

Continuous Professional Learning Brochure



Early Childhood
Professional
Resource Centre

February 2021 - July | 2021



Creating a Bridge between
Research and Practice in Early Learning and Child Care.

REGISTRATION OPEN



About us

The Early Childhood Professional Resource Centre (PRC) opened in 2010 and is located at Conestoga College in Kitchener, Ontario. The center is committed to responding to the diverse needs of the early years community through research, quality materials and engaging continuous professional learning.

Continuous learning opportunities such as workshops, symposiums, conferences, communities of practice, pedagogical consultation and networking are offered to build community capacity and advance quality early learning.

Take advantage of these opportunities as we learn, reflect and grow together.



Types of Professional Learning Opportunities We Offer

Learning Series

Exciting, relevant topics that take you on a learning journey inspired by early learning and action research.

PRC Play Labs

Hands-on experiences that invite you to touch, tinker, examine and experiment with real materials in order to understand STEAM concepts.

Workshops

A number of workshops that present new information, invite reflection and collaboration and transform everyday practice.

Communities of Practice

A place where individuals come to collaborate, learn together or challenge ideas. It is continuous and offers opportunities to revisit ideas and grow through reflection, inquiry and practice.

Pedagogical Support

You can book a meeting for one- on-one consultation and support to engage in a critical reflection of your practice in alignment with *How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years*.

Early Years Engage

Book a time to receive support with the Region of Waterloo's continuous quality improvement program. Early Years Engage supports programs to participate in a continuous process of reviewing practices, developing short and long-term plans for growth, operationalizing work plans and evaluating progress.

Special Events

Symposiums, Conferences, and other events which highlight experts and guest speakers in the field of Early Learning and Child Care.

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Stay tuned, more emergent learning opportunities will be advertised through the PRC Bulletin and our events calendar

299 DOON VALLEY DRIVE

299 Doon Valley Drive , Kitchener Ontario, N2G 4M4
519.748.5220 ext. 3388 | PRCinfo@conestogac.on.ca

Learning Series

Permission to Feel, Marc Brackett

This is a six-part learning series inspired by the book Permission to Feel, by Marc Brackett. This is an opportunity to read together, discuss, and express opinions about understanding our emotions.

In a supportive, welcoming, virtual atmosphere, participants will pause, look closely, and discuss how emotions are an essential and integral part of our success and well-being.

Please join us bi-weekly on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM, ready to share professional thoughts about this book.

Dates:

- Tuesday, February 16th
- Tuesday, March 2nd
- Tuesday, March 16th
- Tuesday, March 30th
- Tuesday, April 13th
- Tuesday, April 27th



Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: Zoom Conference Platform

Cost: Participation is free

Registration: www.eceprc.ca or 519.748.5220 ext 3388

Prior to the event, you will receive a communication outlining the zoom platform participation details.



Continuous quality improvement
in Waterloo Region

EYE Quality Initiative Guidance and Support

Established in the Waterloo Region is the Quality Initiative Program, Early Years Engage. This program supports growth and continuous learning through reflection and critical inquiry amongst teams about quality early learning. This three-part learning series is designed for supervisors to explore and develop strategies to reflect and review practice; deepen pedagogical understandings, become acquainted with resources that support these understandings; and learn how to co-develop SMART goals that foster reflective practice and team building.

Dates:

- Tuesday, May 4th
- Tuesday, May 18th
- Tuesday, June 1st

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: Zoom Conference Platform

Cost: Participation is free

Registration: www.eceprc.ca or 519.748.5220 ext 3388

Prior to the event, you will receive a communication outlining the zoom platform participation details.



Learning Series

Love Builds Brains

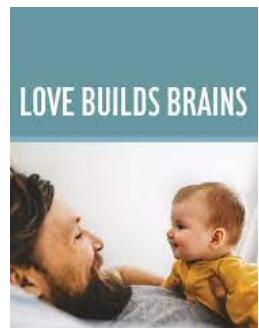
This is a six-part learning series inspired by the book: 'Love Builds Brains' by Dr. Jean M. Clinton.

This is an opportunity to read together, discuss and express opinions about relationships as they relate to our field and our practice.

In a supportive, welcoming, virtual atmosphere, participants will pause, look closely and discuss how relationships are an essential and integral part of practice. Please join us bi-weekly on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM, ready to share professional thoughts about the book.

Dates:

- Tuesday, May 11th
- Tuesday, May 25th
- Tuesday, June 8th
- Tuesday, June 22nd
- Tuesday, July 6th
- Tuesday, July 20th



Jean Clinton, MD

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: Zoom Conference Platform

Cost: Participation is free

Registration: www.eceprc.ca or
519.748.5220 ext 3388

Prior to the event, you will receive a communication outlining the zoom platform participation details.



Empower Pedagogical Innovation

Come together, bi-weekly, with a pedagogical consultant to be inspired and empower one another through intellectual engagement about your early learning environments. With support, guidance, and open dialogue, participants will be invited to explore pedagogical elements and approaches using their own environments as meaningful contexts that will enhance the co-construction of a rich curriculum.

Through this innovative six-week, process participants will be encouraged to observe, critique, and analyze collaboratively while embrace quality programming for children and families.



Dates:

- Thursday, March 25th
- Thursday, April 8th
- Thursday, April 22nd
- Thursday, May 6th
- Thursday, May 20th
- Thursday, June 3rd



Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: Zoom Conference Platform

Cost: Participation is free

Registration: www.eceprc.ca or
519.748.5220 ext 3388

Prior to the event, you will receive a communication outlining the zoom platform participation details.

Learning Series



Foundations in Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Practice Certificate Lecture Series

a unique lecture series focusing on promoting early mental health and well-being during the first 1000 days of life

Infant Mental Health Webinars

The inclusion of infant mental health promotion, prevention, and treatment is a key focus of practice within community-based agencies. This program aims to increase knowledge about infant mental health among all staff within community-based agencies in order to: affect a culture shift, to empower individuals to be agents of change in their roles, and to ensure that every child served by their organization has access to the best mental health outcomes possible.

We invite you to participate in the Infant Mental Health webinars in a collaborative professional space where together you may examine ideas, deconstruct concepts and discuss how to bring these important understandings into our programs.

Sessions: 15 in total

Dates: Self-Selected - Virtual Platform

Time: Self-Selected

Location: Virtual

Cost: Participation is free

Registration: [Please click on this link and follow the prompts](#)

Hosted By



Early Childhood
Professional
Resource Centre

Funded By



Region of Waterloo

Supported By



Children and Youth
Planning Table
of Waterloo Region

Workshops

Join us for these dynamic continuous professional learning opportunities that will explore new information, invite reflection and promote collaboration to transform everyday practice.

Natures Pathway to Wellness

In this workshop, participants will have the opportunity to rethink their role in nurturing children's relationship with the natural world. Together educators will critically consider the possibilities of enhancing their current practice and discover how rich outdoor experiences ignite, engage, and extend children's curiosity while directly optimizing children's mental health and well-being.



Tinkering Treasures, Discovering Toys as Tools

Children's natural curiosity and creative imaginations enable them to use accessible everyday materials in innovative ways, naturally provoking STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematical) experiences. In this workshop, participants will engage in a critical examination of accessible everyday resources and materials used to explore STEAM concepts. They will be invited to reconsider how they can support children to develop persistence, communication, problem-solving, and mental flexibility as they build an understanding of their world.



Pedagogical Documentation During These Paperless Times

Today, there is a physical divide where families, children, and educators no longer interact in a daily face-to-face capacity. During this session, participants will embark on a journey of reflection and begin to co-construct an action plan that supports the facilitation of pedagogical documentation during these paperless times. In addition, participants will reflect on different ways that early learning professionals can rethink barriers to interactive pedagogical documentation that continues to engage and value families as experts on their children's learning, development, health, and well-being.



Dates: Tuesday, February 3rd

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: Zoom Conference Platform

Cost: \$15 per participant

Registration: www.eceprc.ca or 519.748.5220 ext 3388

Prior to the event, you will receive a communication outlining the zoom platform participation details.

Dates: Wednesday February 10th

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: Zoom Conference Platform

Cost: \$15 per participant

Registration: www.eceprc.ca or 519.748.5220 ext 3388

Prior to the event, you will receive a communication outlining the zoom platform participation details.

Dates: Monday, February 22nd

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: Zoom Conference Platform

Cost: \$15 per participant

Registration: www.eceprc.ca or 519.748.5220 ext 3388

Prior to the event, you will receive a communication outlining the zoom platform participation details.

Workshops

Caring for you! Educator Wellness

COVID-19 has accelerated transformation across the globe. Rapid innovation and improved health and safety practices add layers of complexity to all professions, including early childhood education. During this time of uncertainty, understandably, many of us are feeling an array of emotions. Together, let's discuss the importance of supporting our emotional well-being, staying true to ourselves, our feelings, and our values.

Date: Wednesday, February 24th

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: Zoom Conference Platform

Cost: \$15 per participant

Registration: www.eceprc.ca or
519.748.5220 ext 3388

Prior to the event, you will receive a communication outlining the zoom platform participation details.

Cultivating Resiliency

COVID-19 continues to bring uncertainty to all. This workshop will examine the successes and challenges it poses for children, families, and educators. Together we will highlight how we are coping with stress and anxiety and how we are recovering through growth. Participants will be invited to reflect on social connections, attitudes, values, and emotional acceptance as a foundation to relationships and the hallmark to cultivating resiliency.

Dates: Monday, March 8th

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: Zoom Conference Platform

Cost: \$15 per participant

Registration: www.eceprc.ca or
519.748.5220 ext 3388



Prior to the event, you will receive a communication outlining the zoom platform participation details.

The Reality of Virtual Connections



The pandemic continues to transform early learning environments around the world from the familiar face to face delivery to an online virtual model. While virtual learning supports health and safety and proves to be a suitable option during the pandemic, the unfamiliarity of the online world poses its challenges. In this session, participants will share knowledge, resources, and strategies on how to deliver optimal virtual learning experiences that connect them back to the four foundations of learning: belonging, well-being, engagement, and expression.

Dates: Thursday, March 18th

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: Zoom Conference Platform

Cost: \$15 per participant

Registration: www.eceprc.ca or
519.748.5220 ext 3388

Prior to the event, you will receive a communication outlining the zoom platform participation details.

Workshops

Learning With And From Families

Family engagement is a pedagogical approach that nurtures children's learning and development essential for creating quality early learning environments. In this session, participants will come together to think beyond event-based engagement experiences and discover how when inviting families into a collaborative process it creates and enriches supportive learning environments where children and families can thrive in. Together, participants will examine ways to build family knowledge, confidence, encourage curriculum involvement, while connecting back to children's backgrounds, interests, and culture.

Trauma-Informed/Responsive Approaches

This pandemic has incorporated an array of feelings. For some, trauma is one of these many feelings experienced. Compassionate and trauma-informed knowledge and understanding are essential to providing support to our youngest learners, their families, and ourselves. In this session, participants will develop an understanding of trauma, its impact, how to recognize it, and how to respond appropriately using knowledge, experience, and approaches that build resiliency, self-regulation, and increase well-being.

Honouring the Rhythms of the day

In this workshop, participants will be invited to re-think traditional curriculum development and consider how children's natural rhythms of the day influence their daily learning and experiences. Participants will be inspired to consider a more complex view of children and re-imagine their role in recognizing children's natural cues. Through critical reflection, participants will be provoked to consider how honouring children's natural rhythm can influence the development of a dynamic, fluid, and meaningful curriculum to create optimal conditions for children to learn and develop while striking a balance between limits, flexibility, and predictability

Dates: Monday, March 22nd

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: Zoom Conference Platform

Cost: \$15 per participant

Registration: www.eceprc.ca or 519.748.5220 ext 3388

Prior to the event, you will receive a communication outlining the zoom platform participation details.

Dates: Wednesday, April 1st

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: Zoom Conference Platform

Cost: \$15 per participant

Registration: www.eceprc.ca or 519.748.5220 ext 3388

Prior to the event, you will receive a communication outlining the zoom platform participation details.

Dates: Monday, April 19th

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: Zoom Conference Platform

Cost: \$15 per participant

Registration: www.eceprc.ca or 519.748.5220 ext 3388

Prior to the event, you will receive a communication outlining the zoom platform participation details.

Workshops



'Become a Play Scientist'

"Bucket dumping" and "carting materials" from place to place may seem like a never-ending task for educators to tidy or police, however, they are really natural schemas of play. These patterns of play are seen in many young children as they are exploring their world, figuring out how things work. Join us as we look more closely at how we can use play schemas to create meaningful opportunities to extend and support learning within our program environments.

Dates: Thursday, April 29th

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: Zoom Conference Platform

Cost: \$15 per participants

Registration: www.eceprc.ca or
519.748.5220 ext 3388

Prior to the event, you will receive a communication outlining the zoom platform participation details.

The Value of Hard Conversations

Today, early learning environments value collaborative partnerships where strength and competencies come together to enhance practice. With all partnerships, communication is essential to effective collaboration, including participating in difficult conversations. In this session, participants will be invited to work collaboratively to discover the importance of having those difficult conversations and to develop a plan of action that has the potential to enhance their ability to have them. Difficult conversations can lead to mutual trust and respect, leading to healthier relationships and a restored confidence within your environment.

Dates: Monday, May 10th

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM



Location: Zoom Conference Platform

Cost: Participation is free for those working or living in the Waterloo Region and \$15 for participants outside the Waterloo Region

Registration: www.eceprc.ca or
519.748.5220 ext 3388

Workshops

Rediscovering the Power of Experiences

An experience is a process of perceiving and making sense of the world around us through sensations and observations. It is through 'experience' that knowledge, understanding, and skills develop. In this session, participants will be invited to engage with other early learning professionals in reflective practice to encourage meaningful exploration, play, inquiry and creates a sense of wonder for children, families, and educators.

Together we will share knowledge and examine how children's 'experiences' can strengthen memory, build social connections and contribute to creating their sense of identity.

Dates: Thursday, May 13th

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: Zoom Conference Platform

Cost: Participation is free for those working or living in the Waterloo Region and \$15 for participants outside the Waterloo Region

Registration: www.eceprc.ca or
519.748.5220 ext 3388



How Strong Leaders Communicate Effectively During Uncertain Times

Essential to strong leadership is effective communication. Communication is the act of expressing messages through the use of mutually understood methods. Until recently, most methods of communication occur during face-to-face interactions. Today, supervisors face the challenge of leading their teams remotely. This situation adds complexity to effective communication. In this workshop, participants will reconsider approaches and co-create strategies essential in creating trust and transparency amongst teams that inspire educator creativity within their early learning environments.



Dates: Thursday, June 10th

Time: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Location: Zoom Conference Platform

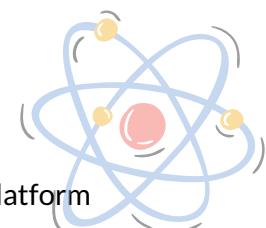
Cost: Participation is free for those working or living in the Waterloo Region and \$15 for participants living outside the Waterloo Region

Registration: www.eceprc.ca or
519.748.5220 ext 3388

The Role of STEM in Modern Day Society Is Rooted in Children's Interests

Today's world is inviting STEM-based solutions. From designing new medicines, delivering health care, growing food, consuming and evaluating information, or connecting to those we care about. Building on children's natural curiosity and sense of wonder, this workshop will inspire participants to bring STEM education into their programs. Through exploration and inquiry, participants will rediscover the magic of being engaged in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to equip children for the dynamic world they will face.

Dates: Wednesday, June 16th



Time: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Location: Zoom Conference Platform

Cost: Participation is free for those working or living in the Waterloo Region and \$15 for participants outside the Waterloo Region

Registration: www.eceprc.ca or
519.748.5220 ext 3388

Workshops



Fostering Meaningful Experiences for Middle Years Children

Educators play a significant role in the lives of children. Together, participants will unpack how educators can influence and impact certain competencies within middle years children, such as developing a love for and confidence in learning. In this workshop, participants will examine how to create meaningful high-quality inquiry-based learning experiences for middle years children that not only capture their curiosity but help them gain knowledge and skills that help to empower them.

Dates: Thursday, June 24th

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: Zoom Conference Platform

Cost: Participation is free for those working or living in the Waterloo Region and \$15 for participants outside the Waterloo Region

Registration: www.eceprc.ca or 519.748.5220 ext 3388



Engineering and Block Play

Block play continues to be a favourite amongst children. As children invent, they are engaging in the engineering design process. This workshop will remind participants of children's capabilities and invite them to recognize and seize opportunities in fostering engineering concepts through play. Together, we will examine these concepts and explore how to integrate them into meaningful curriculums.



Dates: Thursday, July 15th

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM



Location: Zoom Conference Platform

Cost: Participation is free for those working or living in the Waterloo Region and \$15 for participants outside the Waterloo Region

Registration: www.eceprc.ca or 519.748.5220 ext 3388



Communities of Practice

Community of Practice (CoP) are informal collaborations within a sector where professionals across organizations share knowledge in and engage in meaningful discussion
(Informed by: B, 2011; Cuddapah & Clayton, 2011; Hill & Haigh, 2012; Sheehy, 2008)



Take The Lead

We believe in the leader in you. Come and join a group that has been exploring how we cultivate, foster and support the leadership qualities in each of us.

Facilitated By: Debbie Jones & Heidi Nielsen

Dates:

- Monday, March 29th
- Monday, May 31st
- Monday, July 26th
- Monday, September 27th
- Monday, November 29th

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: Zoom Conference Platform

Cost: Participation is free for current members

Registration: www.eceprc.ca or
519.748.5220 ext 3388

Prior to the event, you will receive a communication outlining the zoom platform participation details.

Pedagogy Community of Practice (CoP)

This CoP will provide participants with the opportunity to discover pedagogy as the cornerstone of practice in early learning and child care. Come together for professional conversations, reflection and critical inquiry.

Facilitated By: Harmony Simard and Community Guests

**Date:**

- Tuesday, March 9th

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: Zoom Conference Platform

Cost: Participant is free

Registration: www.eceprc.ca or
519.748.5220 ext 3388

Prior to the event, you will receive a communication outlining the zoom platform participation details.

Pedagogical Support

Nourishing Quality

The PRC is pleased to provide pedagogical support to the early years' community in the Region of Waterloo. This professional learning platform engages participants in a pedagogical process designed to provoke deep thinking, collaborative discussions that are interactive and reflective. Participants will be invited to critically examine early learning practices, discover how to bring the pedagogical approaches and foundations of How Does Learning Happen? to life while continuing to work towards providing high-quality programs for children and families. This opportunity is an open invitation, you may come as often as you wish or when it is convenient. Contact us today!



Upcoming Dates:

- Wednesday, February 3rd
- Wednesday, February 17th
- Wednesday, March 3rd
- Wednesday, March 17th

Time: Drop in between 12 PM to 2 PM

Location: Zoom Conference Platform

Click here to
REGISTER

Cost: Free for all PRC members

Pedagogical Support Contact Information:
prcinfo@conestogac.on.ca

Early Years Engage

Continuous Quality Improvement in Waterloo Region

Early Years Engage helps child care and early learning programs take an ongoing approach to improving quality.

Do you have questions about the Early Years Engage process? We partner with the Early Childhood Professional Resource Centre (PRC) to offer one-on-one support for your program. No question is too big or too small.



Continuous quality improvement
in Waterloo Region

Date:

- By appointment

Time: Mutually agreed upon

Location: Zoom Conference Platform

Cost: Free for all PRC members

To make an appointment contact:
qualityinitiatives@regionofwaterloo.ca

Registration

Credit card payments can only be made through the on-line registration system at this time.

Receipts/Invoices are available upon request.

Workshops may be cancelled if the minimum number of participants is not reached and you will be notified two working days prior to the workshop date.

Inclement weather closures and cancellations will be posted on our website and tweeted out to subscribers.

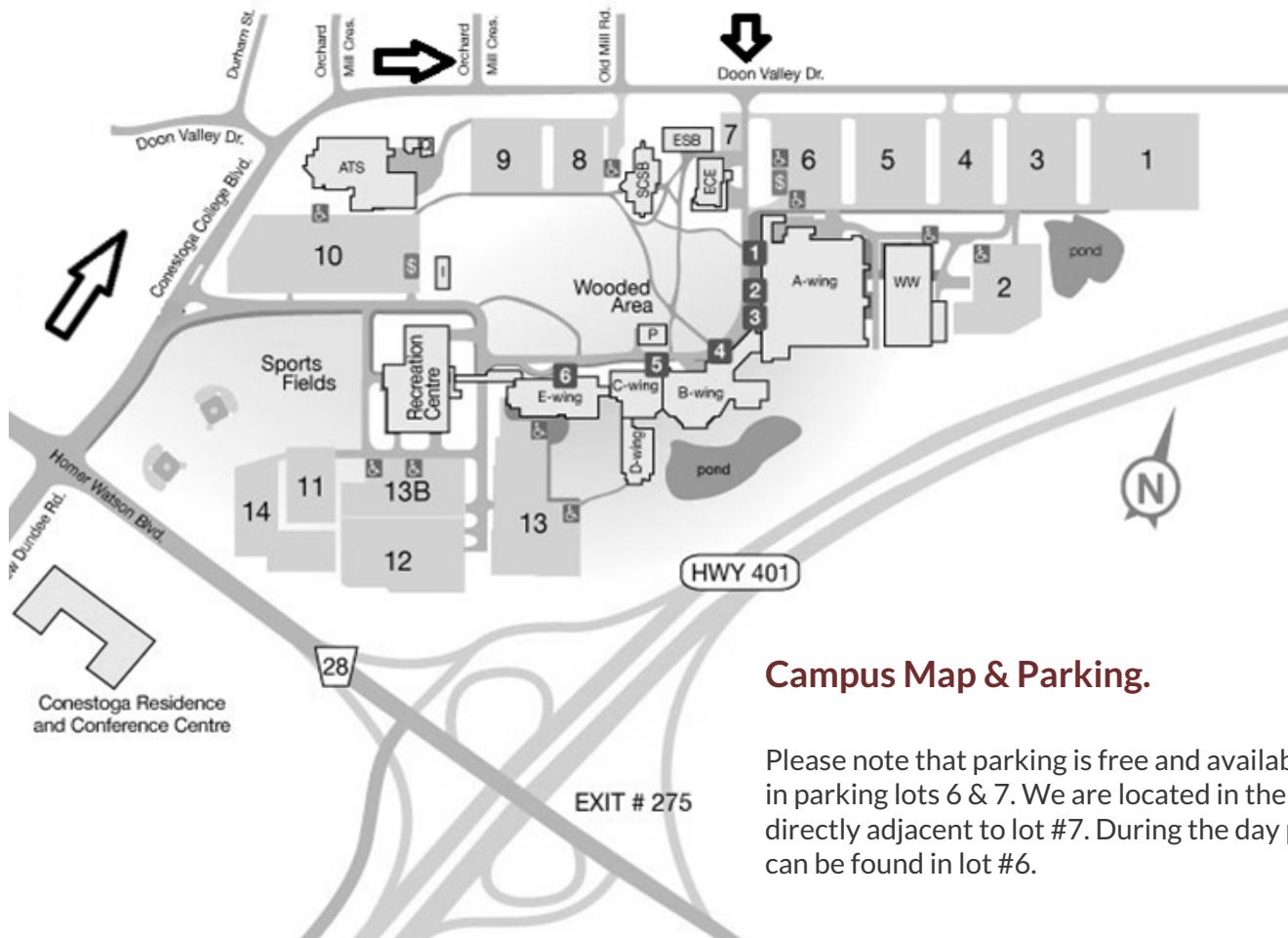
All registration fees are non-refundable, but transferable to another participant for the same event.

Hours of Operation

- We are not offering face to face support at this time
- We continue to respond virtually to our community
- Closed weekends, and statutory holidays

Feedback

If you have feedback or suggestions, please email us at PRCInfo@conestogac.on.ca

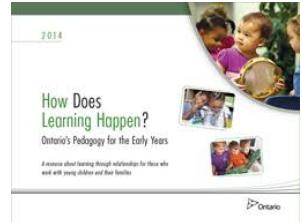


Campus Map & Parking.

Please note that parking is free and available after 4 PM in parking lots 6 & 7. We are located in the ECE Building directly adjacent to lot #7. During the day paid parking can be found in lot #6.

Supportive Resources

How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years is a professional learning resource guide about learning through relationships for those working with young children and families. It is intended to support pedagogy and curriculum/program development in early years programs.



Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014. The Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 (CCEYA) came into effect on August 31, 2015. This legislation replaced the outdated Day Nurseries Act (DNA) and established new rules governing child care in Ontario.



Early Years Engage supports programs to participate in a continuous process of reviewing practices, developing short and long-term plans for growth, operationalizing work plans and evaluating progress against "Our Vision for Quality in Waterloo Region" ("Our Vision") and system priorities.



Ontario College of Early Childhood Educators. The College regulates the profession of early childhood education by establishing and enforcing:

- Registration requirements;
- Ethical and professional standards for RECEs;
- Requirements for continuous professional learning;
- and Complaints and discipline process for professional misconduct, incompetence and incapacity.



Special Events



**Watch for
upcoming
events!**