



GROW



Continuous Professional Learning in Durham



Welcome to the winter 2026 edition of GROW!

Dates to remember

- January 4 - World Braille Day.
- January 21 - Bell Let's Talk Day.
- January 27 - Family Literacy Day .
- January 29 - Day of Action Against Islamophobia.
- February - Black History Month.
- February 14 - Missing Women Memorial March.
- February 16 - Family Day.
- February 25 - Pink Shirt Day.
- February to March - Ramadan.
- March 8 - International Women's Day.
- March 16 to 20 - March Break.
- March 17 - St. Patrick's Day.
- April 3 - Good Friday.
- April 5 - Easter Sunday.

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 web page. You will receive an email notification to let you know a new GROW is available.

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Welcome to winter 2026 GROW!

Happy new year and welcome to the winter 2026 edition of the GROW newsletter.

Within this edition of the GROW newsletter, educators can find some fantastic virtual and in-person opportunities being offered by Grandview Kids, Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth (RFECY), Children's Developmental and Behavioural Supports (CDBS), Family Services, EarlyON and the Early Learning Team.



In celebrating and honouring Black History Month this February, this edition of GROW explores some examples of ways that educators can celebrate in their programs. Educators are also invited to join Anisha Angella, The Early Childhood Coach, who will guide a workshop on moving from symbolic gestures to meaningful daily practices that uplift Black children, families and colleagues. More information can be found on page three.

This season, we are excited to offer three Supervisor Network sessions. When Generations Collide and Motivational Interviewing are back by popular demand, and we're also introducing a new session on the Early Development Instrument (EDI) to provide supervisors with information, practical tools and insights around supporting children's development within Durham Region. You can visit page seven to register for one of these opportunities.

In the fall edition of GROW, the Quality Assurance (QA) team began offering the Updated Durham Region Operating Criteria (DROC) Guidelines: An information session. We are excited to announce that the updated DROC Assessment for Quality Improvement (AQI) guidelines will be released this winter. To learn more about these updates or to register for the information session, see page nine.

We are happy to share some exciting news happening at the Resource Library. This year, we are launching monthly prize draws for everyone who visits the Resource Library. Each visit earns an entry, and returning kits complete with all components earns a bonus ticket! Draws take place at the end of each month, with winners notified by email. The more you visit, the more chances you have to win! You can learn more about this exciting opportunity on page 11.

We're thrilled to highlight that Children's Development and Behavioural Supports will be offering a new Question and Answer session for home child care providers, to answer questions about child development and behaviours. The discussion will be based on resources and topics that can be found on page eight.

We have also featured a new resource released by the College of Early Childhood Educators, Professional Supervision: Reducing Risks in the Environment. This resource offers strategies to support professional supervision and reduce risks in all learning environments, especially outdoors. You can find more information on page 21.

Lastly, as we are already looking ahead to spring, don't miss page 20 for a full list of "save the date" events coming your way.





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

February is Black History Month

Each February, Canadians celebrate Black History Month. This is a time to honour the achievements, stories and contributions of Black Canadians, past and present. For early childhood educators, it's an opportunity to highlight diversity, belonging and representation in meaningful ways. By sharing stories that celebrate Black joy, resilience and creativity, we help children see that Black history is an essential part of Canada's story; not just in February, but every day of the year.

Ideas for celebrating Black History Month in your programs

- Explore music, colours and food from global Black cultures.
- Go beyond exploring prominent Black figures in history by looking at local Black community leaders.
- Update your book library with books from Black Canadian authors such as Jael Richardson, Itah Sadu or Zetta Elliott.
- Partner with local community organizations, such as the Durham Family and Cultural Centre, to offer enrichment programs in your centre
- Celebrate the diversity and stories of families, showing that Black history is part of everyday life.

Use this month as an opportunity to reflect on inclusion and how to maintain diverse representation in your programs year-round.

Belonging Beyond February - The Early Childhood Coach

Thursday, February 12, 2026

Location: Virtual

Time: 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Presenter: Anisha Angella, The Early Childhood Coach

This workshop invites early childhood professionals to move from symbolic gestures to transformational daily practice that allows Black children, families and colleagues to feel seen, valued, and uplifted every single day of the year.

THE **early** COACH⁺
childhood



Stars, moons and moments of kindness: Learning about Ramadan and Eid

Ramadan is a special month observed by many Muslim families around the world, and is a time of reflection, gratitude and community. During Ramadan, families focus on kindness, helping others and sharing meals after sunset. When the month ends, the joyful celebration of Eid al-Fitr marks a time for togetherness, delicious food and giving gifts.

In early learning settings, this is a wonderful opportunity to explore themes of empathy, giving and celebration in ways that are meaningful for children. Try setting up a cozy "night sky" corner with stars and moons, read picture books featuring Muslim families, invite children to share about celebrations that are special in their own homes or organize a food drive with a local Muslim community partner. Small acts of curiosity and inclusion help every child feel seen and valued.

Ramadan will begin in February 2026, ending in March 2026 with the celebration of Eid al-Fitr. Exact dates are not yet known because the Islamic calendar is a lunar calendar and the start of each month traditionally depends on the sighting of the new crescent moon.



For book recommendations, material and activity ideas, or any additional resources, contact Training Specialist, Ameera Alhiraki, at Ameera.Alhiraki@durham.ca.



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

New mental health resource library resource binders

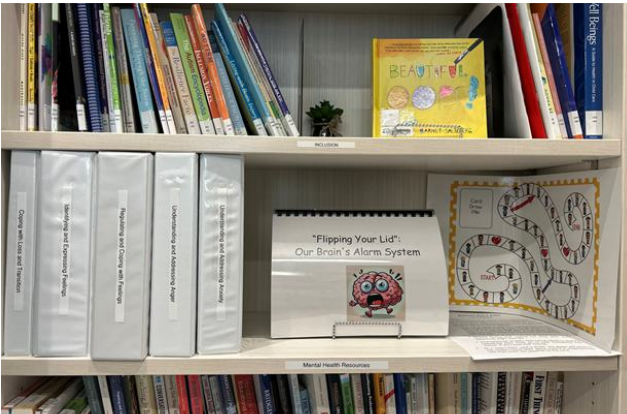
Supporting children’s mental health is an essential part of early learning, and we’re excited to share some new additions to our Resource Library! In partnership with the Region’s Family Services Division, we have developed a series of topic-focused binders designed to help educators foster emotional well-being in their programs.

Each binder includes information to enhance educators’ own knowledge and practices, along with practical activities and resources to support children’s social and emotional development.

Topics include:

- Coping with loss and transitions.
- Identifying and expressing feelings.
- Regulating and coping with feelings.
- Understanding and addressing anger.
- Understanding and addressing anxiety.

These binders are available for educators to explore in the Resource Library. If educators find something they would like to use in their program, our team can provide copies of articles, resources or activities to take away with them. We invite you to stop by and discover new tools to support both your professional growth and the emotional health of the children in your care.



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

Applying the Window of Tolerance to Workplace Relationships (Educators)

Offered by: Family Services Division

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Location: Region of Durham - Clarington Room
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby
7 to 8:30 p.m.

For more information or to register for Supervisor Network mental health opportunities, including **When Generations Collide** and **Motivational Interviewing**, please refer to page seven.

Supporting children's gender identities and expression



Gender Creative Kids Canada created a tool to help trans children and youth, and their families by making our society a safer and more inclusive place.

Not only is Sam an educational tool, it is also a symbol of pride, acceptance and understanding. Sam gives the opportunity to contribute in the fight against transphobia by educating children and youth on questions around identity, gender expression and how important it is to be compassionate and to respect trans, non-binary and gender diverse people.

For more information visit: [Sam's Story](#) and/or [The You Inside Project](#)

For many people, the gender they are assigned at birth with aligns with who they are. But for some, their sex and gender identity are not aligned. These children are sometimes called gender independent. Other terms are non-binary, gender diverse, gender non-conforming, gender-expansive, trans, and for some Indigenous children, Two-Spirit.

Supporting children's gender identities and expressions can look like:

- Thanking children for their honesty in sharing their feelings with you.
- Listening to every child, as this can help you identify what challenges they are experiencing and determine how you can best support them.
- Allow space for gender expression and give children permission to be themselves.
- Respect the children's preferences regarding pronouns and names.
- Offer to connect children and families to safe spaces and helpful resources in the community.
- Find opportunities to show the children that Two-Spirit, trans, non-binary, gender independent, and gender non-conforming people exist, are valued, and belong to many communities who appreciate them.





Strengthening our bonds - Indigenous early years learning

Hello! Aaniin!

We are Sacha (Training Specialist supporting Indigenous programs) and Chelsea (Early Years Indigenous Cultural Coordinator) and we are thrilled to connect with you this season as we continue to grow and learn together.

Winter as a time of connection

In First Nations, Métis and Inuit ways of knowing, the cycles of the seasons are our teachers. Winter invites us to slow down and listen—to the land, to our hearts and to one another. Even though many plants and animals appear to rest, life continues quietly beneath the snow. This understanding reminds us that we, too, are part of the natural rhythms around us.

This season also offers many opportunities to celebrate love and family. In many Indigenous cultures, love is one of the Seven Grandfather Teachings—a guiding value that teaches us how to live in balance with ourselves, others and the world around us. Through an Indigenous lens, love is more than affection; it is respect, connection and care for all living beings. It is about relationships—with people, the land and all of creation.

The eagle and the teaching of love

In the Seven Grandfather Teachings, love is represented by the Eagle, symbolizing strength, vision and the ability to see the good in all things.

The eagle soars highest, carrying our intentions to the Creator. For educators, this teaching reminds us to guide children in seeing with love—fostering kindness, empathy, gratitude and care for the land, one another and themselves.

In practice, this might look like intentional moments of gratitude, storytelling that highlights compassion, or outdoor experiences that nurture a sense of connection and respect for the natural world.

Invitations for practice

Introduce the Seven Grandfather Teachings in simple, child-friendly language, focusing on how we show love—for ourselves, others and Mother Earth.

Guide children in creating kindness projects, emphasizing love in action, not just in words. Use art, song or movement to express love and belonging within the classroom community. Encourage children to learn the word for love in multiple languages; In Anishinaabemowin, "love" is Zaagidwin.

New Indigenous Resource Library Opening Winter 2026!

If you would like to book an appointment contact:
Sacha Farrell at 905-431-5385 or
Chelsea Conner at 905-259-0875



Photo taken by: Taylor Henderson

Upcoming workshops

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

Indigenous History Awareness and Introduction to Kits *

Tuesday, January 13, 2026
Location: Virtual
7 to 9 p.m.

On the Journey - Everyday Play

Tuesday, March 3, 2026
Location: Region of Durham - Clarington Room
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby
7 to 8:30 p.m.

*This information session is the pre-requisite 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.ca/EarlyON for locations and schedules.



Ready, Set, Grow events

Bring your children to a free drop-in event for parent 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 durham.ca/EarlyON for dates and locations.



KEYON

EarlyON is excited to introduce a new registration/attendance system. Families/caregivers can register at [KEYON | Sign in](https://durham.ca/EarlyON) 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 outdoor play spaces at some program locations.

Young children are naturally curious. 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 can use a variety of play materials provided to create. They will also get 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:



Music and Movement - Low cost, no cost - Make and Take

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Location: Saint Marguerite d'Youville (EarlyON)

250 Michael Blvd., Whitby

6:30 to 8 p.m.





Supervisors' Network

When Generations Collide



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

Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2026
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Location: Region of Durham - 200 John Street West, Suite C1A, Oshawa
Presented by: Region of Durham, Early Learning Team

When Generations Collide is a practical session that helps supervisors navigate differing generational values, communication styles, and leadership approaches. The focus is on moving beyond stereotypes, strengthening cross-generational collaboration, and building more cohesive, adaptable

Motivational Interviewing

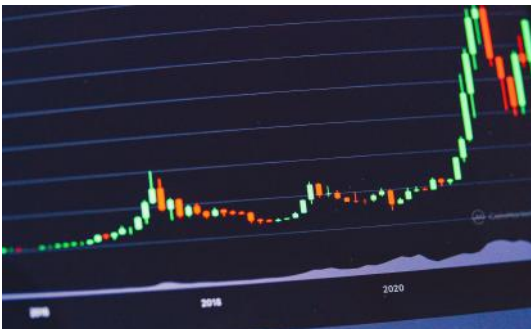
To register for this event, please select the workshop date:

Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026
Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: Schoolhouse Playcare Head Office
1402 Tricont Avenue, Unit #6, Whitby
Presented by: Region of Durham, Early Learning Team



This session explores the core principles and techniques of Motivational Interviewing (MI), offering practical strategies to strengthen communication, reduce resistance, and foster professional curiosity. Participants discuss how MI's collaborative, strengths-based approach can support reflective conversations, particularly when navigating challenging behaviours, resistance to feedback, or burnout. The workshop also provides actionable tools to lead with empathy while supporting autonomy and building confidence within teams operating in fast-paced, high-demand environments.

Early Development Instrument (EDI)



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

Date: Thursday, March 26, 2026
Time: 10 a.m. to noon
Location: Region of Durham - 200 John Street West, Oshawa
Presented by: Region of Durham, Early Learning Team

This workshop will be an interactive session designed to deepen your understanding of Instrument (EDI) and its practical uses.



QA Corner

Leadership Conversations

The Quality Assurance Advisors (QA) have been meeting with individual supervisors for a leadership conversation. This conversation provides an opportunity to reflect on the supervisors leadership roles and responsibilities and how they impact the team, children, families and your community. It also provides time for the supervisor and QA to build on their relationship, hopefully continuing to build trust and mutual respect. Opportunities are sought to identify areas where supervisors can be better supported. Effort is made to support challenges faced by supervisors through professional learning, team building, specific training or resources.

The leadership discussion will embed the four foundations of How Does Learning Happen?, and through reflective conversations, may include the following areas of focus:

- Program successes and milestones.
- Program quality and processes.
- Partnerships and responsive relationships.
- Professional learning and reflection.
- Coaching and mentoring.
- Wellness.

A short survey will be sent out in December to capture your thoughts about leadership conversations.

Please let your QA know when a room is changed or added. Visits are scheduled with an attempt to be the least disruptive to your program. For larger sites, QAs aim to schedule multi-day assessments close together. When notified of changes, plans can be adjusted to complete assessments in a smooth continuous flow. Your ongoing communication is appreciated.





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, January 14, 2026
Location: Virtual
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Introduction to Durham Region Operating Criteria (DROC): Infant

Tuesday, January 20, 2026
Location: Virtual
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Introduction to Durham Region Operating Criteria (DROC): Toddler

Thursday, February 5, 2026
Location: Virtual
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Updated DROC Guidelines - An Information Session

Wednesday, February 11, 2026
Location: Virtual
6:30 to 8 p.m.

Introduction to Durham Region Operating Criteria (DROC): Preschool

Tuesday, February 24, 2026
Location: Virtual
7 to 9 p.m.

Durham Region Operating Criteria (DROC) Aha moments - Before and after

Thursday, March 5, 2026
Location: Virtual
10:30 a.m. to noon

Durham Region Operating Criteria (DROC) Aha Moments

Tuesday, March 31, 2026
Location: Region of Durham - Uxbridge Room
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby
7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

We are excited to announce the release of the updated DROC AQI guidelines for winter of 2026. 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 winter, 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

Communauté de pratique: Avant et après l'école

Veuillez cliquer sur la case pour vous inscrire.

Date: 27 Janvier, 2026

Heure: 10h à 11h30

Lieu: Virtuel

Au sein de nos communautés de pratique, nous favorisons un esprit de communauté, de collaboration, de confiance, de respect et des échanges constructifs entre les participants. Nous nous efforçons de créer un environnement où chacun peut s'exprimer librement, en tenant compte des différentes perspectives, opinions et expériences. Nous étudierons les critères d'exploitation de la région de Durham, notamment les lignes directrices pour dépasser les attentes.



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.

Modifications et adaptations : Créer des milieux inclusifs

Lieu: Ressources pour enfants et jeunes exceptionnels

Date: 18 Février, 2026

Heure : 7h à 8h30

Location: Virtual

Réseau de superviseurs

Veuillez cliquer sur la date pour vous inscrire.

Date : 3 Mars, 2026

Heure : 10h30 à midi

Lieu : Région de Durham – Bibliothèque de ressources
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, ON

Les responsables de garderies francophones et bilingues sont invités à une séance de réseautage, où ils pourront poser des questions et participer à une discussion collaborative. Le déjeuner et des rafraîchissements seront offerts





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

Visit the Resource Library and win!

This year, we are introducing something new! We are excited to announce our new monthly draws for anyone who visits the Resource Library!

Each time you visit during the month - whether it is for a tour, to laminate or to sign out a kit, you will be entered for a chance to win a free resource or material for your program!

✨ Bonus entry: Return a Resource Library kit with all its components and you will receive an extra ticket in the draw!

Draws will be held at the end of each month and winners will be contacted via email.

We cannot wait to see you at the Resource Library. The more you visit, the more chances you have to win!



January to March 2026



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 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

Child Care and Early Years Division

Training Specialists



Environment as a Third Teacher

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Location: Virtual

7 to 8:30 p.m.



Children's Developmental and Behavioural Supports

Don't Bite Me: Understanding biting in child care

Thursday, January 15, 2026

Location: Virtual

1 to 2 p.m.

Standing up to Bullying

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Location: Region of Durham, Clarington Room

605 Rossland Road East, Whitby

6 to 8:30 p.m.



Cool, Calm and Connected: Helping children to regulate and reconnect

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Location: Region of Durham, Clarington Room

605 Rossland Road East, Whitby

6:30 to 8 p.m.



Workshop registration

How to register for a workshop?

Select a workshop and you will be redirected to the Eventbrite registration link. For virtual events, a link 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.

Community of Practice: Male Educators Perspective

Offered by: Region of Durham Early Learning
Thursday, January 29, 2026
Location: Region of Durham,
200 John Street West, Oshawa
10:30 a.m. to noon

Community of Practice: Before and After Educators

Offered by: Region of Durham Early Learning
Tuesday, February 3, 2026
Location: Region of Durham - Uxbridge Room
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby
10:30 a.m. to noon

Community of Practice: Male Educators Perspective

Offered by: Region of Durham Early Learning
Wednesday, February 25, 2026
Location: Region of Durham - Uxbridge Room
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby
7 to 8:30 p.m.





North Durham

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

Invitations to Play

Thursday, January 22, 2026

Presented by: EarlyON

Location: R.H. Cornish Public School

494 Queen Street, Port Perry

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sensory - Make and Take

Thursday, February 26, 2026

Presented by: EarlyON

Location: Curiosity Before and After School Program

320 Queen Street, Port Perry

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.



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.



Home Child Care

Home Child Care Providers--we hear you!

Based on past survey results, we understand you're looking for more workshops and resources to support you with child development and behaviours. To help answer some of your questions, we've included several helpful links below.

[Child Development - Region of Durham](#)

[Introduction to Behaviour Management](#)

[Preventing the Storm – Prevention strategies for behaviour](#)

[Behaviour basics pamphlet](#)

Other helpful resources/webinars:

[Infant Mental Health series by Sick Kids](#)

[Biting](#)

[Sleep](#)

[Early Years Check-In - Welcome | Health HQ](#)

[Behaviour Basics- Understanding Behaviour](#)

[Preventing Biting](#)

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 - Using the Assessment

Presented by: Region of Durham - Quality and Contract Compliance Advisor

Thursday, February 26, 2026

Location: Virtual

7 to 8:30 p.m.

Home Child Care - Make and Take

Presented by: Region of Durham - Quality and Contract Compliance Advisor

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Location: Region of Durham - Uxbridge Room

605 Rossland Road East, Whitby

6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Upcoming Q&A opportunity!

Marcia MacKay (Senior Behaviour Consultant) from Children's Developmental and Behavioural Supports will join the call to answer your questions about child development and behaviours. After reviewing the resources above, come prepared with your questions. Click the box to register for the workshop.

Home Child Care Question and Answer - Child development and behaviour

Thursday, January 29, 2026

Presented by: Marcia MacKay

Location: Zoom meeting

12:30 to 2:30 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.

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. These collaborative sessions foster inclusive practices and empower you as an educator. Consultation visits are once a month, minimum, and can be more frequent and intensive when needed to address a specific need.

Targeted strategies & 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 and powerful.

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.

How does the RC support children's growth?

Developmental screening & monitoring

Notice something and/or feeling unsure? RCs may assist with developmental screenings and observations, helping you monitor progress and decide when additional support may be needed.

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 strategies are in place to support that child to meaningfully participate in the program.

Referrals and community connections

As your first point of contact, your RC will work with you to 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 they support growing your program?

Inclusion scale assessment

RCs can help you 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 long-term goals—and celebrate progress along the way.

Supporting families too

RCs help bridge families with the resources they need. Whether it's service linkage or community referrals, their support extends 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.



Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth

Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth

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

Inclusive Beginnings - Programming and planning for all children

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Location: Virtual

7 to 8:30 p.m.

Grandview Kids

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

Clearly Speaking

Saturday, January 10, 2026

Location: Virtual

9 to 10:30 a.m.

Receptive Language - The Hidden Delay

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Location: Virtual

6:30 to 8 p.m.

Help Yourself! (Promoting Self-Help Skills in Young Children)

Thursday, February 19, 2026

Location: Virtual

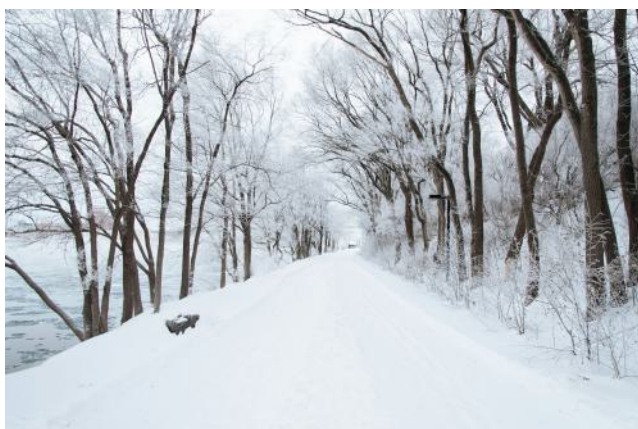
6:30 to 8 p.m.

Dual Language Learners

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Location: Virtual

6:30 to 8 p.m.





Upcoming events

Early Learning Conference

Date: Saturday, March 28, 2026

Location: J. Clarke Richardson
1355 Harwood Avenue North
Ajax, Ontario

Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

More information to come.

Save the dates

Early Learning and Child Care Showcase 2026

Date: Saturday, April 11, 2026
Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Conférence française sur l'apprentissage précoce 2026

Date: Jeudi, 29 mai, 2026
Heure: 18h à 21h

North Durham Conference 2026

Date: Thursday, June 4, 2026
Time: 6:30 to 9 p.m.



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



Pre-recorded workshops - winter 2026

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)

Offered by: The Early Learning Training Specialist Team, Region of Durham

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!



News from the College of Early Childhood Educators

New resource available: Professional Supervision: Reducing Risks in the Environment

One in three concerns received by the College relates to inadequate supervision of children. This supplementary resource focuses on strategies to reduce risks and support professional supervision in a variety of environments where children learn and play. While risks can arise in any setting, they are often heightened outdoors, such as on playgrounds, in yards or during field trips.

Please click on the link to access this resource: [Professional Supervision: Reducing Risks in the Environment](#)



Identifying hazards



Maintaining environmental awareness



Responding to dynamic conditions



Communicating with clarity



Ensuring safe and supportive transitions



Assessing and improving strategies



Nouvelle ressource disponible: La surveillance professionnelle: Réduire les risques dans l'environnement

Une préoccupation sur trois reçue par l'Ordre concerne une surveillance inappropriée. Cette ressource complémentaire met l'accent sur les stratégies visant à réduire les risques et à renforcer la surveillance au sein des divers milieux où les enfants jouent et apprennent. Bien que des risques puissent survenir dans n'importe quel de ces milieux, ils sont souvent plus élevés à l'extérieur (cours, terrains de jeux, sorties, etc.).

Veuillez cliquer sur le lien pour accéder à cet ressource: [La surveillance professionnelle: Réduire les risques dans l'environnement](#)



Repérer les dangers



Rester attentif à l'environnement



Réagir aux conditions changeantes



Communiquer avec clarté



Assurer des transitions sécuritaires et adaptées



Évaluer et améliorer les stratégies





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.



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