limited. If the main lot is full please park in one of the overflow lots:

- On 146 Street just south of 64 Avenue.
- On 144 Street just south of the main lot.

Please arrive early enough to allow time to find parking before the event begins.

Networking

Bring business cards to exchange with new colleagues!

Selfie Station

The selfie station returns for more fun with your colleagues and new friends! Be sure to drop by, take a photo, and post it to Instagram, Twitter, or Facebook using the hashtag #CHOM2022 for your chance to win a prize!

Hotel Accommodations

Conference participants can receive a discounted rate at the Holiday Inn & Suites Surrey East - Cloverdale (17530 64 Ave.) for the nights of February 4 and 5, 2022. These rates are available until December 30, 2021, after which regular rates will apply.

Please call the hotel at 604-576-8862 and book under the block name "Children the Heart of the Matter Conference".

Rooms	Rate
Queen Room (2 Queen beds)	\$109 +Tax
King Room (1 King bed)	\$109 +Tax
King Suite (1 King bed, 1 Sofa bed, Kitchenette)	\$129 +Tax



Photography

Photographs will be taken during the Children the Heart of the Matter conference. By registering for the conference, you are giving permission that photos containing your image/likeness may be used on our website or social media.

CONFERENCE PLANNING

The conference planning committee is comprised of individuals working in the field of early care and learning in our community. Committee members and staff contribute to the planning and organization of this conference. Through the dedication of the committee, provincial funding, and sponsor support, we are able to keep the conference affordable for our participants.

2022 CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS

- Leah Drayton Early Learning Strong Start Coordinator (Surrey School District #36)
Gisele Haines Assistant Manager, Child Care Options CCRR (Options Community Services)

2022 CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Ewa Boss Child Care Options CCRR (Options Community Services)
Karen Came Langley Child Development Centre (Langley Association for Community Living)
Shea Carson Child Care Options CCRR (Options Community Services)
Michelle Davies Child Care Options CCRR (Options Community Services)
Amanda Douglas Reach Child and Youth Development Society
Pia Evans Reach Child and Youth Development Society
Claudia Fenwick A Place to Grow (Surrey Hospital Community Child Care Society)
Shelby Gordon Early Years Programs (Options Community Services)
Sara Grant Surrey Libraries
Vanessa Hickman Ministry of Children and Family Development
Tracy Kugi The Centre for Child Development
Jody Mischuda Fraser Health Licensing
Karen Norman Early Childhood Educator (Retired)
Katie Pearson Lower Fraser Valley Aboriginal Society
Michel Pouliot Children's Foundation
Jennifer Vanderberg Delta Continuing Education
Lisa Wade City of Surrey