

CHILDREN THE HEART OF THE MATTER CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 3 AND 4, 2023

childcareoptions.ca



 **Children**
THE HEART OF THE MATTER
26TH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION

Join us **ONLINE** or **IN-PERSON**, February 3 & 4, 2023 for the 26th Annual Children the Heart of the Matter Conference!

CHOICES...		ONLINE	IN-PERSON
		Streamed live - sessions will not be recorded.	Bell Performing Arts Centre 6250 144 St, Surrey, BC
FRIDAY February 3	\$20	Includes evening keynote	Includes evening keynote
SATURDAY February 4	\$45	Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Morning keynote• AM workshop - A1 only• PM workshop - P1 only	Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Morning keynote• AM workshop - ANY• PM workshop - ANY
Registration closes:		February 2, 2023 at 8:00 PM	January 30, 2023 at 8:00 PM

FOOD

Refreshments at the morning break and individually packaged lunches will be provided. Vegetarian, gluten-free, and dairy-free options will be available. Please make arrangements if you have other dietary restrictions or allergies.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Participants receive discounted rates at the Holiday Inn & Suites Surrey East - Cloverdale (17530 64 Ave) for the nights of February 3 and 4, 2023. These rates are available until December 30, 2022, after which regular rates will apply.

[Book online by clicking the booking link in our online brochure, found at \[childcareoptions.ca\]\(#\)](#)

Discounted rates are only available by booking online, please do not call the hotel to book. Cancellations and changes must also be processed online, through your confirmation email.

ROOMS	RATES
Queen Room (2 Queen beds)	\$119 ^{+Tax}
King Room (1 King bed)	\$119 ^{+Tax}
King Suite (1 King bed, 1 Sofa bed, Kitchenette)	\$139 ^{+Tax}

Register online at childcareoptions.ca

Click on the registration link on the conference page.

We are grateful to the ECE Professional Development Bursary Fund for helping to reduce the registration fees to the in-person participants of this year's conference.

This initiative is funded through the Canada-British Columbia Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia, in partnership with the Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre (WCCRC), the agency responsible for administering the funds.



POLICIES

- > Workshop changes are not permitted after registration. Registration is first-come, first-served; we do not maintain waitlists for full sessions.
- > A unique email address is required for each registrant. If registering multiple people, make sure you have a different email address for each of them. All 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
- > Photographs will be taken during the Children the Heart of the Matter conference. By registering for the conference, you are giving permission for photos containing your image/likeness to be used on our website or social media.

CANCELLATIONS

Friday registrations are non-refundable.

Saturday cancellations are accepted until January 30, 2023 at 8:00 PM.

Cancellations will be subject to a \$10.00 administration fee. Participant substitutions are accepted at no additional cost. We are unable to process registration changes after this date and time.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

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.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

We are so excited to return for this year's Children the Heart of the Matter conference!

The conference begins Friday, February 3rd with a welcome reception, followed by a keynote presentation with Dr. Jody Carrington. Saturday, February 4th will be a great day of learning with a morning keynote presentation by Dr. Peter Gray, followed by a number of workshops reflecting diversity, inclusive practice, the implementation of the BC Early Learning Framework, and other topics of interest to those 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.

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.

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**

FOLLOW FOR CONFERENCE UPDATES

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

FOR THOSE ATTENDING IN-PERSON...

VISIT THE MARKETPLACE

Check out the latest toys, equipment and materials available for the early care and learning field, as well as local community resources, in our Marketplace!

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 visit vendors in the Marketplace!

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

6:30 PM Welcome reception
Registration table and
Marketplace open

7:15 PM *Reconnection: Building a
Foundation of Authentic
Relationships with Children*
Keynote with Dr. Jody Carrington

10:00 PM Marketplace closes

*Online participants have access to
keynote and workshop sessions only

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

7:30 AM Registration table and
Marketplace open

8:15 AM *The Long-Term Harm of
Early Academic Training*
Keynote with Dr. Peter Gray

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



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

FRIDAY KEYNOTE

Reconnection: Building a Foundation of Authentic Relationships with Children

WITH DR. JODY CARRINGTON



Dr. Jody Carrington has inspired many to consider the capacity for reconnection as the foundation to every healthy, authentic relationship. We are not born with the ability to repair ruptures; we have to learn how to do this as we build strong cultures. These relationships are the foundation of a healthy family, classroom or community. Dr. Jody is one of North America's top psychologists, bringing a unique and often hilarious take on what it means to master the art of reconnection.

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.

SATURDAY KEYNOTE

The Long-Term Harm of Early Academic Training

WITH DR. PETER GRAY



Early childhood professionals and kindergarten teachers are under increased pressure to teach academic skills to young children and, therefore, to reduce or eliminate free play.

The policies that create such pressure have been imposed despite the evidence from many research studies that such training has no long-term benefit and frequently has long-term harm. Dr. Peter Gray will present evidence that early academic training interferes with intellectual, social, and emotional development, and he will describe the mechanisms through which such interference occurs. He will distinguish between intellectual skills and academic skills and contend that the former is best developed in play and that they lay the groundwork for the subsequent development of academic skills.

Peter is a research professor at Boston College, is the author of *Free to Learn* and *Psychology*. He has conducted and published research in neuroendocrinology, developmental psychology, anthropology, and education. He did his undergraduate study at Columbia University and earned a Ph.D. in biological sciences at Rockefeller University. His current research and writing focus primarily on children's natural ways of learning and the life-long value of play. His recent research focuses on the role of play in human evolution and how children educate themselves through play and exploration, when they are free to do so. He is a founding member of the nonprofit Alliance for Self-Directed Education and a founding board member of the nonprofit Let Grow, the mission of which is to renew children's freedom to play and explore independently of adult control.

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

AM SESSIONS

10:45 AM - 12:45 PM

A1

Play Deficit Disorder: A Worldwide Crisis and How Early Childhood Educators Can Help to Solve It

Dr. Peter Gray

A2

A Village Around Every Family: Decolonization in Our Centres and Organizations (Part 1)

Kathi Camilleri

A3

Gender Discourses in the Classroom

Ashleigh Davies

A4

Risk in Play

Alisha Inch

A5

Maachi Kashkihtow Mamawii (Learning Together, Sharing Métis Culture)

Métis Nation B.C. Staff

A6

Parents: From Problems to Partners

Monica Chan

A7

A Story-Centred Approach to Early Learning

Amanda Prade

A8

Sequencing Emotions: Staying Present with Big Feelings From Start to Finish

Stefanie Tong

A9

Building and Maintaining Psychological Resilience in Difficult Times

Carolyn Sinclair

A10

Dancing Storytime Workshop

Julie Lebel & Sarah Gallos

PM SESSIONS

1:45 - 3:45 PM

P1

How do We Build Inclusive Environments for All Young People to Feel a Sense of Belonging?

Shelley Moore

P2

A Village Around Every Family: Decolonization in Our Centres and Organizations (Part 2)

Kathi Camilleri

P3

Dramatic Play: More Than Just the Housekeeping Corner

Ashleigh Davies

P4

Let's Look at Early Literacy and Circle Times in Early Childhood Settings!

Alisha Inch

P5

Bringing Back the Village: The First Peoples Principles of Learning

Jade Brass

P6

Disciplining Children Using Your Head and Heart

Bridgett Miller

P7

Healthy and Sustainable Child Care Environments

Gillian Petrini

P8

Promoting Imagination, Creativity, and Engagement in a Media Saturated World

Kym Stewart

P9

What you Need to Know About a Province Wide ECE Wage Grid

Ana Valle Rivera & Sharon Gregson

P10

Embracing Diversity and Inclusion Through Music and Movement

Hannah Premia

A1

Play Deficit Disorder: A Worldwide Crisis and How Early Childhood Educators Can Help to Solve It

Research has revealed a dramatic decline in children's free play—especially their free outdoor play—over the past several decades. This decline has been accompanied by dramatic increases in childhood depression and anxiety and by dramatic declines in creativity, internal focus of control, and psychological resilience. In this talk Peter will present the logic and evidence behind his claim that the decline in free play is a, if not the, major cause of these deleterious effects on children's well-being. He will describe some of the social forces that have led to the decline of play and will suggest ways by which families, schools, neighborhoods, and communities can restore children's opportunities for free play. Peter will conclude with suggestions about how early childhood educators can play a major role in helping parents and others understand the value of play.

Dr. Peter Gray - See keynote section for Dr. Gray's bio.

A2

A Village Around Every Family: Decolonization in Our Centres and Organizations (Part 1)

THIS IS A FULL DAY WORKSHOP, YOU MUST ALSO REGISTER IN P2

This workshop from the Village Workshop Series© will assist you as you move forward into reconciliation. We will deepen our understanding regarding the decolonization of our centres and organizations and learn about how we can increase cultural safety for families who have Indigenous ancestry. From this learning comes an increased understanding of respectful ways of engaging and working collaboratively in order to build more culturally safe systems.

Participants will gain a cognitive and emotional understanding of traditional First Nations values. This learning echoes the sentiments and goals of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

"Kathi uses humour, kindness and wisdom to hold the space safely for us while we change how we see the world and how we forever interact with those who have Aboriginal Heritage. It is easy to learn because of her gentle ways, and her respect for all people." ~workshop participant

Note: We will be addressing Residential School and its affects. Participation may trigger unresolved grief and loss issues for some. It is imperative that participants know that in advance and have an understanding that participating in the workshop is not mandatory; it is their choice.

Kathi Camilleri

Kathi (Spotted Doe) is of Metis/Cree Ancestry. She holds a Master's Degree in Leadership Studies and Certificates in CBT and DBT. She facilitates strategic planning sessions, keynotes, and experiential Village© workshops regarding Canada's Policy of Assimilation and Colonization with all levels of government, students and educators, and frontline workers in communities across Canada. In 2012 Kathi's work was nominated for the Premiers Award for Excellence in Leadership, the B.C. Reconciliation Award and for an Excellence in Diversity Award from the provincial Nesika Foundation. Kathi and her husband Chris have a blended family with six boys and one (brave, tough) girl.

A3

Gender Discourses in the Classroom

What do our classrooms tell children about gender? Are boys and girls treated equally or seen equally in our practices? This workshop looks at discussing how gender is represented in the classroom and the role gender diversity plays in an inclusive classroom. We will touch on topics such as gender binaries, gender roles, LGBTQ2S+ representation, addressing topics with families, and the influence we as educators hold.

Ashleigh Davies

Ashleigh is an Early Childhood Care and Education post-basic instructor with Sprott Shaw college and has worked with children birth to 16 years in a variety of settings. Ashleigh has a theatre background and experience teaching children's drama and musical theatre classes, experiences she brings into this workshop.

A4

Risk in Play

This workshop looks at what risk is in children's play, what it can look like and how we as adults should respond to children when they are engaging in risky play. What is the purpose of it? We will also look at our own fears and biases as adults that interfere with children as they engage in risk.

Alisha Inch

Alisha has been working in the ECE field for over 20 years, with all age groups. Her passion is working with preschool age children. She has worked all over the world with children and currently runs her own preschool in Cloverdale.



A5

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.

Métis Nation B.C. Staff



A6

Parents: From Problems to Partners

One of the most common struggles early childhood educators face is in relating to, engaging with, and making allies of parents. Families have much to offer and should be natural allies in the joint mission of raising curious, confident, connected, and compassionate children. But the reality remains that the engaged, responsive, and aligned parent is an elusive creature.

This seminar aims to demystify the road to changing parents from problems (or even pain-spots!) to partners. You will learn how to:

- Better understand your ally: what parents desire and the pressures that come with modern day parenting.
- Use common grounds to strengthen the communication and understanding between home and school.
- Bring parents onto the same page on big topics like play, risky play, discipline, social emotional learning, and more.

Through practical examples and applications (and some humour), you'll be prepared to run to parents instead of run from them on this journey together.

Monica Chan

Monica is the founder and parent educator at The Imperfect Parent, whose mission is to support families and caregivers with researched-backed resources and a respectful approach to caring for young minds. Together, we can ensure children grow to be authentic humans and caregivers can find joy and fulfillment on their journey alongside children.

A Story-Centred Approach to Early Learning

In this workshop you'll be invited to enter the world of a Reggio-Inspired and Story-Centred Kindergarten Classroom. Through pictures and practical examples Amanda will share her stories and experiences with you. Stories about implementing an emergent curriculum, stories of co-creation, story-dramatization and place-based learning. The focus will be on examples of how children's stories and ideas can guide your practice and pedagogy.

Amanda Prade

Amanda is a Kindergarten teacher in Surrey B.C. She has an M.Ed. in curriculum design with a focus in educational theory and imagination. She believes in a deeply embedded connection between theory and practice. For 10 years Amanda has been inspired and influenced by the imaginations and theories of Loris Malaguzzi, Lev Vygotsky, and Vivian Paley, and most importantly, each of her students. Her pedagogy is guided by listening to and documenting stories of children.



Sequencing Emotions: Staying Present with Big Feelings From Start to Finish

Learn to differentiate sensations, feelings, and emotions and explore ways to support children with their big feelings. Integrate physiology and psychology while discovering techniques to first connect to yourself before entering the emotions of others. Using mindfulness and intention, engage in the sequencing of emotions from activation to regulation.

Stefanie Tong

Stefanie has over 15 years of experience working with children and families in non-profit, public health, and private practice sectors. Using a mind-body approach, Stefanie joins clients to explore the experiential qualities of emotion to support change in their lives. Stefanie is currently pursuing a master's degree in marriage and family therapy and has additional training in play therapy and dance/movement therapy.

Building and Maintaining Psychological Resilience in Difficult Times

This session discusses the importance of self-awareness and preventative mental health checks. We'll discuss challenges and barriers to maintaining a healthy work/life balance. Understanding how our minds and bodies respond to stress can assist in applying proactive and effective strategies that allow for caring for oneself as well as others.

Carolyn Sinclair

Carolyn is President of Strategic Business Risks Inc (SBRI), who delivers customized emergency management planning, education as well as solutions to assist public and private organizations. She works with groups to build and maintain psychologically safe and healthy workplaces. Carolyn supports several communities, groups, and agencies on provincial, national, and international levels. This support applies to before, during and after critical incidents, public health emergencies and disasters.

Dancing Storytime Workshop

During this workshop you will participate in an exploration of ways to integrate dance games inspired from books and stories. Neuro-motor stages of development will be introduced. We'll play with books and movement, celebrating the creative capacities of babies and young children as collaborators. We'll relax into mindfulness movement activities that help adults along with children to settle. With a settled adult, children are more likely to be settled and ready for a new adventure or story time. We'll use conversation and exchange, both verbal and movement based, on the topic of literature for the very young and dance in the early years. Together we'll assess the needs of the group and create a community of peers.

Note: Please wear comfortable clothes for movement activities.

Julie Lebel

Julie is a francophone choreographer invested in community engaged dance and in interactions between public space and community – involving musicians, visual artists, film makers and writers with a body of work spanning 20 years. She is the artistic Director of Foolish Operations, connecting people of all generations through new dance experiences, especially with and for very young children.



Sarah Gallos

Sarah is a bilingual performance artist and facilitator who has worked with Foolish Operations for over 10 years as a dancer. When she became a mother 8 years ago, she began participating in Dancing the Parenting practice. The crossover of ensemble improvisation and attachment based parenting skills feed the magic of Foolish Operations' creations.

P1

How do We Build Inclusive Environments for All Young People to Feel a Sense of Belonging?

Come and learn the benefits of an inclusion mindset for all students from inclusivity expert Shelley Moore and find out what we can do to create a supportive, inclusive environment. The focus will be on practical, strengths-based ways to create inclusive and nurturing environments for all young people.

Shelley Moore

Originally from Edmonton, and now based in Vancouver, British Columbia, Shelley is a highly sought-after teacher, researcher, speaker and storyteller and has worked with school districts and community organizations around the world, in supporting and promoting equity for all learners. Her first book entitled, "One Without the Other" was released in July 2016 to follow up her TEDx talk. Shelley completed an undergraduate degree in Special Education at the University of Alberta, her masters at Simon Fraser University, and is currently a PhD candidate at the University of British Columbia.

P2

A Village Around Every Family: Decolonization in Our Centres and Organizations (Part 2)

THIS IS A FULL DAY WORKSHOP, YOU MUST ALSO REGISTER IN A2

See A2 for details

P3

Dramatic Play: More Than Just the Housekeeping Corner

This workshop will look at the importance of dramatic play and ways to encourage and expand on it in the classroom. Participants will look at ideas around materials and set-ups for both indoor and outdoor dramatic play, the role of rough and tumble play, diversity in materials, and removing gender binaries from dramatic play. We will also discuss how to connect dramatic play to children's inquiries using pedagogical documentation.

Ashleigh Davies - See A3 for Ashleigh's bio.



Let's Look at Early Literacy and Circle Times in Early Childhood Settings!

This workshop will look at what quality children's literature is. We will also examine traditional circle times and how to switch our thinking to become more child lead.

Alisha Inch

Alisha has been working in the ECE field for over 20 years, with all age groups. Her passion is working with preschool age children. She has worked all over the world with children and currently runs her own preschool in Cloverdale.

Bringing Back the Village: The First Peoples Principles of Learning

During this workshop we will:

- dive into the First Peoples Principles of Learning from the BC Early Learning Framework,
- discuss the impact colonization has had on the way we educate our children,
- look at ways to challenge the colonial structure that has been placed on education,
- explore ways to decolonize our practices, our classrooms and our selves.

The time that we spend together, exploring the shift in perspectives and working to move away from colonial practices, will allow us to disrupt and challenge how we teach the various truths inside and outside the classroom. It is important to identify who plays what role in a child's life, and why each role must be supported to create a healthy community.

Jade Brass

Jade is a member of The Key First Nation on Treaty Four Territory and she is Anishinaabe (Saulteaux) and Nêhiyaw (Swampy Cree). She is an aunty, a sister, and an educator. She wants to educate all those who will listen and build connections with other educators.





P6

Disciplining Children Using Your Head and Heart

One of our primary responsibilities as caring adults is to guide and correct the ‘wayward’ behaviour of children. When we are led astray by popular discipline practices that don’t seem to work, our frustration increases, and some children appear not to learn from their mistakes. This talk will draw on developmental science and attachment theory to explain what’s needed for children to truly learn from us. We will focus on the importance of aligning our disciplining actions with our heartfelt intentions so we can create the conditions necessary for more joyful teaching and fruitful learning.

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” and the creator of Look with Love and Parenting with Intention on social media. She is an educator, remedial therapist, presenter, parent consultant and an authorized facilitator of the Neufeld Institute. Bridgett combines almost two decades of personal experience as a teacher and parent to support adults to nurture the children in their lives using their head and heart.

P7

Healthy and Sustainable Child Care Environments

Have you considered the environmental health of the spaces you work in? Have you wished there were ways to enhance the sustainability of your setting?

As part of this year’s Healthy Environments for Learning Day campaign, the Canadian Partnership for Children’s Health and Environment (CPCHE) has created and launched an online resource that can help to answer these questions and more. One of CPCHE’s key initiatives is the annual Healthy Environments for Learning Day campaign. The online resource created for this year’s campaign includes a checklist of 102 questions based on nine environmental health topic areas. The ideas and suggestions included in this checklist and resource hub— ranging from choosing safer cleaning products and toys to introducing a fragrance-free policy or composting program — can help a child care program go beyond basic regulatory requirements to create healthier and more sustainable indoor and outdoor environments.

Gillian Petrini

Gillian is the Healthy Environments for Learning Day (HELD) Project Coordinator for the Canadian Partnership for Children’s Health and Environment. Her background includes teaching for over 15 years with a passion for promoting healthy and sustainable environments, nurturing our relationship to the land and connecting students to place within schools and early learning environments. Gillian holds a B.Ed. and M.Ed. from the University of Victoria with a focus on environmental sciences.

Promoting Imagination, Creativity, and Engagement in a Media Saturated World

Our current circumstances have made parents and educators rely on more screen time to educate and entertain young children; often with negative consequences. So, how do we find balance to promote creativity, imagination and engagement in this screen-dependent world? This workshop will examine current research on the impact of screen time on young children's development, creativity and engagement and provide opportunities for early childhood educators to collect data/resources to share with the parents of those they care for each day.

Kym Stewart

Kym holds a PhD in Education and an M.A. in Communication Studies from SFU. Her PhD thesis explores her decades of media research, including the role of media on children's imaginative play and how Kieran Egan's Imaginative Education theory can be used for curriculum development. Kym's M.A. thesis is one of the earliest explorations of South Korea's youth gaming and PC-Bang culture. She currently works as an instructor in the School of Communication at Capilano University.





P9

What you Need to Know About a Province Wide ECE Wage Grid

The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC are in the middle of a 30-month advocacy project to advance a competitive provincial ECE wage grid, which is key to achieving a well-educated, fairly paid and respected ECE profession. In this workshop, we will review the work government is doing to develop a wage grid and province-wide advocacy from the sector for implementation. We will explore what a wage grid is and provide our recommendations for a wage grid that:

- Is competitive (offering wages comparable to similarly-qualified professionals).
- Reflects and respects qualifications, experience, gender parity and equity.
- Encourages, and compensates for, additional education.
- Is regularly reviewed, updated and increased as required to ensure it remains competitive and equitable.
- Is publicly funded, and integrated with overall child care policy, recognizing and funding child care as a system.
- Is part of an overall strategy to improve wages, benefits, and working conditions of ECE professionals.

Ana Valle Rivera

Ana is a parent, graduate student, ECE professional development facilitator and consultant. She has many aspirations but her current focus is to inspire positive change in the early year's field through sharing a vision of social wellness and social justice for all.

Sharon Gregson

Sharon is the provincial spokesperson for the successful \$10aDay Child Care campaign in British Columbia, building a public system of quality affordable child care. She works with the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC and travels extensively speaking with local governments, school boards, community, labour and business about current child care issues and the solution - the \$10aDay Plan. Sharon was twice elected as a Trustee to the Vancouver Board of Education. She sits on several Boards including the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada. (https://www.cccabc.bc.ca/wage_grid_project)

Embracing Diversity and Inclusion Through Music and Movement

This workshop is for participants looking to gain insight on how to be fully inclusive within their centers, classes and community programs. In this workshop, participants will gain ideas on how to adapt music and movement activities to engage a wide range of abilities ensuring all children are interacting in your classroom – wheelchair/walker/restrictive movement options will be provided.

You will learn how to model movements to attract different learning styles that kids have while learning how to connect with your inner child to bring out the best energy in your classroom. Throughout the workshop, you will be guided in different techniques to engage all your children through music and will receive ideas on how to overlap art into music time.

Note: Please wear comfortable clothes for movement activities.

Hannah Premia

Hannah has worked with children and adults with diverse abilities for over 10 years and focuses on bringing inclusive education into communities and enlightening people on the ease of everyday inclusion. She started and founded Dansing Tones Association (a non-profit organization) in 2014 and has taken her music and movement program into the Surrey School District teaching over 100 students in over 15 schools.



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.

2023 CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS

Leah Drayton	Surrey School District #36
Michelle Davies	Child Care Options CCRR (Options Community Services)

2023 CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Ewa Boss	Child Care Options CCRR (Options Community Services)
Karen Came	Inclusion Langley Society
Shelley Cranstone	The Centre for Child Development
Pia Evans	Reach Child and Youth Development Society
Claudia Fenwick	A Place to Grow (Surrey Hospital Community Child Care Society)
Laura Frame	Child Care Options CCRR (Options Community Services)
Joy Gomez	Family Resource Programs (Options Community Services)
Sara Grant	Surrey Libraries
Gisele Haines	Child Care Options CCRR (Options Community Services)
Krista Harrison	Surrey Libraries
Vanessa Hickman	Ministry of Children and Family Development
Jody Mischuda	Fraser Health Licensing
Karen Norman	Early Childhood Educator (Retired)
Rachel Oulton	Child Care Options CCRR (Options Community Services)
Katie Pearson	Lower Fraser Valley Aboriginal Society
Jennifer Street	Fraser Health Licensing
Jennifer Vanderberg	Delta Continuing Education
Lisa Wade	City of Surrey

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