



GROW



Continuous Professional Learning in Durham



Welcome to the fall 2025 edition of GROW!

Dates to remember

September 22	Fall Equinox
September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
October 1	Islamic History Month begins
October 2	Yom Kippur
October 10	World Mental Health Day
October 20	Diwali
October 21	Child Care and Early Childhood Educator (ECE) Appreciation Day
November 8	Indigenous Veterans Day
November 16	Louis Riel Day
November 20	National Child Day
November 25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
December 25	Christmas Day

Email updates

To be notified when a new edition of GROW is available, please select the "Receive email updates" button at the bottom of the Resources for Child Care Professionals page on the Region of Durham webpage. You will receive an email notification to let you know a new GROW is available.

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Welcome to Fall 2025 GROW!

Welcome to the fall 2025 edition of the GROW Newsletter!

This fall, we're thrilled to offer a rich variety of professional development opportunities. Our exciting lineup of trainings and workshops will be delivered by:

- Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth
- Grandview Kids
- Children's Developmental and Behavioural Supports (CDBS)
- EarlyON
- Quality Assurance Advisors (QA)
- Training Specialists



Whether you're looking to strengthen your skills or explore new ideas, there's truly something for everyone. This edition features a range of sessions also focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as engaging Communities of Practice (CoP).

One highlight this season is the launch of a male educators CoP, offering a welcoming space for male professionals in child care to connect, share experiences, and celebrate their unique contributions.

On page seven, you will find information on our upcoming supervisors networking sessions, which is an excellent chance to exchange ideas, foster collaboration, and strengthen leadership. If you're based in north Durham, be sure to explore a dedicated session tailored just for you. You will find all north Durham offerings on page 14.

You will find important updates to the Durham Region Operating Criteria (DROC) guidelines on page nine, accompanied by sessions to help you explore and understand the changes.

Are you a home child care provider? Pages 15 and 16 feature workshops tailored just for you.

We're streamlining how you book time with the Resource Library—our new appointment form will make requests easier and more efficient. We've refreshed our early learning kits and look forward to collaborating with you in the library.

Lastly, mark your calendars for Tuesday, October 21: it's the 25th annual Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day! This year, we're switching things up with an inspiring evening of networking and celebration in place of the traditional sit-down dinner. Find more details on page 20.

Thanks for joining us this fall! We can't wait to learn, grow, and celebrate with you!

Durham Region Children's Services Division has a new name!

The Region of Durham's Children's Services Division has a new name to better reflect the services and supports offered. The new name is the "Child Care and Early Years Division."

The Child Care and Early Years Division is responsible for implementing the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system, and supporting Durham Region families to access affordable, accessible, responsive, and high-quality child care and early years programs and services.

The key priorities for the Child Care and Early Years Division are:

- Support expansion and access to child care.
- Enhance supportive and inclusive child care.
- Increase, attract and retain quality Registered Early Childhood Educators.
- Optimize virtual service delivery and technology.



Learn more about the Child Care and Early Years Division at durham.ca/ChildCareandEarlyYears.



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives in the Child Care and Early Years Division

October is Islamic History Month

Pioneer Islamic communities in Canada

October is Islamic History Month in Canada. It is a time to recognize and honour the rich contributions of Muslim individuals and communities to Canadian society. The theme for Islamic History Month 2025 is "Pioneer Communities in Canada".

Pioneer Muslim communities in Canada began forming in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, with some of the earliest arrivals settling in Alberta and Ontario. Many came from regions like Lebanon, Syria, and South Asia, seeking economic opportunities and a better life. Despite facing social and religious discrimination, these early Muslim settlers worked as farmers, merchants, and labourers, contributing to the growth of Canadian society while maintaining their faith and cultural traditions. In 1938, Canada's first mosque, the Al-Rashid Mosque, was built in Edmonton, marking a significant milestone in Muslim Canadian history. These early communities laid the groundwork for today's diverse and vibrant Muslim population across the country.

To learn more about Islamic History Month, visit [Islamic History Month Canada](#).

Community events to celebrate Islamic History Month

Islamic History Month celebration

Celebrate the contributions of Muslim people to the arts and sciences. This event will feature entertainment, food and retail vendors, free henna and free craft activities for children.

[Islamic History Month Celebration](#)

Islamic History Month storytime

Muslim Women of Durham Region has partnered with five local libraries to offer story time, crafts, face painting and henna in celebration of Islamic History Month. Click the link below for more information on event times, dates and locations:

[Islamic History Month Storytime](#)



Confronting Islamophobia: creating inclusive environments for Muslim children and families

Presented by: Region of Durham, Early Learning Team

To register for this virtual workshop, please select the date and time below:

Thursday, September 11, 2025
Location: Virtual
7 to 9 p.m.

With the rise of Islamophobia (anti-Muslim attacks) in Canada, it is important for educators to reflect on how they can support and be allies to Muslim children and families. In this informative and thought-provoking workshop, we will discuss what Islamophobia is, break down harmful stereotypes, and consider strategies to support the inclusion, safety, belonging and well-being of Muslim children and families in our programs.

Creating inclusive environments for Muslim children and families: make and take

Presented by: Region of Durham, Early Learning Team

To register for this in-person workshop, please select the date and time below:

Thursday, October 16, 2025
Location: Iroquois Park - Whitney Hall
500 Victoria Street West, Whitby, ON
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Educators are invited to explore and learn more about Islamic culture, history and art through hands-on activities. Participants will create inclusive materials that reflect and celebrate the diversity of Muslim children and families, and receive practical resources and ideas to foster an inclusive, welcoming environment in their programs.



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives in Child Care and Early Years Division

Mental health initiatives in Child Care and Early Years Division

World Mental Health Day — October 10, 2025

World Mental Health Day is a powerful opportunity for educators to build emotional literacy in young children, prioritize their own well-being, and foster mentally healthy environments. With this year's global theme emphasizing access and equity, educators play a key role in helping every child feel seen, safe, and supported.

Guided by Ontario's How Does Learning Happen? framework, which centres on the four foundations of Belonging, Well-Being, Engagement, and Expression, early years programs can nurture mental health in developmentally appropriate ways across all age groups. For infants and toddlers, this might look like responsive caregiving, consistent routines, and nurturing environments where emotional cues are met with warmth and attentiveness. Preschoolers benefit from intentional teaching of feelings through books, songs, and play, helping them name and manage big emotions. For school-age children, educators can create safe spaces for open conversations, model healthy coping strategies, and integrate mindfulness, storytelling, or journaling into their daily routines. Across all ages, it's important educators also care for their own mental health—building supportive staff relationships, accessing resources, and taking time for rest and reflection. These approaches align with the College of Early Childhood Educators' Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice, which emphasize inclusive, respectful relationships and the holistic well-being of children and educators.



With equity at the heart, programs can take intentional steps to celebrate diversity, remove barriers that prevent families and children from accessing mental health support, and build a lasting foundation of inclusion, care, and resilience—fostering a culture of mental health that extends beyond one day and into everyday practice.

To register for an upcoming session, please select a workshop below:

Window of Tolerance (Educators)

Offered by: Family Services Division Monday,
November 24, 2025 Location: Region of
Durham - Lower Level - Pickering Room
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Supervisor's Network: Smart Screens, Healthy Minds: Navigating Technology in Early Childhood

To register and for more information,
please refer to page seven.

2SLGBTQAI+ initiatives in the Child Care and Early Years Division



Want to create your own 2SLGBTQAI+ flag buttons? You can join us at the Resource Library!

This can be a creative way to show support, foster inclusivity, and spark conversations with educators, children, and families. Whether it's rainbow colours, affirming messages, or personal symbols, your button can be as unique as your program.

The 2SLGBTQAI+ community is important to learn about in early childhood settings because it helps create a safe and welcoming space for all children and families.

An example of how this could be done in your program is by teaching children and families about the different flags, such as the rainbow flag for pride, the transgender flag, and others, as these show that many people have different identities and experiences. Each flag has specific colours that represent important parts of those identities, helping children and families understand and respect everyone's unique story. This helps children and families feel accepted and teaches them to celebrate diversity and kindness.

Examples:

The Rainbow flag: Symbolizes the diversity and unity of the LGBTQ+ community. Each colour represents something (e.g., life, healing, sunlight, nature, harmony, spirit).



2-Spirit flag: Represents Indigenous North American people who embody both masculine and feminine spirits.



Trans flag: Blue and pink represent traditional colours associated with baby boys and baby girls, while the white stripes represent individuals transitioning, intersex, or identify as non-binary.





Strengthening our bonds - Indigenous early years learning

Hello! Aaniin!

As the season of autumn unfolds, we are invited to pause and reflect on the deep Indigenous teachings rooted in reciprocity, gratitude, and the interconnectedness of all our relations. This time of year, offers a meaningful opportunity to honour the gifts of the land and deepen our understanding of Indigenous worldviews.

Honouring the season of autumn

Autumn marks a time of change and preparation as the land transitions towards rest. In many Indigenous cultures, it is a season for giving and receiving gifts from the earth—symbolized by the colourful leaves, harvest abundance, and crisp air.

This time also coincides with the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a moment to honour survivors and communities affected by residential schools and to commit to respectful relationships grounded in truth and healing.

Consider incorporating stories, songs, and activities in your early learning spaces that celebrate gratitude, natural cycles, and respect for all our relations, fostering meaningful conversations about history, healing, and hope.



Honouring your Learning: Cultural Learning Journey

Each Indigenous-focused workshop you attend enriches your understanding and deepens your capacity. As a recognition of this ongoing journey, you will receive a Journey Bag item after each session - a meaningful token symbolizing the growing collection of teachings that support your practices. These Journey Bag items will accompany you every step of the way on your learning path.

Upcoming workshops

To register for this virtual teaching, please select the box below:

Indigenous history awareness and introduction to kits *

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Location: Virtual

7 to 9 p.m.

On the Journey - Community connections

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

Location: Region of Durham - Clarington Room

605 Rossland Road East, Whitby

7 to 8:30 p.m.

On the Journey - Connecting with traditions

Monday, November 17, 2025

Location: Region of Durham - LL Pickering Room

605 Rossland Road East, Whitby

7 to 8:30 p.m.

Honouring Winter Solstice

Monday, December 15, 2025

Location: Region of Durham - LL - Pickering Room

605 Rossland Road East, Whitby

10 a.m. to noon

*This information session is the prerequisite to borrowing one of the Indigenous sharing kits. It will provide participants with an overview of the history of Indigenous peoples in Canada. This interactive workshop will build on participants' knowledge of Indigenous culture. The final part of this session will include an introduction to the Indigenous sharing kits available to borrow by contacting Sacha Farrell at Sacha.Farrell@durham.ca.



EarlyON and additional information

EarlyON programs in Durham Region



EarlyON programming in Durham Region provides opportunities for children from birth to six years of age to participate in play and inquiry-based programs that support parents/caregivers in their roles.

Durham Region EarlyON Child and Family Centres offer safe and welcoming environments open to all families across Durham Region, with qualified professionals and quality programs. Families and caregivers will be able to find support, make personal connections, and access a network of resources. Please visit the [Durham Region website](#) for locations and schedules.



Ready Set Grow events

Bring your children to a free drop-in event for parents and caregivers of children, from newborns to six years, to ask questions about development, learning, speech, behaviour and more. Meet professionals from across Durham Region, ask questions and receive resources. Visit the [EarlyOn Child and Family Centres web page](#) for dates and locations.



KEYON

EarlyON is excited to introduce a new registration/attendance system. Families/caregivers can register at [KEYON | Sign in](#) and select the "become a member." Complete the registration form and pick up your key tag with your personal QR code at your next visit. Your key tag can be used at any EarlyON program that is using KEYON in Ontario. This new system will provide a faster, paperless check-in process, and will allow EarlyON to collect more accurate data.

Outdoor Explore and Discover

EarlyON programs in Durham Region provide opportunities for children who are newborn to six years of age to participate in play and inquiry-based programs to support parents/caregivers in their roles.

Play to Learn; Explore and Discover is one of many programs offered to families outdoors throughout the year. Locations include a variety of park sites across the region and also outdoor play spaces at some program locations.

Young children are naturally curious, and during these outdoor programs, educators engage with the children and adults in many inquiry-based, play experiences. Children will have the opportunity to question, explore and discover the world around them.

Families will use a variety of play materials provided to create, along with other ideas to replicate at home. This includes nature items, loose parts, treasure hunts, obstacle courses, art materials, etc.



To register for this event, please select the workshop date:

Dramatic Play Inspiration

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

Location: Saint Marguerite d'Youville (EarlyON)

250 Michael Blvd., Whitby

6:30 to 8:30 p.m.



Supervisors' Network

Leading with Intention: Trauma, Equity, and Inclusive Practices

To register for this event, please select the workshop date:

Date: Thursday, September 18, 2025

Time: 10 a.m. to noon

Location: Schoolhouse Playcare Head Office
1602 Tricont Ave, Suite 6,
Whitby ON L1N 7C3

Presented by: Rumina Morris, BSW, RSW



This session will provide supervisors with an opportunity to reflect on the unique role and responsibility of early years and child care centres in providing safe and inclusive environments for children, parents and caregivers. Early years and child care centres can influence children's understanding, accepting, and navigating differences from a very young age. Supervisors within this environment can model inclusive behaviour in the workplace. Participants will review foundational concepts such as equity, bias, and microaggressions. They will also learn about how racism is experienced as trauma, often intergenerationally. Through the use of a case scenario and facilitated discussion, attendees will practice identifying and responding to everyday work situations that may support a more inclusive workplace, early years and child care environment.

Smart screens, healthy minds: Navigating technology in early childhood



To register for this event, please select the workshop date:

Date: Thursday, November 27, 2025

Time: 10 a.m. to noon

Location: Schoolhouse Playcare Head Office
1602 Tricont Ave., Suite 6,
Whitby ON L1N 7C3

Presented by: Matthew Ricco and Shannon Soul

As technology becomes more integrated into our daily lives, early childhood educators face new challenges and considerations around screen use in their programs. This dynamic session explores what current research tells us about how screen time impacts young children's brain development, emotional regulation, and social learning. This session will dive into developmentally appropriate technology use for infants through school age children and best practice when considering what this can look like in high-quality early learning environments.

Participants will leave with:

- Up-to-date research on screen time and early brain development
- Clear, age-based guidelines for developmentally appropriate tech use
- Strategies for embedding intentional and meaningful technology use into our programs
- Tools for reflecting on screen practices in early learning environments and helping families do the same

Come away with practical insights and strategies to thoughtfully integrate technology into early learning— supporting healthy development, meaningful learning, and strong mental well-being.



QA Corner

As most of you know, we use the Durham Region Operating Criteria (DROC) to assess quality in child care centres in the Durham Region. We use this validated tool with permissions from Toronto, as Toronto Children’s Services is the creator and owner. Toronto will occasionally provide clarifications to ensure we are all assessing the same way, or to notify us of any changes. The recent clarifications will result in a slight change in how we currently assess:

1) Permanent sensory equipment accessible to children in the play environment:

Recent communication has reaffirmed the original intent of this sub-item: to support the inclusion of permanent, purpose-built sensory materials in program spaces. While previous examples, such as sensory bottles and artificial grass were provided, these were not aligned with the original intent. Moving forward, the focus will return to items such as water tables, light tables, tactile walls and floors, interactive sound or tactile panels, magnetic walls, and light cubes—equipment designed to offer consistent, long-term sensory engagement. For these sensory furnishings, lights must be on and lids must be off in order to be counted as accessible. This equipment should be set up in a way that invites children to independently explore and interact with it throughout the day. While materials for sensory play, such as sand or beads, can be stored on shelves, the equipment itself must be set up and open for ongoing sensory experiences. The AQI is assessing this sub-item as it was originally intended: to ensure that sensory equipment, not just materials, is always provided and accessible, making sensory engagement a natural part of children’s daily learning.

Examples like sensory bottles and artificial grass will be removed from the criteria.
This change may impact how programs meet expectations:

- Infant and toddler rooms may be affected in terms of meeting expectations.
- Preschool rooms may see changes in how they exceed expectations.

2) Attendance:

To align with current practice of some centres using on-line attendance through an app and some using paper attendance, the expectations regarding attendance have changed. We will accept paper or an app, understanding that to be considered, the on-line attendance must be accessible at all times and from all places that the children use as program space, including outdoors. If there is an event where the attendance is not accessible due to internet or other issues, it would be considered an Opportunity for Improvement (OFI).

3) Tagging photo documentation:

When tagging photos for observations in an app, the skill in which the children are learning is required to be identified, not just a domain tag. Having evidence of skill growth helps gain better insight into where a child is at and will provide direction on what the next skill-building focus may be. When tagging photos for evidence of daily interactions, there are no tags required.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your Quality Assurance Advisor for support.





QA corner

Workshops

Select the workshop below to be redirected to the registration page.

Updated Durham Region Operating Criteria (DROC) Guidelines: An information session Wednesday, September 17, 2025 Location: Virtual 7 to 8:30 p.m.	Introduction to Durham Region Operating Criteria (DROC): Infant Tuesday, September 23, 2025 Location: Virtual 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Introduction to Durham Region Operating Criteria (DROC): Toddler Thursday, October 9, 2025 Location: Virtual 7 to 8:30 p.m.	Updated Durham Region Operating Criteria (DROC) Guidelines: An information session Wednesday, October 15, 2025 Location: Virtual 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Durham Region Operating Criteria (DROC) Aha moments - Before and after Tuesday, November 4, 2025 Location - Region of Durham - LL - Courtice Room 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby 10:30 a.m. to noon	Updated Durham Region Operating Criteria (DROC) Guidelines: An information session Thursday, November 13, 2025 Location: Virtual 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Introduction to Durham Region Operating Criteria (DROC): Preschool Wednesday, November 19, 2025 Location: Virtual 7 to 9 p.m.	Introduction to Durham Region Operating Criteria (DROC): Before and after Thursday, December 4, 2025 Location: Virtual 10:30 a.m. to noon

Updated Durham Region Operating Criteria (DROC) guidelines coming in the fall

We are excited to announce the release of the updated DROC AQI guidelines for fall of 2025. The actual criteria for the DROC AQI is unchanged. This marks an important milestone in our ongoing efforts to advance inclusive practices within early learning environments. By making these changes, we aim to ensure that all children and families, regardless of their backgrounds or identities, have access to welcoming and supportive programs that nurture their development.

It is important to clarify that while the AQI requirements themselves remain unchanged, the language has been updated to reflect a more inclusive lens. This updated language is designed to better support our practice as educators by fostering a more equitable and welcoming approach in the way we engage with children and families. The shift in language is not about altering the core requirements, but rather about ensuring that our practices are more intentional, inclusive, and responsive to the diverse needs of the children, families, and communities we serve. By embracing this updated language, we are better equipped to create supportive, enriching environments that promote the growth and well-being of all children and families.

We are excited for you to explore these updates with us this fall, and we look forward to supporting you in integrating these inclusive practices into your work.

If you have questions, concerns or want to share something amazing you have done, do not hesitate to reach out to your QA!



Formation en français

Réseau de superviseurs

Veuillez cliquer sur la date pour vous inscrire.

Date : 25 Septembre, 2025

Heure : 10h à midi

Lieu : Région de Durham – Salle Courtice
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, ON

Rejoignez-nous pour une séance informative pour guider les superviseurs des services de gardes sur les récentes mises à jour de notre outil d'évaluation des critères d'exploitation de la région de Durham (CERD ÉAQ). Ces modifications visent à améliorer la clarté, l'inclusion et l'alignement avec les meilleures pratiques actuelles en apprentissage précoce. Les participants découvriront les raisons de ces mises à jour, exploreront des exemples de révisions et découvriront comment ces changements favorisent des évaluations plus équitables et plus efficaces. Un déjeuner léger sera offert.



Série sur le développement de la petite enfance

Cette série d'ateliers en cinq parties vous offrirez l'occasion de:

- Augmenter vos connaissances au sujet des étapes du développement des enfants.
- Vous aider à identifier l'équipement, le matériel et les adaptations qui soutiendront le développement des enfants.
- Découvrir les meilleures pratiques pour soutenir l'inclusion des enfants dans vos programmes.
- Accueillir des informations et des ressources pour vous aider à identifier des signaux d'alarmes concernant le développement des enfants.

Vous pouvez consulter les cinq formations ou y accéder individuellement:

1. Poupons
2. Bambins
3. Préscolaires
4. Maternelles / Jardins
5. Scolaires

Chaque formation durera environ 30 à 40 minutes.

Pour obtenir une version préenregistrée de ces ateliers, veuillez contacter, Christina Bilante, Superviseure de l'intégration de l'apprentissage précoce, Ressources pour les enfants et les jeunes exceptionnels par courriel à cbilante@rfecydurham.com.

Conversations difficiles

Offered by: Resources for Exceptional
Children and Youth

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Location: Virtual

7 to 8:30 p.m.

Un nouveau atelier pré-enregistré est disponible!

Cliquez sur la case pour vous inscrire.

Connexions authentiques- atelier pré-enregistré

Cet atelier explore l'importance des relations positives avec les enfants et les familles et propose des stratégies pratiques pour favoriser la connexion.





The Professional Resource Library for Durham's early learning and child care community

September to December 2025



The Resource Library is open to the public by appointment between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Wednesdays. Appointments are to be made with a minimum of one business day's notice.

Select here to book a Resource Library appointment.

The Resource Library is ideal for teamwork, networking and producing materials to enhance your program.



The Resource Library has the following free resources available to the early learning community: large and small button maker, large and small heated laminator, die-cutter, binding machine, reading materials and resources, training materials, DVDs, etc. We also have a variety of inquiry kits available for loan to support programming. For more information about the kits we have available, please visit the [Resource Library flyer](#).





Region of Durham

Health Department

Looking at food labels

Thursday, October 30, 2025

Location: Region of Durham - Clarington Room
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby
7 to 9 p.m.

Child Care and Early Years Division

Training Specialists

Growing relationships: Partnering with families through connection, curiosity and care

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

Location: Region of Durham - LL - Pickering Room
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Children's Developmental and Behavioural Supports

From zoo to zen: Creating flow and building a balanced learning environment

Thursday, September 25, 2025

Location: Iroquois Park Arena, Whitney Hall
500 Victoria St. W., Whitby
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Putting the break on back talk: Strategies for diffusing power struggles

Thursday, November 6, 2025

Location: Region of Durham - LL - Pickering Room
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Frequent flyers: Elopement behaviour in child care

Wednesday, November 26, 2025

Location: Virtual
Noon to 1:30 p.m.

How to register for a workshop?

Select the workshop below to be redirected to the Eventbrite registration link. A link to join the event will be emailed to you at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting's start time.



Community of Practice

For more details on these workshops and to register, select the workshop below to be redirected to the registration page.

**Male Educators Community of Practice:
Building connection in early childhood
education ***

Offered by: Region of Durham Early Learning
Thursday, November 20, 2025
Location: Region of Durham - Clarington Room
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Community of Practice: Before and after

Offered by: Early Learning Quality Assurance
Advisors and Training Specialists
Thursday, October 9, 2025
Location: Region of Durham - Clarington Room
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby
10:30 a.m. to noon

Community of Practice - Before and after

Offered by: Early Learning Quality Assurance Advisors
and Training Specialists
Tuesday, October 28, 2025
Location: Brooklin Community Library - Craft Room
8 Vipond Road, Brooklin
10:30 a.m. to noon

**Male Educators Community of Practice:
Building connection in early childhood
education ***

Offered by: Region of Durham Early Learning Team
Thursday November 6, 2025
Location: Region of Durham - LL - Ajax Room
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby
10:30 a.m. to noon

The Male Educators Community of Practice (CoP) is designed for men and gender-diverse people who identify as men that work in the early childhood education field. Recognizing that this demographic is underrepresented in the ECE field, the CoP aims to build a safe and supportive space where men and gender-diverse educators can connect, share, and grow together.





North Durham

For more details on these workshops and to register, select the workshop below to be redirected to the registration page.

Making outside fun again - Outdoor physical literacy for school-age children

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Presented by: PlayON

Location: Curiosity Before and After School Program

320 Queen Street, Port Perry

6:30 to 8:30 p.m.



Let's talk about the hard stuff- Building courage and confidence for sensitive conversations with families

Thursday, October 23, 2025

Presented by: Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth

Location: Curiosity Before and After School Program

320 Queen Street, Port Perry

7 to 9 p.m.



North Supervisors' Network - Ministry/Bringing DROC to Life

To register for this event, please select the workshop date:

Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025

Time: 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Location Scugog Memorial Public Library
231 Water St, Port Perry, ON
L9L 1C9



Presented by: Ministry of Education and Region of Durham, Quality Assurance Advisors
During this information session, a Senior Program Advisor from the Ministry of Education will provide information around recent licensing updates and trends with serious occurrences. Following this presentation, information regarding the Durham Region Operating Criteria will be provided.



Home Child Care

Separation anxiety in home child care

Separation anxiety is a normal part of child development and can begin before the first birthday and pop up again until age four. By working closely with families we can create routines, implement strategies and work to understand children's emotional response to change to help ease transition in to care.

What can we do as educators?

- Give the child tools to use when they are missing their family. This can be a family photo or a small item.
- Stay consistent. Consistency is important to ensure that children are prepared for the separation each day. We can support children experiencing separation anxiety by establishing and maintaining a consistent routine.
- Acknowledging the child's feelings and normalizing worry can support the goodbye routine. For example, say, "I can see that you are sad that mom/dad/grandparents/aunt/uncle is leaving, but they will return soon." It's perfectly natural for children to feel a range of emotions. It is important for children to feel heard and understood.
- Read books about separation, such as Anna Dewdney's *Llama Llama Misses Mama* and Audrey Penn's *The Kissing Hand*.
- Provide emotional support by allowing children to know that they are safe in your care.
- Provide resources and activities to help children build their toolbox. This could include different breathing exercises, games, books, meditation, etc.
- Help build their confidence through encouragement and support.
- Create a sense of belonging for the child in the program by adding a family photo, having them bring in their favourite toy/stuffed animal and even asking families what activities/foods the child enjoys to try incorporating them into the program.

What can parents do?

- Provide information about their child's strengths, favourite foods and activities.
- Develop a special goodbye handshake or special wave.
- Hug, kiss, high five and goodbye!
- Tuck a transitional object (i.e., a wishing stone, a small photo, or a special charm) in your child's backpack and fill it with love before you drop your child each day.
- Special notes that remind children that their family will return soon.
- Start the routine early. Start child going to bed and waking at the time they will be when they transition.

Transitioning to home childcare can be an emotional adjustment period. It's important to remember that we are a collaborative team with the families. Implementing practical tools and strategies, and keeping open communication will help to create an inviting, inclusive environment.



Home Child Care

For more details on these workshops and to register, select the workshop below to be redirected to the registration page.

Home Child Care Quality Measures 2025 updates
Wednesday, September 24, 2025
Location: Region of Durham - LL - Courtice Room
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Programming and routines for mixed aged groups in home child care
Wednesday, October 15, 2025
Location: Durham Community Health Centre
1320 Airport Road - Room 114, Oshawa
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Home Child Care Quality Measures 2025 updates
Wednesday, October 22, 2025
Location: Virtual
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Navigating separation anxiety: Easing the transition to home child care
Wednesday, November 12, 2025
Location: Virtual
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Home Child Care Quality Measures 2025 updates
Tuesday, November 25, 2025
Location: Virtual
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Duty to report for home child care providers
Monday, December 8, 2025
Location: Virtual
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth

FASD - 101
Tuesday, September 9, 2025
Location: Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth
865 Westney Road South, Ajax
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Every child belongs: Creating inclusive spaces in early learning environments through adaptation and action
Wednesday, October 1, 2025
Location: Durham Community Health Centre
1320 Airport Road - Room 115, Oshawa
7 to 8:30 p.m.



Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth

At the heart of the Resources Early Learning Inclusion Program is a powerful goal: to equip early childhood educators and child care providers with tools, knowledge, and confidence to support every child in their care.

Through personalized support, professional learning, and hands-on resources, the program fosters inclusive early learning environments where children can grow, explore, and thrive—regardless of their individual needs. By promoting a culture of collaboration and continuous growth, we're helping build nurturing spaces where educators feel supported and empowered, and where every child feels they truly belong. When educators feel confident, children flourish.

How can your Resource Consultant (RC) support you?

Flexible collaboration - Your RC provides on-site consultation visits to meet the needs of your program, offering insight and support tailored to your unique program. On-site consultations foster inclusive practices and empower you as an educator. Consultation visits are provided at minimum one time per month, at a time that works for you and your program. Onsite visits may also be provided more frequently with a higher level intensive when necessary to address specific goals or challenges you are experiencing in your program.

Targeted strategies and resources - Through observation and dialogue, your RC offers evidence-informed strategies to help support both individual children and group dynamics. Whether adapting your physical space or rethinking transitions, you'll receive resources that make inclusion feel possible.

In-the-moment coaching - From modeling effective interactions to offering feedback on strategies in real time, RCs provide hands-on coaching that encourages skill development—for both educators and children.

Developmental screening and monitoring - Notice something? Unsure what's typical or how to best share what you have seen with the child's family? RCs may assist with developmental screenings, help you monitor progress and prepare to share your findings with families to ensure that both feel supported and guided along the way.

Individual Support Planning

When children require tailored approaches, RCs can guide you through the creation and review of Individual Support Plans—ensuring every child's needs are understood and addressed.

Referrals and community connections

As your first point of contact, your RC can identify when it's time to involve a Special Needs Resourcing (SNR) partner agency and initiate referrals. They also collaborate with partner agencies across Durham Region to support the program holistically.

How can an RC support your overall program?

Inclusion Scale assessment

RCs can complete an Inclusion Scale, giving you a clear picture of where your program shines and where there's room to grow.

Professional learning opportunities

Workshops and training designed specifically around your program's needs give educators space to learn and grow their inclusive practice.

Collaborative action planning

Together, you and your RC will develop an actionable, evolving plan to support your program's short and long-term goals—and celebrate progress along the way.

How do RC's support families that attend your program?

RCs help bridge families with the resources they need. Whether it's service linkage or community referrals, their support can extend to the families you serve.

With an RC by your side, inclusion becomes more than achievable—it becomes transformative.

If you have questions about the Early Learning Inclusion Program or the role of the RC, please contact Bev Cummins, Director of Programs and Services, at 905-622-7659 or bcummins@rfecydurham.com.



Grandview Kids

Help yourself! - Promoting self-help skills in young children

Saturday, September 6, 2025

Location: Virtual

9 to 10:30 a.m.

Gestalt Language Processing

Saturday, September 20, 2025

Location: Virtual

9 to 10:30 a.m.

Language comprehension - The hidden delay

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Location: Virtual

6:30 to 8 p.m.

Tips and tools for feeding success

Monday, October 27, 2025

Location: Virtual

6:30 to 8 p.m.

Make and take: stories

Saturday, November 22, 2025

Location: Grandview Kids

1461 Harwood Avenue North, Ajax

9:30 to 11 a.m.

Using visuals in child care

Wednesday, November 26, 2025

Location: Virtual

6:30 to 8:00 p.m.



Visit our page at durham.ca/BecomeAnRECE to learn more about pathways to education, financial assistance and academic programs.



Pre-recorded workshops - fall 2025

For more details on these pre-recorded workshops and to register, select the workshop below to be redirected to Visme or an Eventbrite registration page.

Introduction to behaviour management prerequisite learning certificate

Offered by:

Children’s Developmental and Behavioural Supports

Preventing the storm - Online certificate

Offered by:

Children’s Developmental and Behavioural Supports

Standing up to bullying (Pre-recorded)

Offered by:

Children’s Developmental and Behavioural Supports

Don't bite me - Understanding biting in child care

Offered by:

Children’s Developmental and Behavioural Supports

Respect in the early learning workplace (self-guided)

The power of reinforcement

Offered by:

Children’s Developmental and Behavioural Supports

Frequent flyers - elopement behaviour in child care

Offered by:

Children’s Developmental and Behavioural Supports

They are my size.... what now? School-age engagement

Offered by:

Children’s Developmental and Behavioural Supports

Stay calm and make a plan (pre-recorded)

Offered by:

Children’s Developmental and Behavioural Supports

Why are you still awake? Please go to sleep!

Offered by:

Children’s Developmental and Behavioural Supports

To access additional pre-recorded workshops, please select the link to the Region of Durham [website](#).

How to register for a pre-recorded workshop?

1. Select the box displaying the workshop title.
2. You will be redirected to the Eventbrite registration link.
3. The selected workshop page will open.
4. Select "Reserve a Spot" on the event dashboard page.
5. Complete the Contact Information and select "Register."
6. Complete the Ticket General Admission information.
7. You will receive the link to the event with the confirmation email.
8. Select the link from your email and enjoy the workshop!



Upcoming events

25th Annual Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day

You are invited to an inspiring evening where insight meets connection.

Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025
Location: Ajax Convention Centre
550 Beck Crescent
Ajax, ON L1Z 1C9
Time: 6 to 9 p.m.

Get ready to mingle, munch, and make memories! The evening will be packed with delicious food stations and interactive activities. Grab your event passport, collect stamps as you go, and earn a swag bag, entry into our grand prize raffle, and chances to win spin-the-wheel prizes for your centre!

Note: Tickets will be available on Monday, September 8, 2025.
Please select the box to register for this event.



Important information

Participant cancellation

Prompt notification is required if a participant is unable to attend an event, training or workshop. This ensures resources can be managed and reallocated effectively, including expenses for items such as snacks, meals or prepared supplies. Cancellation can be done directly through Eventbrite or by contacting Jennifer Titterton at Jennifer.Titterton@Durham.ca.

Surveys and certificates

The Child Care and Early Years Division is using QR codes for professional development feedback surveys and certificates. A QR code with a direct link to the feedback survey and event certificate will be shared with all participants at the end of training events, allowing attendees to print or save certificates directly to their personal devices. For any difficulties accessing the survey or certificate, please contact Jennifer Titterton at Jennifer.Titterton@durham.ca within one week following the event to request an electronic certificate.



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News and information

Early Childhood Education and Leadership Grant Programs

Do you qualify for the Ontario Early Childhood Educator Qualification Upgrade Program?



Educators with six months of past or current experience working within a formal early learning program, licensed child care, and unlicensed home child care environment may qualify for financial support for tuition, travel and associated costs to complete an Early Childhood Educator (ECE) diploma (full-time and part-time) at an approved Ontario College for Applied Arts and Technology.

Individuals who identify as Francophone, First Nation, Métis or Inuit are exempt from the required six months work experience if they have a minimum of one day of employment within an eligible agency.

Visit [ECE Grants – Education Grant](#) for more information regarding eligibility, qualifying programs and how to apply.

Did you know Ontario offers employed RECE leadership education grants in eligible fields of study?

Currently employed RECEs with at least two years of experience may qualify for leadership education grants to cover part-time tuition costs in an eligible field of study at a recognized Ontario College for Applied Arts and Technology.

Individuals who identify as Francophone, First Nation, Métis or Inuit are exempt from the required two years of experience if currently employed with an eligible agency.

Eligible fields of study include:

- Pedagogical leadership in Early Childhood Education.
- Early Childhood Education administration and management.
- Facilities management.
- Financial management, responsibility and child care governance.
- Human resources, employment standards and labour relations.

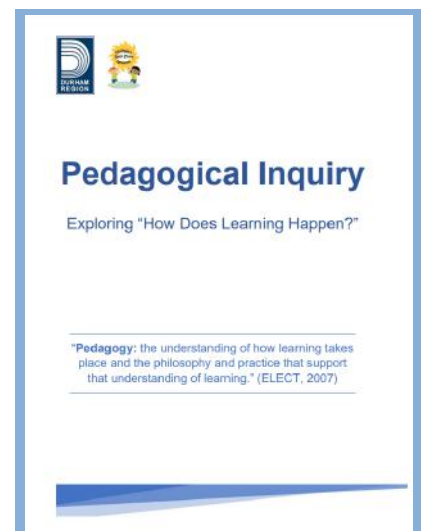
Pedagogical Leader Networking Series



This spring we launched a pedagogical leadership series with great success.

This fall we will be continuing the series and providing an opportunity for leaders to share their unique experiences, and network with one another to strengthen their skills as leaders. If you are interested, and would like more details, please contact Janine Keith at

Janine.Keith@durham.ca.





For more information, please contact:

Child Care and Early Years Division : durham.ca/ChildCareandEarlyYears

Janine Keith: Janine.Keith@durham.ca or 905-668-4113 ext. 2755.

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-387-0642