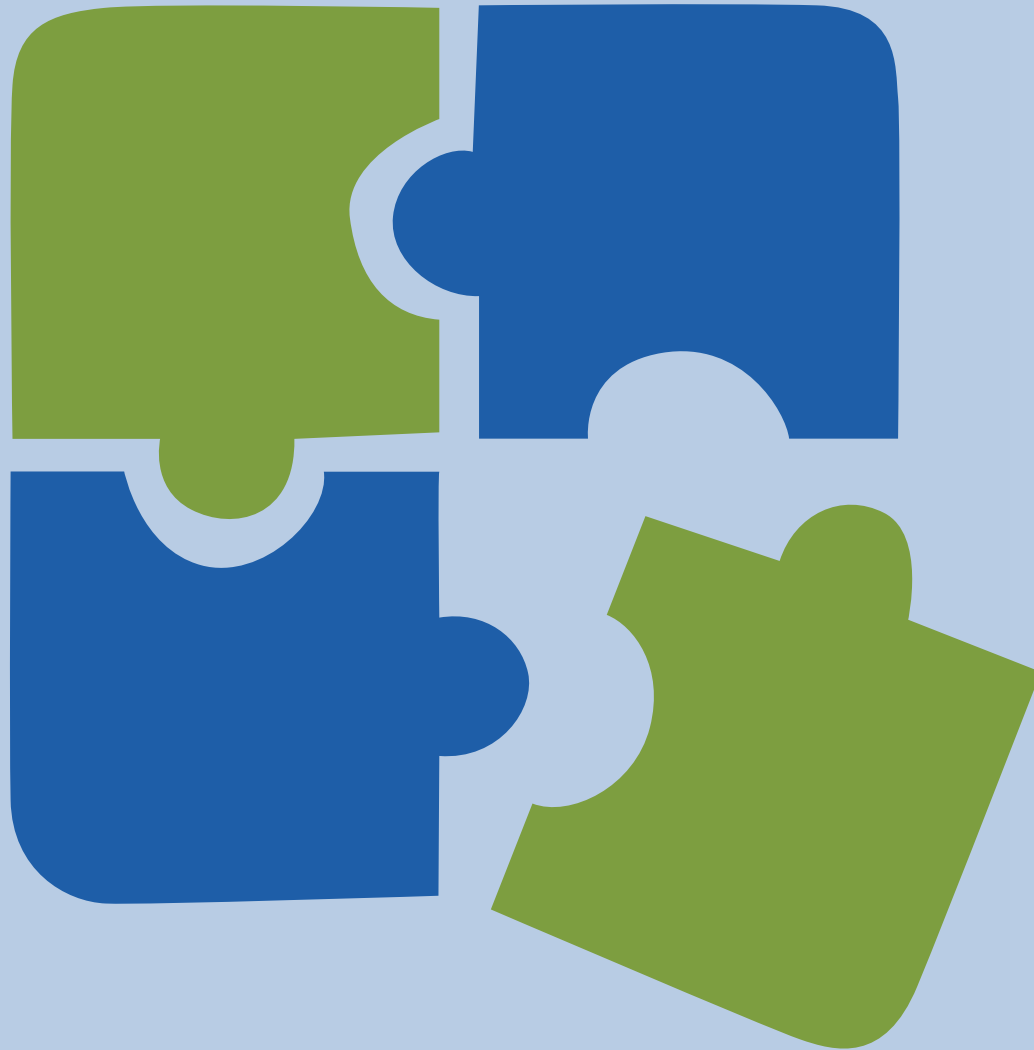


AECEA Association of
Early Childhood
Educators of
Alberta



EARLY LEARNING & CHILD CARE

Essential Pieces Conference

May 26-27, 2023

Friday, May 26, 2023

6:00-6:30 PM - Welcome Remarks

6:30-8:00 PM - Leading Yourself Out of Darkness: Overcoming Inner Struggles to Reveal the Leader Within

Saturday, May 27, 2023

9:00-9:30 AM - Day 2 Opening Remarks

9:30-11:00 AM Indigenous Allyship and Programming in Child Care

11:00-11:15 Wellness Break

11:15 AM-12:15 PM Inclusive Practice: Recognizing Individual Differences to Promote Participation

12:15-1:00 PM Lunch

1:00-2:00 PM Breakout Sessions A

Executive Function From Infancy on
and How to Build and Grow It
Through Play

Building Resilience - What Does Serve
and Return Look Like When
Communication Disorders are
Present?

2:00-2:15 PM Wellness Break

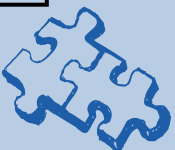
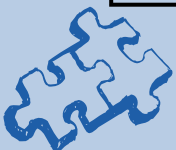
2:15-3:45 PM Breakout Sessions B

Loose Parts Play Mindset - Looking
For The Verb

Communities of Practice; Essential
Pieces of Educator Well-Being

3:45-4:00 PM Wellness Break

4:00-5:00 PM Closing Remarks & Snapshot of ELCC in Alberta Now and Upcoming



Laura Woodman

Leading Yourself Out of Darkness: Overcoming Inner Struggles to Reveal the Leader Within

Before we lead others, we must first be able to lead ourselves. Three essential skills for sustainable leadership will be outlined, with time for participant reflection and engagement as we co-create a leadership community of practice.

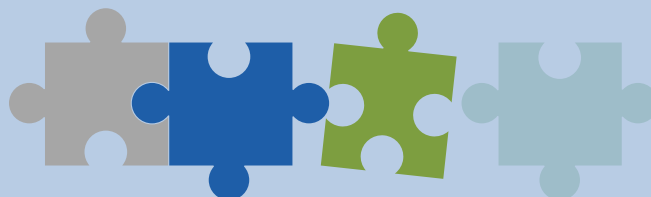
Join Laura to learn more about leading yourself out of darkness and build a platform for inner guidance.

Overview

- This interactive session draws on Laura's personal experiences and includes the engagement of participants to reflect and share their own struggles and triumphs.
- This session deals with the topics of depression and anxiety, which may be temporary or lifelong, along with life events that can be challenging (grief, burnout, or even just having a bad day, week, month, or year)
- Participants will leave with an increased understanding of the struggles shared by all leaders and a toolkit with clear steps to navigate those challenges.

Benefits to Participants

- Explore the challenges leaders face in practice, from fatigue and burnout to ongoing mental health struggles.
- Discover the 3 steps to leading yourself out of the challenges that arise when becoming a leader.
- Using personal examples and time for participant reflection and engagement, develop personalized steps to support leaders on their journey to success.
- Develop internal self-guidance strategies including tenacity, flexibility, grace, empathy, and self-reflection.



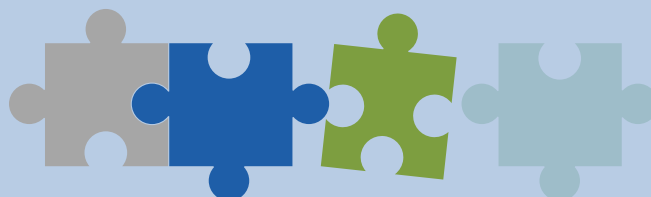
Brandie Odenbach

Indigenous Allyship and Programming in Child Care

In this workshop, we will be recognizing the privilege that settler cultures have and take for granted. We will learn how to challenge and work towards breaking down those barriers that continue to violate Indigenous communities and how we can better support the Indigenous community through our work in Child Care. There will be resources provided for incorporating Indigenous celebrations and ways of life into programming and what the difference is in the culture of the First Nations, Metis, and Inuit peoples and how we can reflectively and appropriately represent the image of the Indigenous child in our programs and programming.

Session Outcomes

- Help allies understand the struggle for decolonization and nationhood and what effective allyship to Indigenous peoples means.
- Create a better understanding of how we can support Indigenous children to develop their cultural identity – an important aspect of social well-being.
- Educators will re-examine their assumptions and practice. How are they influenced by your culture and values?
- Educators will leave with back-pocket tools and ideas to implement in their programming to reflect the culture and values of Indigenous children into their programming.



Erin Day and Megan Carroll

Inclusive Practice:

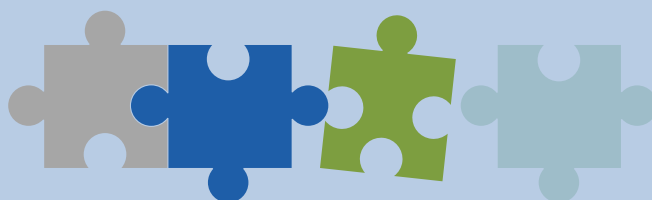
Recognizing Individual Differences to Promote Participation

Inclusion is not just about learners with special needs. It is an attitude and approach that embraces diversity and learner differences and promotes equal opportunities for all children.

Overview

In this session, we will explore the concept of inclusive practice and how we can create safe and welcoming environments for all children.

Participants will learn the fundamental skills for building an inclusive classroom, and key strategies they can use to help all children feel included and participate in the daily routine.



Amanda Rintisch

Breakout Session A

Executive Function From Infancy On and How to Build and Grow It Through Play.

This session defines what executive function is, why it is important, how it develops across ages, and how it is best supported and grown through play and play-based activities.

It discusses what poor executive function is and how to address and support remedial growth in children from infancy through to school aged.

Sarah Mosaico

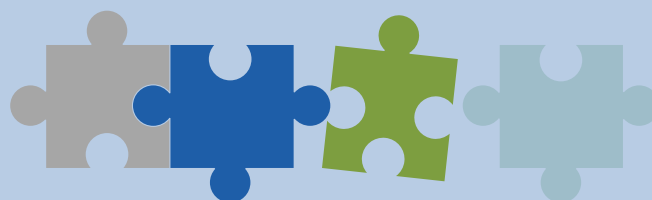
Breakout Session A

Building Resilience- What Does Serve and Return Look Like When Communication Disorders are Present?

Engaging interactive workshop that expands on the Brain Story and how it applies to communication development through a trauma-informed lens.

Overview

- Q and A, video examples, and small group exercises.
- Addresses children's needs who are English language learners
- How do we talk with parents about communication delays?
- Importance of intentionality and valuing our role.



Veronica Green

Breakout Session B

Loose Parts Play Mindset - Looking For The Verb

Embracing loose parts play into your setting is exciting but with this can also come the fears of the mess and constant moving about of items.

In this session, you'll develop a loose parts play mindset that will take the not so boring theory and connect it to your practice in ways that will create more opportunities for child led learning that involves deep engaged play. You'll discover true child led learning and how the theory of loose parts play will support you to respond to the many interests of children.

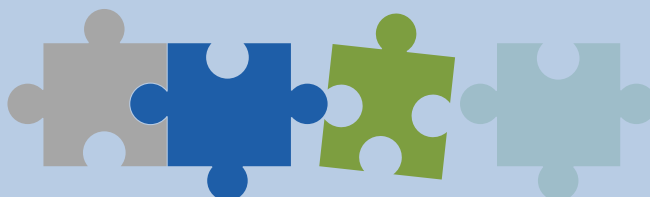
Amber Straker and Dr. Laura K. Dean

Breakout Session B

Communities of Practice; Essential Pieces of Educator Well-Being

In this workshop, you will hear about two programs working to support Early Childhood Educators in BC and Ontario; the Peer Mentoring Program, a partnership between Thompson Rivers University and ECEBC, and the Building Leadership and Learning Communities Project through the AECEO.

The two programs are unique, but both focus on building and supporting communities within the ECE workforce. They work to create spaces for belonging, care, reflection and inquiry, where early childhood educators can feel they are not alone. These partnerships and communities provide opportunities for educators to learn from each other, share about their work and themselves, and develop professional relationships in the field.

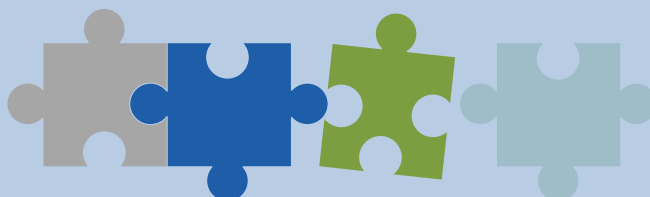


Dr. Christopher Smith

In this session, Christopher Smith will provide an overview of what has happened in Alberta in the past year and what we can potentially look forward to in the next year.

Christopher is the Associate Executive Director for the Muttart Foundation, a private charitable foundation based in Edmonton. He has lead responsibility for the Foundation's work in the area of early learning and child care.

Christopher serves on the Steering Committee for the Community University Partnership for the Study of Children, Youth and Families at the University of Alberta and is a member of the Edmonton Council for Early Learning and Care. He was appointed to the newly formed National Advisory Council on Early Learning and Child Care in Fall, 2022. Christopher formerly served as a member of the National Expert Panel on Early Learning and Child Care Data and Research from 2019 to 2021 and is the former chair of the Success by 6 Council of Partners for the Alberta Capital Region.



Laura Woodman

Laura Woodman is a Ph.D. student at the University of Alberta, where her research focuses on supporting quality and longevity in family day homes.

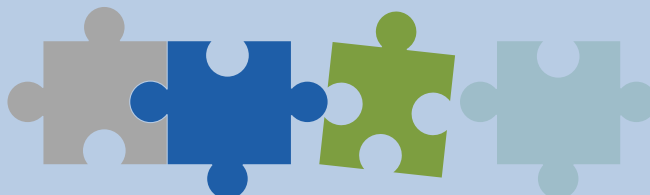
Laura finds offering professional development in the early learning and childcare field to be one of the most rewarding aspects of her career

Brandie Odenbach

Brandie Odenbach is a Program Manager for Child Care and has worked with the YMCA of Northern Alberta since 2008.

Brandie leads the Truth and Reconciliation committee and she is also extremely honoured to have been 1 of 30 in Alberta selected to pilot the new Metis Early Learning Education and Childcare Training (ELECT) Program through Ruperstland Institute and bring this program into our Child Care programs to reflect the Indigenous community we serve.

Brandie is a passionate ally for our Indigenous community, and she recognizes the privilege that settler cultures have and take for granted. Brandie's aim as an ally is to challenge and work towards breaking down those barriers that continue to violate Indigenous communities.



Erin Day and Megan Carroll

Erin Day (Occupational Therapist) and Megan Carroll (Speech-Language Pathologist) are members of the Inclusive Child Care team with Providence in Calgary.

Each has over 15 years of experience working with children and educators in school and child care settings.

They are passionate about inclusion- and believe that every child deserves to have access to safe, welcoming, and enriching child care environments.

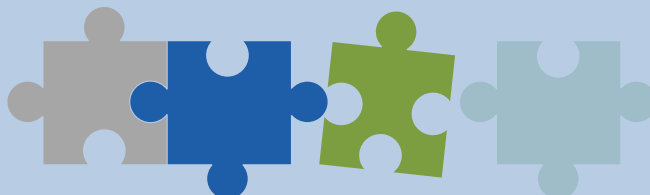
Amanda Rintisch

I have been teaching in the Early Years for almost 15 years. I have been in Early Education classrooms (2.5-5 yrs old, PUF) for most of that time but also taught in Kindergarten and Grade One. I have a Masters Degree in Early Childhood Education from University of Alberta. I currently work in a PUF classroom for Edmonton Public.

Sarah Mosaico

Sarah Mosaico is a speech-language pathologist specializing in care for marginalized populations. Her focus is on empowering educators, caregivers and organizations to enhance resilience in their communities through a trauma-informed approach.

She is a co-design team member of the University of Alberta's Caregiver-Centered Care movement based out of the department of Family Medicine. Sarah also enjoys providing clinical education opportunities for masters-level speech-language pathology students from the University of Alberta.



Veronica Green

Veronica Green is an Early Childhood Education Consultant & Mentor who has been inspiring and supporting her fellow educators for the last 10 years. Utilizing her Bachelor's in Physical Education and Early Childhood Diploma, Veronica has used her experience and expertise in a variety of early learning programs from large centres to her own accredited dayhome; as well as within her 10 years of leadership roles.

She is the founder of Cultivating Confidence - Early Years Consultancy and curates engaging online and live learning experiences for educators to infuse the magic of loose parts play, sensory processing, reggio inspired practice to support educators in their roles and continue to impact children's development. Veronica infuses the duality of both educator and parent to an autistic child into her trainings that brings new perspectives to supporting children, families and educators.

Amber Straker and Dr. Laura K. Dean

Amber Straker is a Registered Early Childhood Educator and the project coordinator for the Building Leadership and Learning Communities project at the Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario (AECEO). Amber's focus is supporting those in the early childhood sector to come together in community, to recognize the power their voices hold, and to work together to change the status quo in our field.

Dr Laura K. Doan is an associate professor in early childhood education in the School of Education, Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, BC. Laura is the primary investigator in a province-wide peer-mentoring program for early childhood educators taking place in 25 regions across British Columbia, Canada. Laura is inspired by the wisdom, strength, and resilience of early childhood educators.

Last Day to Register May 19, 2023

Conference Rates

AECEA Professional Member Rate	\$94.50**
Non-Member Rate	\$126.00*
Student Rate	\$52.50*

*All prices include GST

**One conference registration at this rate per individual professional membership

Registration information

Complete registration online at <https://aecea.ca/aecea-2023-essential-pieces-conference>

Once payments are received a receipt will be issued and emailed to the payee. Please ensure current email information is included when registering.

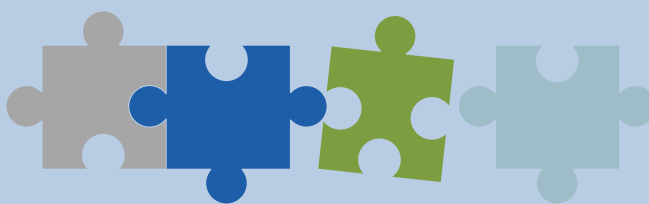
To purchase an AECEA Professional Membership, go to <https://aecea.ca/membership/professional-student>

Contact info@aecea.ca with any questions you may have.

Cancellation Refund Policy

All cancellation requests must be received by May 19, 2023, to receive a partial refund.

No refunds will be made for requests received after May 19, 2023. Refunds are subject to a 50% cancellation fee. Refunds will be issued in the same form payment was made. Please allow up to four weeks for processing.



AECEA

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A conference like this does not happen without the hard work of a group of dedicated volunteers. The Association of Early Childhood Educators of Alberta would like to thank all the following volunteers:

Susan Bencini - AFCCA & Calgary & Region Family Day Home Agency

Shirley Rempel - AECEA Board & Family Dayhome Provider

Lesley Cressman - AECEA Board & Little Treasures Children's Centre

Tamara Ford - AECEA Board & Thornhill Child Care



THANK YOU