

ECEBC...

- Is the association for advancing early childhood education and educators in British Columbia
- Promotes professional development and high standards of education and practice in the field
- Participates in developing ECE training programs and liaises with other early childhood associations
- Advocates for all ECE practitioners, young children and families
- Is supported and directed by its members

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ECEBC Branch E-Newsletter

February 2012



ECEBC | early childhood educators of BC

Volume 3, Issue 1

ECEBC Comox Valley Branch

Welcome to a new year and I hope everyone had time to spend with family and friends. Here's what we have been working on in the Comox Valley.

This is the fourth year we have celebrated National Child Day with a Guest Reader Program. Funding received from Success by Six and matched Branch funds were used to purchase books chosen that reflect areas of interest highlighted in the UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child. This year, the theme was the health of the child, and the book chosen was "Lhama, Lhama Home with Mama." Each centre that chose to participate in the Guest Reader Program received a hard cover copy of the book. Colleen Friendship was instrumental in ordering the books this

year, getting them out to the centres and creating the beautiful bookmark for the books.

We had a cross-section of childcare facilities participating, including family childcare, LNRs, StrongStarts, large centres and preschools. The participating centres each invited a guest reader from their communities to come and read to them. We have requested pictures to document this very successful community outreach initiative. An article describing the event and the funders was published in both of the Comox Valley's local newspapers.

Our December meeting was held at "Shipwrecked Beads". It was a chance for members to be creative and make something beautiful for themselves or as a gift. It

was a wonderful evening; members enjoyed cider, cookies and lots of talk and laughter. We chose again this year to gather donations of personal care and hygiene items for our local Transition Society, members again being very generous and the donations were warmly received.

The ECEBC Comox Valley Branch had a planning meeting in October 2011, which was followed up with a Survey Monkey questionnaire in November. At our January meeting, we solidified what we wanted to focus on: a series of working dinners, based on the Early Learning Framework.

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The Wonder of Learning: The Hundred Languages of Children Exhibit from Reggio Emilia, Italy.

July to December 2012

The River Market at Westminster Quay
810 Quayside Drive, New Westminster, BC

For more information, go to <http://wonderoflearningvancouver.com/>

Visit the Wonder of Learning info table at ECEBC's conference from May 3 to 5, 2012 at the Radisson Hotel Vancouver Airport!

ECEBC Strategic Plan Update



Board and Branch members at the Strategic Planning session in October 2011
Photo by Raphaella Weissgerber

In October 2011, provincial members were asked to fill out a survey to let ECEBC's Board of Directors know what the organization's priorities should be for the next five years. Following this province-wide consultation, survey responses were used as a framework for a daylong Strategic Planning session held in late October with Board members and 14 Branch chairs in attendance to draft a Plan that would help move the organization forward.

Planning session participants discussed updating the vision and mission statements, identifying opportunities and strategic priorities, and strengths and weaknesses to be addressed. It was a long and rewarding day, and participants came out of it feeling involved, included, more aware of their provincial organization and its resources, and rejuvenated for the next step in the Strategic Planning process.

In late January 2012, the Board

will be meeting to discuss the outcomes of the Strategic Planning session and follow up questionnaire responses to build a five-year Strategic Plan that will promote the organization's visibility, build upon its strengths, and meet future challenges. We thank you for your responses to our surveys, and know that this work will be a Strategic Plan made for, and by, ECEBC members.

MOVING TO A SYSTEM OF
integrated early care & learning IN BC



Community Plan for a System of Integrated Early Care and Learning

Have you endorsed the "Plan"?

Go to http://www.ecebc.ca/news/integrated_project.html where you can find useful information to help understand and engage your community.

ECEBC Comox Valley Branch members
Photo by Laurel Hodgins



ECEBC Comox Valley Branch (cont'd from p. 1)

Using each dinner to focus on one of the areas of the Early Learning Framework, the dinners will be every two weeks and participants will have to register for all four. We are hoping that this will help us to become more familiar with the document and to help

participants become more comfortable with it in their daily practice. I will be able to write more about the process and how it all worked out in the next issue of the Branch e-newsletter. A great mind stretcher in the dark months waiting for the light. Have a great winter and remember

the days are getting longer!

Submitted by Laurel Hodgins, Chair
ECEBC Comox Valley Branch

Conference 2012 Pre-Registration Information



Photo by Shawn Nygren

ECEBC is very pleased to present its 41st annual conference, "Playing it Forward: Discovering the Wonder and Value of Authentic Play" from May 3 to 5, 2012 at the Radisson Hotel Vancouver Airport in Richmond, BC. Please join us for this opportunity for professional development and networking.

Online Registration Starts Mid-February 2012!

The 2012 ECEBC Conference brochure will be mailed to members with the Winter 2012 issue of *The Early Childhood Educator* in mid-February 2012. A downloadable PDF of the brochure will be available on our website at www.ecebc.ca in early February 2012.

Early Bird Registration Deadline: Wednesday, April 4, 2012

To take advantage of significant

savings on conference fees, registration forms and payment must be received by the ECEBC office by Wednesday, April 4 at 5:00 p.m. Registration and/or payment received after April 4 will be subject to regular conference rates.

Accommodation: Don't forget to book your hotel room by April 4!

Don't forget to book your hotel room if you are registering for conference, as rooms and suites are available to ECEBC delegates at a reduced conference rate until April 4. Reservations after April 4 will be subject to room availability and at the best available rates. When making reservations, please identify yourself as part of the Early Childhood Educators of BC group.

Travel Bursary Application Deadline

The ECEBC Board of Directors has earmarked \$10,000 from Endowment Funds to be used to help reduce the cost of delegate travel to ECEBC's annual conference. The amounts disbursed to conference delegates in each geographical area will vary according to regional travel costs.

To apply for the travel bursary, please fill out the application form in the conference brochure, when available, and return it to the ECEBC office by Wednesday, April 4. Due to limited funds, not all applicants will receive bursary funding. Approved applicants will be contacted by email by Friday, April 13.

Conference Gala: "Early Childhood Education Goes to the Beach!!!!"

Hosted by the Smithers Early Childhood Educators, we invite you to this special evening of fine food, friendship and fun. Think sun and fun. Where would you go for a sunny vacation? Costumes are encouraged. Anything goes as we celebrate the hot spots at Gala. Join us for a fun event including contests, games, dancing and prizes.

Tickets can be purchased through the ECEBC office, or when you register for conference online.

Download the conference brochure at www.ecebc.ca.

We look forward to seeing you in May!

For more information regarding Conference 2012, please go to www.ecebc.ca or email membership@ecebc.ca.

Call for Volunteers for Conference 2012!

It's that time again—Conference 2012 will be here before we know it. This year's theme is "Playing it Forward: Discovering the Wonder and Value of Authentic Play."

We would like to invite you to become involved with this year's conference by volunteering your time. Your efforts will ensure that conference is a positive and enrich-

ing experience for delegates and presenters. If you have ever wondered how you can become more involved in your provincial organization, this is it! You can give as little as an hour or two and have the ability to state your preference of job duties.

The conference will be hosted at the Radisson Hotel Vancouver

Airport in Richmond from May 3 to 5, 2012. If you would like more information becoming a volunteer, please contact Jamie Anderson at jamietanderson@telus.net, or download the Volunteer Form from www.ecebc.ca and fax it to the ECEBC office..

Thank you in advance for supporting your organization and we look forward to hearing from you!



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The ECEBC Branch E-Newsletter, relaunched in September 2010, is published quarterly. We welcome and encourage submissions from Branches regarding news and updates about Branch activities and issues in your communities!

For more information, or for assistance in writing an article, please contact Executive Director, Emily Mliczko or Membership Administrator, Yasmin Irani.

E-Newsletter Issue:

May 2012
September 2012
December 2012
February 2013

Articles Due:

April 6, 2012
July 20, 2012
November 2, 2012
January 14, 2013

The Images of Learning Project

The Images of Learning Project was conceived as a tool for advocacy highlighting the valuable work of Early Childhood Educators and to reflect on an image of the child as competent, complex and full of potential.

The exhibit incorporates a strong visual and philosophical message bringing international research and perspectives to the early learning community and beyond. It builds on the vision set out in the Early Learning Framework “so that together we can develop a common language and greater understanding of the vital importance of early learning for all young children” (*British Columbia Early Learning Framework*, p. 3).

Kim Atkinson and Danielle Davis co-created The Images of Learning Project with funding, support and guidance provided by the ECEBC Leadership Initiative in 2009. Kim and Danielle then put out a call to practitioners throughout BC for submissions of pedagogical narrations, words,

photos and stories of children’s learning and the work of educators. The resulting exhibit is a visually beautiful and provocative installation that invites viewers to contribute their understandings, engage, reflect, wonder and celebrate.

Since its completion in May 2010, the Images of Learning Exhibit has been hosted by universities, colleges, school districts, conferences and community events around the province and has been viewed by approximately 3500 people. It generates dialogue, engages viewers in new thinking, calling attention to the child as a protagonist in their own learning and to the educators who listen and respond reflectively.

In conjunction with and expanding on the ideas introduced in the exhibit, Kim and Danielle conduct workshops on the Image of the Child, Reflective Practice, and Rethinking Environments and Materials. These workshops, presented at post-secondary

institutions and conferences have continually been filled to capacity and have garnered positive feedback.

In October 2010, the Images of Learning Project website and blog were launched as a means of generating ongoing dialogue, sharing ideas and reflections, and communicating with a broad audience. The website continues to attract a worldwide audience with 60,000 page views per month.

Kim and Danielle continue to explore new areas of interest in the field, and would like to expand the exhibit to include the voices of infants and toddlers, and the aboriginal community, and to ensure the sustainability of the exhibit to reach small and rural communities.

For more information about the Images of Learning Project, please to go www.imagesoflearningproject.com.

Source: Images of Learning Project brochure