

ECDSC Kingstec



Provoking Minds workshop, October 2023

Also in this issue...

- ✦ Culinary Insights
- ✦ Networking Opportunities
- ✦ New Resources
- ✦ Professional Development



New Workshop Registration Process

We have a new registration and payment process for our professional development opportunities at ECSDC Kingstec. More information to be found on pages page 7. Contact us if you have any questions.

Student Projects

The second year ECE students highlight some of our resources and services. Read more on page 4.

Educator Spotlight:

Kelly Holleman *See page 5!*

ECDSC Kingstec

236 Belcher St.
Kentville, NS B4N 0A6

M-F: 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Coordinator:

Sara Graves

T: 902-690-2531

E: sara.graves@nsc.ca

C: 902-599-2539

Assistant:

Justine MacDonald

T: 902-690-2514

E: Justine.macdonald@nsc.ca

W: www.nsc.ca/ecdsc

F: facebook.com/ECDSC

T: twitter.com/ECDSC

Fall 2023

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Except:

Page 5: Kelly Holleman

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NSCC Courses

Take advantage of NSCC's continuing education opportunities:

NSCC

Safety Courses

(Including First Aid, Food Handlers)

bit.ly/safetynscc

Tuition Assistance

Need help paying for the Early Childhood Education courses you are taking? Take advantage of Nova Scotia's Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's Continuing Education program. Check their website for more information.

<http://bit.ly/ececoned>

Culinary Insights

Exploring Culture Through Food

As we wind down from the Holidays many of us are reminded of the many cultures, beliefs and celebrations that happen in our surrounding communities. These cultures and beliefs exist all year round and it is important as educators in the early years that we try our best to expose the children in our care to the diversity within our centers and communities.

One way to do this is through food. Food is an important part of culture and can provide a connection to a person's family or country. As a cook or Early Childhood Educator, you can expose children to diverse food traditions and experiences. Celebrating food enjoyed by people around the world allows everyone to take part and feel included. It will also create a sense of community and foster connections.

A few dishes that may represent the different cultures present in Nova Scotia:

Mi'kmaq - Luskini'kin (Bannock)

Bannock is a type of fry bread, which originates from Scotland but was eventually adopted by the Indigenous peoples of Canada, particularly the Métis of western Canada.

Acadian - Rappie pie

Rappie pie, or r purre in French, is a well-loved traditional Acadian dish made from a delicious mix of potatoes and chicken (or rabbit).

African Nova Scotian - Salt Cod Fish Cakes

Salted Cod mixed with onions, potatoes and a blend of African and Caribbean inspired spices, fried or baked.

Gaelic - Oatcakes

A type of flatbread similar to biscuit. They are prepared with oatmeal as the primary ingredient. Oatcakes are traditionally cooked on a griddle or baked in an oven.

Your culinary experience doesn't have to stop within Nova Scotia! Adding flavors from around the world is a great way to introduce and include cultural differences. Spices such as curry, cumin, chili, basil, sesame, ginger, and oregano are easily accessible and can add a new experience to your food.

Explore and experience all the great flavors the world has to offer.



~ Christine Corporon

Educators' Networking

Educators had the opportunity to gather the third Wednesday of the month for crafts and conversation. Below are the felt stories and activities we did.



- 5 Little Apples - September
- Old Macdonald had a haunted house - October
- 5 Little Acorns - November
- Christmas Playdough/mats - December

Upcoming Dates

- January 17
- February 21
- March 20



If you would like to register follow the link to register or scan the QR Code.

<https://forms.office.com/r/88WTMNAU5w>

Did you know... *you can book our workroom?* If you need a quiet space to get work done, email or message us to book a time in our workroom. Without a booking, our work spaces are available on a first come, first served basis.

Community Project Plan

Every year the second year ECE students have a Community Project Plan for their course Building and Supporting Professional Relationships. The community project is a structured experiential learning that integrates active, meaningful community service with reflection to enrich portfolio learning, foster civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.

The Support Centre was fortunate to have Amber Emينو who used her creative talent to create November's Educators networking felt story. Sara worked with Amber to show her how the networking kits are created for educators within the Valley and the process of creating a template for the educators to use.

Thank you for all your hard work Amber!

Building Partnerships and Sharing Resources project

This year the Support Centre worked with the second year students on their Building Partnerships and Sharing Resources project. The students were to connect with the Support Centre selecting a resource they would like to highlight, then presenting to their peers.

This was a great opportunity for the students to dive deeper to see more of what the Support Centre offers and how materials and PD is offered. Read below some of the great opportunities the ECDSC offers through the second years eyes.

Read Rebekah's reflection on Children's books:

Books are a big part of being an ECE, we all have most likely read books to children that we have worked with... Books are an engaging way to interact and make connections with children.

Sara is able to search for a book using TinyCat ...the books are also there if you wanted for a project but didn't want to commit to buying a book because you may not be able to afford it.

ECE's can access the books by signing it out. We are lucky to have this resource. When you return the book you'll get an email con-

firming.

Read Ching Yan's reflection on Educators Networking:

ECE Networking provides a platform for educators to connect, and we can learn together and bring it back to our center. It provides an opportunity for educators to gather in person and online throughout the year. They create felt songs, stories, and teaching materials to use within the classroom along with great conversation. It takes place once a month, on a weekday evening from 6 to 8 pm.

Although the session does not count as professional development hours, you can gain practical knowledge for preparing the teaching materials and activities, as well as build connections with the educators.

Read Makayla's reflection on Discovery Kits:

I chose the kits as my resource because I wanted to do my own kits for easy preparation while being in the

field. I wanted to seek out different ways and approaches to put in the kit (games, books, activities, movement and hands on materials). I wanted to know the resources, where her ideas came from; where Sara got materials from, and the creativity behind the magic!

It's so beneficial as educators have busy days so they can't prepare their own materials all the time, its free a free resource for anyone. It has so many things in there to be beneficial for the children (learning, play, development) but also for the educators to have a bunch of materials to play with the class that's already prepared and knowing its educational and provides benefits to everyone.

How can ECES access them: We are very lucky to have her in our school, have easy access to her and the materials. When I leave NSCC I will still talk to her and spread the word to other educators that she is a big resource. There's lots of ways to contact her and if you're busy she will drive the materials to you and give you the 110% experience every time.

Read Rachel's reflection on the Loose Parts Cabinet:

One of my favorite resources, the loose parts cabinet, was available to highlight. During my presentation I gave every classmate a loose part from the cabinet and asked them what it was. They gave the obvious answers of what the object was exactly; shower hook, wallet, ball... mine was a yellow wooden square, but when I was asked what mine was, I said cheese. Loose can be anything when used in play. I chose the loose parts cabinet because it's a resource that's constantly changing and evolving. The cabinet also promotes collecting resources, recycling, and reusing. All key things that are encouraged in ECE.

The cabinet was put together to encourage educators to reuse and share materials they use in their class-



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Educator Spotlight: Kelly Holleman

For this issue's Spotlight, we chatted with Kelly Holleman. Kelly is our new ECE faculty at NSCC Kingstec!

Tell us a bit about yourself

I am an Early Childhood Educator and life long learner. My whole career has been centered around working with children and youth. I love to learn and seek new learning opportunities whenever I can.

What was your previous position?

Most recently I was the Executive Director of a wonderful childcare centre in the Valley.

I am also part of the Provincial facilitation team for the NS Early Childhood Curriculum Framework.

What are you looking forward to in your first year teaching?

To build connections with my students. I'm hoping to ignite a spark in them that I have been fortunate to have had lit in me by my own teachers and mentors. And knowing I've got a lot to learn in my journey.

Who are your role models and mentors?

I have been very blessed throughout my career to be in the company of amazing educators, childcare advocates and inspirational leaders in ECE.

Pedagogical Leaders such as Liz Hicks, Diane Kashin, and Sue Stacey have all been a big part of keeping my sense of curiosity and wonder alive in my own learning.

Fred Rogers and Ernie Coombs have also been inspirational to me as a child and now as an educator. They saw children as capable, curious and confident before people realized how important that lens is to have.

The Early Childhood Development Support Centre has been another major support to me. Past coordinators have created incredible opportunities that have been instrumental in where my career has led me.

Sara and Justine are a tremendous resource to our sector and to the students in the ECE program.

What was your first "win" that made you confident that you were doing the right thing?

Building the connections with my students this fall. That has been very important. There's been activities I've built in to my classes that they probably didn't even know was meant to do that! Everything we do as ECE is based on relationships...with children, families and our community...it's foundational. I am excited to learn



along with the students. I hope to create lessons that will challenge their thinking, ignite their curiosity...get them thinking why they are choosing this field. I think ECEs have the best job in the world. We get to work with children at the most developmentally impactful stages of their lives. It is something we need to be proud of and be seen as professionals in our field. 

Community Project (cont.)

rooms. This cabinet allows for educators to drop off extra unwanted items they have in their classrooms or materials they have.

Sara is very kind, inviting and helpful, and I find with her support, no matter what you are looking for, you can most likely find it in the support center.

Thanks Rachel for the spotlight on our loose parts cabinet.

If you have more questions about any of these resources, reach out to Sara or Justine! 

Workshop Guidelines

The following guidelines must be followed:

- Pre-registration **AND** payment are to be received by us, at least **TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE** (unless otherwise noted)
- **Register online.** Follow payment instructions on the registration form, based on your payment method.
- Registrations **cannot be processed, nor spaces held**, unless the above guidelines are followed.
- Cancellations must be processed before the workshop occurs. Please contact us at least one week before the workshop, unless otherwise noted. View our processes for more information.

NOTE: We must sometimes cancel a workshop if there is low registration. Depending on the facilitators this may be done before the withdrawal deadline. Please register as soon as possible and check your workshop's deadline

Visit our website for our full list of guidelines, and for more information on our workshop processes. <https://bit.ly/ecdsc2023>



The Support Centre is a nut-free, scent-free facility. We ask that you refrain from eating or using nut products (including coconut oil) during or prior to attending workshops or sessions hosted by the ECDSC. Please relay this message to your colleagues.

Important Dates

January 17—Educators Networking

January 19th—*Registration Deadline:* Crafting Connections

January 27th—*Workshop:* Crafting Connections

February 16—*Registration Deadline:* Music & Movement...

February 21—Educators Networking

February 22nd—*Workshop:* Music and Movement and Body Awareness

March 1st—*Registration Deadline:* Be the Person...

March 9th—*Workshop:* Be the Person You Want to Work With

March 20—Educators Networking

March 29th—*Registration Deadline:* Capture the Adventure

April 4th—*Workshop:* Capture the Adventure 1/4

April 6th—*Workshop:* Capture the Adventure 2/4

April 12th—*Registration Deadline:* Conference

April 18th—*Workshop:* Capture the Adventure 3/4

April 26th & 27th—2024 Kingstec Early Learning Conference

May 2nd—*Workshop:* Capture the Adventure 3/4

May 16th—*Workshop:* Get Creative with your Documentation

May 10th—*Registration Deadline:* Get Creative with your Documentation

We encourage you to bring your own mug, cup, sport bottle etc. to help us save the environment!

Workshop Registration Process

We have a new registration and payment process at the Early Childhood Development Support Centre – NSCC Kingstec for our workshops.

- There is a new registration form
- Payments will be made directly to Sara or Justine at the Support Centre.

Registration Forms

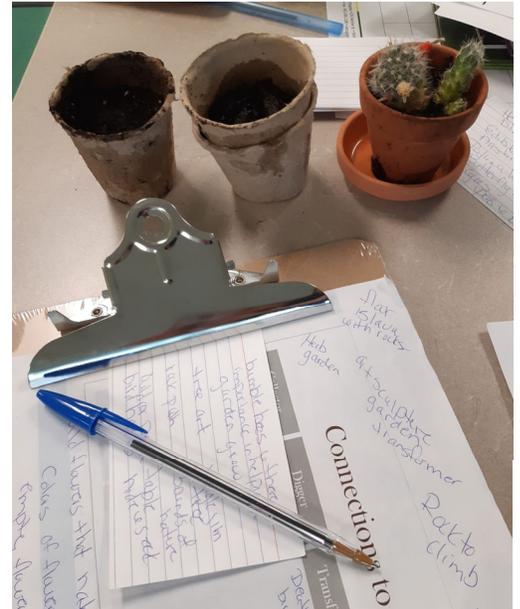
Individuals

If you are registering and paying for a workshop for yourself, please enter your centre or organization (if applicable) and choose “myself” for the second question. Complete all questions on the form.

You have the option to pick up your receipt at the workshop (for in person workshops) or have the receipt email or mailed to you.

Staff Registrations

If a **centre or organization is paying the workshop fee**, please choose “My staff” in the second question. You will complete *one* registration for all your staff.



- ➔ The form can accommodate 1 to 20 staff. If you are registering more than 20 staff, please complete additional forms.
- ➔ This will save time by skipping several questions that would otherwise be repetitive and ensure a more streamlined registration and payment process.
- ➔ You will receive *one* detailed receipt to the address of your choosing. (Previous processes had individual receipts sent to participants.)
- ➔ Please have participants’ names, email addresses and workshop selections hand when you start the form.

Payments

Payment options:

1. Cheque

- Mailed to: Early Childhood Development Support Centre; NSCC Kingstec; 236 Belcher St.; Kentville, NS; B4N 0A6
- Dropped off: at the Support Centre.

2. Credit Card

- Via phone: call Sara 902-690-2531 or Justine 902-690-2514. You can also email us to arrange a time to call in advance – sara.graves@nsc.ca or justine.macdonald@nsc.ca
- In person: at the Support Centre

3. Cash

- In person: at the Support Centre

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Registration Processes

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Our usual hours are Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Feel free to call us in advance to ensure we're in the office or to arrange a time that is more convenient for you.

It is the responsibility of the participant, director, etc. to contact the Support Centre with payment.

Reminder: Participants are not registered, nor are spaces held, until both the registration form and payment are received.

Workshop Withdrawals

The deadline to withdraw from a workshop without penalty is reduced to one week (unless otherwise noted) to allow us to modify our supplies and contact our wait list. Withdrawals received by the deadline will result in a credit for a future workshop.

- ➔ The credit will expire after one calendar year.
- ➔ If the workshop was paid for by the participant, the credit will be set aside for use by that participant.
- ➔ If the workshop was paid for by an organization, the credit will be set aside for the organization to use for any of their staff.
- ➔ While the Support Centre will keep this information on file, it is the responsibility of the participant/centre/etc. to inform us when the credit should be used.

If you have any questions or comments regarding these new procedures, please let us know. This is a new process, but we hope it will be a more streamlined experience for you!

Resource Lending Library

Our Resource Lending Library contains hundreds of items from children's books and discovery kits, to books for you to extend your professional development! Here are our favourites at the moment! Explore our catalog here: <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/ecdsckingstec>

New Resources

Resource Books:

- Forest and Nature School in Canada
- Getting Started with Loose Parts

Felt Stories:

- Five Busy Honey Bees
- Five Little Monkeys

- Mr. Snake
- Penelope the Penguin
- Three Little Pigs
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar

Toys and Kits:

- Mini-motors (counting and sorting)
- My Wiggly Tooth
- Yoga Activity Kit 

Crafting Connections

Saturday, September 23rd

9:00 am—12:00 pm

3 PD Hours

Crafting Connections: Language and Literacy Essentials for Early Childhood Educators

Embark on a transformative journey into new ideas and techniques that support children's language and literacy development in early learning programs. This engaging workshop is designed for early learning professionals who are seeking opportunities to examine new ways to incorporate language and literacy into children's spaces and places. Through a blend of theory and hands-on activities, participants will explore innovative approaches that can be used to create language-rich environments, such as incorporating new storytelling techniques into their practice and in exploring ways to leverage interactive language and literacy experiences that can be triggered from

children's spaces and places.

Facilitator: Beverlie Dietze

Dr. Beverlie Dietze is a researcher, educator and an individual who is passionate about co-learning and investigating with educators on ways to create spaces and experiences that trigger children's curiosity, discoveries and sense of wonderment. She is the Editor-in-Chief and Publisher of the Play Outdoors: Exploring Outdoor Experiences in Early Years magazine. Beverlie has authored ten textbooks on various early childhood education topics and has several peer reviewed articles. She is a graduate of UNB, St. Francis Xavier University and the University of Toronto.

Venue: Online via Microsoft Teams

Fee: \$30

Registration Deadline: January 19th

Register at: bit.ly/ecdsaws

Get Creative with your Documentation

Thursday, May 16

6:30—8:30 pm | 2 PD Hours

Ever wanted to use Canva, PowerPoint or Google Slides to create beautiful documentation, but don't know where to start? This workshop will walk you through simple templates/ tips and tricks to make the most of these applications to create something beautiful.

Facilitator: Sara Graves

Sara Graves has been an Early Childhood Educator for the past 10 years. Her cur-

rent role as the Coordinator of the Early Childhood Development Support Centre at Kingstec, allows her to share her creativity and knowledge of the field with students and educators.

Venue: NSCC Kingstec, Kentville

Fee: \$20 (Free for those who successfully completed "Capture the Adventure")

Registration Deadline: May 10th

Register at: bit.ly/ecdsaws

Music and Movement and Body Awareness

Thursday, February 22nd

6:30—8:30 pm | 2 PD Hours

*Music and Movement and
Body Awareness: Early Years*

Enhance your students' learning through Arts exercises drawn from theatre, music and dance. At the same time, foster body awareness, self-expression, self-confidence, and group cohesion amongst your students. Build practices into your daily classroom management that spark movement, self-reflection and learning.

Facilitator: Kathy France

Kathy France is an actress, director, writer and Arts educator with 40 years of experience in creating and teaching theatre, writing and dance. Kathy has worked with countless teachers over the years and has taught over 1,000 school-age students in 8 countries. She is a fierce proponent of Integrated Arts in classroom learning - engaging students in creative, artistic process in order to enhance their learning outcomes.

Kathy is the founder and Artistic Director of CaravanTheatre, based in Wolfville (www.caravantheatre.ca). With this company, Kathy toured the world, living in such far-flung places as Thailand, Nepal, Trinidad, Yugoslavia and Syria. With her return to Canada in 2012, Kathy continues to work in theatre and dance, train students and teachers, and write spoken word poetry.

Venue: NSCC Kingstec, Kentville

Fee: \$20

Registration Deadline: February 15th

Register at: bit.ly/ecdscws

Be the Person You Want to Work With

Saturday, March 9th

9:30 am—12:30 pm | 3 PD Hours

Why we should care about how we work with co-educators, the children and their families.

In this professional learning we will reflect on who we are as individuals, how we work together and what we bring to early childhood education. We will explore such topics as self care, team work, values, communication with each other and relationship building with everyone around us.

Facilitator: Liz Hicks

Liz Hicks, elementary teacher from England, ECE diploma, 41 years in early childhood, in various capacities, and at present a private consultant working in early childhood education in NS, providing professional development in a variety of topics, and consultations and program co-ordination, plus writing and delivering modules for the NS Early Learning Framework and delivering Infant PD modules and Culturally Responsive Practices modules for NS Dept. of Ed and the Early Years. I believe children are capable, curious and have an innate need to connect with people and the world around them, which is also a belief I have for the educators that work with the children.

Venue: Online via Microsoft Teams

Fee: \$30

Registration Deadline: March 1st

Register at: bit.ly/ecdscws

Capture the Adventure

April to May 2024 (Read on for the schedule)

7-9 PD Hours

“A picture is worth a thousand words.” This is certainly true of images on documentation panels or those used to market your program online.

In this three-session workshop you will:

1. Learn the basics of composition and what goes into creating an interesting image
2. Develop ideas to incorporate photography and visual storytelling into your program
3. Learn the ethics and best practices of using photographs in documentation and marketing.

Participants may also take part in an optional “photo walk” to get hands on help and practice with your camera.

Each session will be followed by homework—a practical activity with feedback from the facilitator and fellow participants.

Session Dates:

1. Classroom: Thursday, April 4th—6:30 to 8:30 pm—Intro to Photography
2. Saturday, April 6th—10:00am to 12:00 pm—Photo walk (*Downtown Kentville. Optional. +2 PD hrs*)
3. Classroom: Thursday, April 18th—6:30 to 8:30 pm—Visual Storytelling
4. Classroom: Thursday, May 2nd—6:30 to 8:30 pm—Ethics

Participants must complete all classroom sessions, and the related homework, to successfully complete the workshop and receive PD credit of 7 hours.

They will also be eligible to attend “Get Creative with Your Documentation” for free.

Facilitator: Justine MacDonald

When I am not working at the ECDSC Kingstec as Sara’s Administrative Assistant, I am a published and award-winning photographer. My focus is travel and landscape photography and I am the official photographer for Wolfville’s Broken Leg Theatre.

Venue: All classroom sessions will take place at NSCC Kingstec, Kentville.

Fee: \$70* | **Registration Deadline:** March 28th

Register at: bit.ly/ecdscws





Find us Online

Website: www.nsc.ca/ecdsc
Facebook: facebook.com/ECDSC
Twitter: twitter.com/ECDSC

Accepting Workshop Proposals

The Early Childhood Development Support Centre is always looking to discover new facilitators and workshop topics!

Have a great idea for a workshop? Let us know by filling out this form.

<https://bit.ly/3O7RvyV>

Please pass this information on to anyone you think would be interested in this opportunity.

We are happy to mentor novice facilitators!

Submitting a proposal does not guarantee that we will reach out to schedule a workshop.



2024 Kingstec

Early Learning Conference

April 26th & 27th

NSCC Kingstec

Kentville, NS

Proposals for short, interactive presentations are still being accepted.

Contact us for more information or visit <https://bit.ly/3TPGA3r>