

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

May 2012



ECEBC | early childhood educators of BC

Volume 3, Issue 2

ECEBC North Okanagan Branch

We have held an executive meeting in February and have one scheduled for April 9 to plan a Caregiver Appreciation Night in June.

January 28, 2012—Thompson Rivers University instructors and authors Connie Alger, Cindy Piwowar and Margaret Patten presented a two-part Saturday workshop, “Image of the Child” and “Look at Me...I’m Learning Everyday”. We had many ECEs, family care providers, school district personnel and kindergarten teachers in attendance. Registration surpassed our original expectations to the point that we needed to find a bigger venue! People received a book that the presenters have published plus certificates towards training hours.

February 29, 2012—Registration for the Powersmart workshop was full at 30 participants. Participants received a valuable resource kit plus a certificate towards training hours.

March 8, 2012—Lynelle Anderson came to Vernon for a breakfast talk.

May is Child Care Month. As part of ECEBC’s Leadership Initiative Project, “Children as Active Citizens”, banners are being made to hang along the highway to promote children’s rights. The project focuses on developing a children’s charter of rights for greater Vernon which will be launched at a signing event towards the end of April.

May 3 to 5, 2012—Three of the

five Branch executives are able to attend ECEBC’s 41st annual conference, and many ECEs from Vernon are also planning on attending.

May 25, 2012—Picnic in the Park. The Children’s Charter of Rights for the city of Vernon will be launched. Activities and entertainment for children and families in Polson Park. Everyone is invited to come out and endorse the charter.

June 2, 2012—“Growing Up Wild” Saturday workshop. Registering soon.

*Submitted by Shawna Miller-Postras,
ECEBC North Okanagan Branch*

ECEBC Comox Branch

Spring has sprung,
The skies are grey,
Will we ever have a warm, sunny day?

Like many people in the winter months, hibernating was not an option. Our Branch decided to hold a series of working dinners

based on the Early Learning Framework, to while away the dark nights. We received funding from Success by Six, for professional development and the Branch felt that this project was where they wanted to put their energies. The dinners were held at a local restaurant, a simple fare

of soup, sandwiches and desserts. The ELF working dinners were done in partnership with our local CCRR and PacifiCare. Sue and Sandra did a great job of taking the registrations, fees and providing wonderful door prizes for each session. (cont’d on p. 2)

ECEBC Comox Branch (cont'd)



Laurel Hodgins, at the October 2011 Board Branch Retreat

Photo by Raphaella Weissgerber

Eight people received wonderful pieces of pottery. The sessions were facilitated by Laurel Hodgins and Charlene Gray, as volunteers. Each participant received a binder of resources and had assignments to do before the next dinner.

While researching various ideas of how to format and present the materials at the four dinners, a wonderful resource was presented to us, the Learn Now B.C. website has a six modular self-directed professional development available online. It was presented, as an option, to the attendees on the first night and the group decided that we would follow that format and individuals would then choose to do the online professional development in their own time, for a further six hours of professional development.

Let me regress for a moment, we had thought that we might get 10 or 15 people to register, but we had 29! We had LNRs, FCCs, StrongStart staff, all the staff from Headstart, the staff of one pre-school, three students currently enrolled at North Island College and two administrators. When

you include a staff member from PacifiCare and the two facilitators, that was 32, all of us on a different point in our journey in the field of Early Care and Learning.

Each session involved homework to bring back to the next session, baby steps that led to completing a documentation cycle, that made learning visible by the last session. The homework was presented in small group format, and became an exchange of thoughts and ideas. The educators seemed to gravitate to other educators who were in a similar area in the field and it gave everyone a snapshot of early learning in all the sectors.

One of the ideas that has come out of the last session was that a group of educators would like to get together on a less formal basis to discuss some of the philosophical and practical issues that frontline workers contemplate on a day to day basis.

One of the snafus was, that being so involved in the dinners, the regularly scheduled

local meeting was missed. We did meet three weeks later, at Cumberland StrongStart, but attendance was very low. Thanks to Pam for offering to host.

On January 24, Family Literacy Day, Project Child Sign presented at the Vancouver Island Regional Library with their "childsign".

Members also partnered with our local Family Autism support group to paint puzzle pieces for Autism Awareness Month, which is April. It was a time where early childhood educators and parents had an opportunity to talk in an informal setting and work in partnership for a common goal.

The early years transition packages have been distributed to childcare centres and pre-schools. These packages are done voluntarily by ECEs and their respective families, as a snapshot of children entering kindergarten and forwarded to kindergarten teachers.

Submitted by Laurel Hodgins, Chair
ECEBC Comox Branch

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



COALITION OF
child care
advocates
OF 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 Caledonia Branch

During the ECEBC Board and Branch Retreat in October 2011, people engaged in many thoughtful discussions. One such discussion centered on barriers to being a provincial member. Two common barriers people say they often hear from prospective members are “I don’t know what the provincial association does for me” or “What does the association do for me?” After listening to these conversations, Tim Beachy, our facilitator for the strategic planning session of the weekend, reminded us that the question people should be asking is “What can I do for my association?”. This question resonated with me so I decided to pose these two questions at our December gathering, “What does it mean to be part of a provincial association?” and “What is one way you can contribute to your professional association?”



Photo by Lynne Brown

Here are people’s responses:

- * Being more connected with other ECEs in the province
- * Providing input
- * Working together with other professionals to make a difference in our line of work for the children and ourselves
- * Being part of a group to have a bigger voice to advocate
- * Having adult conversation, support, and people to give you new/different perspectives when you just can’t think outside the box
- * Having a network of support

- * Being informed
- * Being professional
- * You can be a part of something bigger that provides a united voice for the early childhood educators of British Columbia



Photo by Lynne Brown

And, “I can contribute to my provincial association by...”

- * Being on the Board
- * Finding out what other Branches are doing
- * Attending meetings
- * Participating in the AGM
- * Doing/contributing to workshops
- * Participating in organizing conference
- * Being a member
- * Actively promoting ethics
- * Going to provincial conference
- * Participating
- * Being involved at the local level
- * Reading the materials provided to us to know what is happening in the field and in the province



Photo by Lynne Brown

The Communities of Leadership Innovation invited Kim Atkinson and Danielle Davis for a full day

workshop in February. The morning session, “Enriching Your Practice with Pedagogical Narration and Reflective Practice” invited people to reflect on their “image of the child” and to consider how that image informs or influences an individual’s practice. One participant said, “In our centre we have had many discussions on the ‘image of the child’ and the capabilities of children. It has opened the door to letting go of some of the explicit, as well as the implicit, ‘rules’ that we have in our centre.” Along with the “image of the child”, Kim and Danielle shared many rich examples of pedagogical narration. As one participant said, “Pedagogical narrations are not the scary anecdotal we all say we don’t have time for but ordinary observations that we all see on a day to day basis. They make our job more interesting and make us more aware of why most of us do find the learning of childhood a wondrous thing every day.”

People’s curiosity, creativity and sense of wonder were sparked during the “Rethinking Environments” discussion. Beautiful images from centers were shared along with inviting provocations that excited people to rethink environments and to envision new possibilities.

Here is what participants said about the afternoon: “The afternoon session gave me some great ideas on a vision I have been working on in my head. I went straight to the dollar store after the workshop to pick up a few items to add to my provocations collection. I set up a Valentine provocation the next day at preschool which the children seem to be enjoying.”

(cont’d on p. 4)

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ECEBC | early childhood
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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:

September 2012

December 2012

February 2013

May 2013

Articles Due:

July 20, 2012

November 2, 2012

January 14, 2013

April 12, 2013

ECEBC Caledonia Branch (cont'd)

Another said, "In setting up provocations we noticed that the children have been more creative, imaginative and open to hearing each other's ideas on how the materials can be used." And, "It was reassuring to know that changes do not happen overnight, but are an ongoing process, so we don't need to feel stressed out, but instead create a plan over a period of years to create these appealing environments." "I was so glad that I was able to attend the afternoon workshop! I immediately felt welcomed into the room with the displays that were set up on the tables—so inviting! I took my few chosen pieces to work on Monday and set up a little area on my desk, now my desk is inviting and welcoming!!!"

The day was summed up best by these two comments: "If you were not at the workshops you missed out on a fun day with inspiring information and even free stuff to put the wonder and excitement back in your centre." "This was one of the best

workshops I have attended in years." Thank you again, Kim and Danielle, for the femtorship extended to our Leadership cohort and for an inspiring day.



Photo by Lynne Brown

In March, we used art as a medium for "claiming our voices". The first part of the evening was spent viewing projects being created for the Leadership cohort's multi-media exhibit. Afterwards, people expressed them-

selves through art, connected with colleagues, and, of course, ate! Thank you to Lynne Brown for capturing images of the evening!

The next steps for the Branch include continuing to work on various pedagogical narrations for our Communities of Innovation project, welcoming this year's ECE class into the profession, and an article discussion.

*Submitted by Christine Jackson, Chair
ECEBC Caledonia Branch*