



GROW



Continuous Professional Learning in Durham



Welcome to the spring 2026 edition of GROW!

Dates to remember

- April 2 - World Autism Awareness Day
- April 3 - Good Friday
- April 5 - Easter Sunday
- April 12 - International Day of Pink
- April 22 - Earth Day
- May - Asian Heritage Month
- May 5 - Cinco de Mayo
- May 15 - International Day of Families
- May 27 - Eid al-Adha
- June - Pride Month
- June - National Indigenous History Month
- June 12 - World Day Against Child Labour
- June 21 - National Indigenous Peoples 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 web page. You will receive an email notification to let you know a new GROW is available.

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Welcome to spring 2026 GROW!

Welcome to the spring 2026 edition of the GROW newsletter!

It has been a long winter and we are excited to welcome spring with more in-person gatherings, including three upcoming events: the Early Learning and Child Care Showcase and Job Fair, the French Early Learning and Appreciation Event and the North Durham Early Years Conference. All three of these events are going to be exciting, engaging and full of opportunities to connect. More information can be found on page 20.

We continue to celebrate diversity, equity and inclusion by honouring the many identities, cultures and lived experiences that shape our community. Please take a moment to explore pages three to seven to learn more about upcoming celebrations and training opportunities.

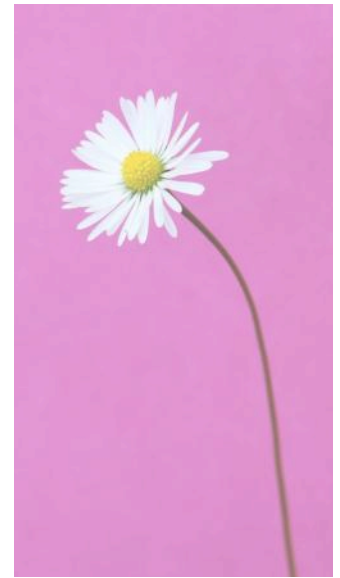
We are thrilled to share that our Indigenous Resource Library has expanded and moved to 600 Townline Road South in Oshawa. Join us for our open house on Tuesday, June 9 (page seven). Enjoy traditional Indigenous treats, explore the new space and connect with our Indigenous Early Learning team.

This spring, there are three Supervisors' Network sessions, including one in north Durham. Details can be found on pages nine and 16.

Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth and Grandview Kids have shared updates to their referral process (page 18), and Children's Development and Behavioural Supports are inviting educators to participate in Concepts to Classrooms—a hands-on professional learning pilot focused on foundational behaviour concepts and how they can be applied to foster more successful classroom environments (page 14).

Lastly, the Early Learning team continues to offer a variety of Community of Practice sessions (page 15) that give educators space to share their experiences and foster collaborative learning. These sessions have created meaningful connections, strengthened professional relationships and supported ongoing growth across our community

Thank you for your continued commitment to children, families and one another. We hope this edition of GROW inspires connection, learning and celebration throughout the season.



Our pre-recorded webinars are taking a short break while we give them a fresh new look. They will be back this fall with a brand-new look and an upgraded experience.



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

May is Asian Heritage Month!

Asian Heritage Month is a time to honour the rich histories, cultures and contributions of Asian communities in Canada and around the world. For educators, it's an opportunity to highlight diverse stories, traditions and experiences, and a way to continue creating inclusive spaces where everyone feels a sense of belonging.

Consider incorporating:

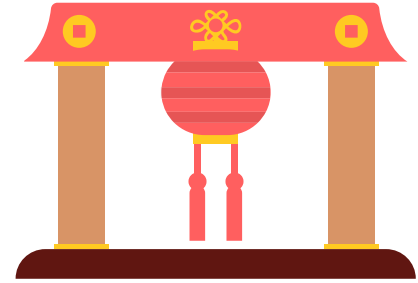
Books and stories: Picture books featuring Asian characters and folktales.

Arts and crafts: Cultural art techniques, patterns or crafts from different Asian cultures.

Music and movement: Songs, dances or instruments from Asian traditions.

Food and festivals: Learning about traditional foods or cultural celebrations like Lunar New Year or Diwali.

To learn more about Asian Heritage Month, select [here](#).



Eid al-Adha is in May!

Eid al-Adha (EED al-AHD-hah) is one of the two major celebrations in Islam. It is a time for families and communities to come together, share and practice generosity. Children can learn that this holiday is about more than traditions; it's about caring for others, showing kindness and celebrating together.

For early childhood programs, Eid al-Adha is a wonderful opportunity to:

- Explore community and global connections, highlighting how children and families around the world celebrate through food, music, stories and traditions.
- Incorporate learning through play: use sensory bins with stars, crescent moons, lanterns or animals; practice sharing and counting; or tell stories about generosity and compassion.
- Support social-emotional learning by emphasizing empathy, gratitude and helping others.

Try asking children:

“How can we help or share with others this week?”

“What does it feel like to give to someone?”

“Why is caring for our friends and community important?”

Celebrating Eid al-Adha can highlight values we can practice every day, while also respecting and learning from diverse cultural traditions.

To register for this workshop please select the box below:

Confronting Islamophobia: Creating inclusive environments for Muslim children and families
Thursday, May 7, 2026
Region of Durham Headquarters - Pickering Room
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby
7 to 9 p.m.





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

May is Mental Health Awareness Month!

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, a meaningful opportunity for early learning programs to highlight the importance of emotional well-being for children, families and educators. Supporting mental health doesn't require major events—small, intentional actions can make a big impact in supporting a calm, connected and caring learning environment.



For children:

Educators can introduce simple mindfulness practices, feelings charts, breathing exercises or cozy corners where children can go to regulate their emotions. Reading storybooks about feelings and resilience, or modelling positive self-talk can also support children in building strong, social-emotional foundations.

For educators:

This month is a reminder that educator well-being matters too. Programs can share wellness resources, encourage time for reflective practice or use team meetings as an opportunity to have conversations about stress, boundaries and healthy coping strategies. Even small gestures—like gratitude notes or sharing mindful wellness practices we can use in programs—can support staff morale.

For families:

Educators can support families by sharing family-friendly resources and simple at-home activities, such as mindfulness jars, family breathing routines or feelings-based games. Programs can also use newsletters to highlight emotional development and offer ideas that families may find helpful in supporting their own well-being. These efforts acknowledge that caregiver mental health matters too—and that strong, trusting relationships between educators and families create a supportive environment where everyone feels seen and valued.



Mental Health Conference coming this fall!

We are excited to share that we will be hosting a Mental Health Conference this fall. Keep an eye out for the fall edition of GROW for more information, including updates, dates and registration information.

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



School-Age Anxiety - Before and After

Presented by: Region of Durham Early Learning and Matthew Rico RN, CPMHN(C), Psychotherapist Clinician

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Scugog Memorial Public Library

231 Water St, Port Perry

10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Supervisor's Network
- Building and
Boosting Resiliency**

To register, or for more information, please refer to page 16.

This Communities of Practice session will explore the topic of anxiety in kindergarten and school-aged children using a mixture of lecture, activities and collaborative question-and-answer opportunities. Participants will learn what anxiety can look like in young children, how to recognize its signs in both subtle and more pronounced forms, and how to support children through effective de-escalation strategies and thoughtful program consideration. The session will also highlight the importance of managing oneself as an educator, emphasizing how self-awareness and self-care practices directly contribute to creating calm, responsive and supportive environments for children experiencing anxiety.



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

June is Pride Month!

How can I get involved in Pride Month 2026?

Attend Pride parades and events

Check local listings for Pride parades, festivals and events happening in your area. Immerse yourself in the supportive and inclusive atmosphere!

Educate yourself and others

Take the time to learn about the history, struggles and achievements of the 2SLGBTQAI+ community. Read books, watch films, listen to podcasts, and engage in conversations that foster understanding and empathy.

Support 2SLGBTQAI+ organizations

Consider donating to 2SLGBTQAI+ charities and organizations that work towards promoting equality and providing support to the community. Volunteer your time or skills to help organize events and/or initiatives.

Download the digital toolkit

Download Pride visuals and use them on your websites, social media channels or during your virtual meetings. You can even print and post these visuals in your programs. To access these digital files, please select this [link](#).



2SLGBTQAI+ make and take

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

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

Region of Durham Headquarters - Ajax Room

605 Rossland Road East, Whitby

7 to 8:30 p.m.

Join us for an engaging, hands-on workshop where educators will design and create meaningful program materials that celebrate and reflect the 2SLGBTQAI+ community. This session provides the space, inspiration and materials to bring ideas to life. Participants will explore ways to integrate 2SLGBTQAI+ visibility into everyday learning, through art, cognition, and language and literacy opportunities.

Representation in the classroom plays a powerful role in supporting well-being, safety and confidence. When children see themselves and their families reflected in their learning space, it helps validate their identities, encourages empathy, and promotes a culture of respect and inclusion.

This workshop is also an opportunity to honour Pride Month, a time to recognize the history, resilience and contributions of the 2SLGBTQAI+ community. By creating inclusive program materials, educators help carry the spirit of Pride into their practice all year long, sending a clear message that everyone is welcomed, valued and seen.



Strengthening our bonds - Indigenous early years learning

In early learning programs, spring invites us to slow down, observe nature and build relationships rooted in respect, gratitude and belonging. The land is our first teacher, and meaningful learning happens when children are connected to it.



Important dates to honour this spring:

May 5 – Red Dress Day

Red Dress Day honours Indigenous women, girls and gender-diverse people who are missing or have been lost to violence. In early learning settings, this day can be acknowledged in age-appropriate ways by focusing on kindness, safety and caring for one another, creating red artwork, and reflecting on how we model inclusion and respect.

June – Indigenous Peoples Month

June celebrates the cultures, languages and traditions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples. Programs can honour this month by sharing Indigenous stories, learning about local Indigenous communities and exploring nature. This encourages Indigenous perspectives to be included throughout the year.

June 21 – Indigenous Peoples Day

Held on the Summer Solstice, Indigenous Peoples Day celebrates the strength and diversity of Indigenous Peoples. Spending time outdoors, reflecting on gratitude and community, and celebrating culture are meaningful ways to acknowledge this day.

Why these dates matter in early learning

Acknowledging and supporting Indigenous Peoples and important dates helps children learn empathy, respect and inclusion. These practices support reconciliation through everyday learning and help ensure Indigenous Peoples are recognized as present and valued today. Learning together strengthens our communities and our programs.

Upcoming workshops

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

Indigenous history awareness and introduction to kits

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Virtual

10 a.m. to noon

*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.

To register for an in person training, please select the box below:

Walking together: Exploring Métis culture in early learning

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Indigenous Resource Library

600 Townline Road South, Oshawa

7 to 8:30 p.m.

Ode'imín: A Summer Solstice celebration

Monday, June 15, 2026

Indigenous Resource Library

600 Townline Road South, Oshawa

7 to 8:30 p.m.



Indigenous Resource Library

Celebrate with us!

Step inside our newly expanded Indigenous Resource Library—a space for the early learning community to learn, connect and build relationships. Enjoy traditional Indigenous treats, take home a meaningful gift, and explore a space designed to inspire collaboration and deepen understanding of Indigenous knowledge.

To help ensure the best experience for everyone, the open house will run in scheduled time slots.

- 5 to 6 p.m.
- 6 to 7 p.m.
- 7 to 8 p.m.

Please choose your preferred timeslot and register by selecting the box below.

Indigenous Resource Library open house
 Tuesday, June 9, 2026
 Indigenous Resource Library
 600 Townline Road South, Oshawa
 5 to 8 p.m.

Hello / Aaniin!

We're so excited to see you and welcome you to our new space!



Chelsea Conner, Indigenous Early Years Cultural Coordinator (left)
Sacha Farrell, Training Specialist, Indigenous Support (right)

Indigenous Sharing kits

Our Indigenous Sharing kits are available for educators to borrow as a way to enrich programming. These kits include books, learning materials, and culturally relevant resources designed to support and enhance Indigenous programming within your learning environment. The following Indigenous Sharing Kits are available:

- Literacy Connections
- Nature Connections
- Everyday Play Connections
- Connecting with Traditions
- Community Connections
- Creative Connections
- The Seven Teachings

New this season:

- Winter Connections
- Summer Connections
- Fall Connections
- Spring Connections

(The Indigenous history and awareness training is a prerequisite to signing out an Indigenous Sharing kit.)





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](#) 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.

Virtual morning circle

Join EarlyON during our virtual morning circle, a fun and engaging online program designed for caregivers and children ages birth to six years. Each session includes songs, stories, and creative movement to help little ones start their day with joy and connection.

Virtual programs play an important role in supporting caregivers by offering flexible and accessible ways to learn and connect from home. Whether caregivers are juggling busy schedules, caring for multiple children, have a child who is unable to attend in-person programming due to health concerns or simply prefer to participate from their own space, virtual programming makes it easier for everyone to join in. This program is open to all caregivers, including parents, grandparents, home child care providers, and anyone who supports a young child's learning and development.

These online sessions help maintain routine, support social engagement, and offer parents and caregivers ideas they can continue at home. The virtual morning circle creates a welcoming and inclusive space where every family can participate, build confidence through play-based learning and stay connected to their community, no matter their circumstances.

Find this virtual program and more on our Durham EarlyON calendars at KEYON.ca.



To register for this event, please select the box below:

Making outside fun again

Thursday, June 18, 2026

EarlyON Centre

600 Townline Road South, Oshawa

6:30 to 8:30 p.m.



Supervisors' Network



Ministry of Education

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

Thursday, April 23, 2026

The Centennial Building - Regal Room

416 Centre Street South, Whitby

10 a.m. to noon

Presented by: Ministry of Education

During this information session, the Senior Program Advisor will share updates on recent licensing trends with serious occurrences. This will be followed by Child Care and Early Years Division updates.

Supporting the growth of educators within your team: A developmental and reflective look for early learning leaders

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

Thursday, June 18, 2026

Port Whitby Marina

301 Watson Street West, Whitby

10 a.m. to noon

Presented by: Anisha Angella, The Early Childhood Coach

We all strive for growth, but sometimes we find ourselves stuck in a rut. This might be currently happening with your team and staff. This session will teach you effective ways as a leader to ensure your team is growing and reaching its full potential.

In addition, you will learn to know if your team is growing in the field and will be left with essential information to build a "growth-based" dynamic. You will leave with tools and tips for success in your leadership role.

THE **early** COACH[®]
childhood



Anisha Angella,
The Early Childhood Coach



QA Corner

As shared in a previous edition of GROW, the updated Durham Region Operating Criteria - Assessment Quality Indicator (DROC-AQI) guidelines were introduced to the early learning community during the fall of 2025. These new guidelines took effect in January 2026. Now that QAs have started 2026 DROC-AQI visits, we want to offer more information to help educators feel supported as they work with the updated quality expectations.

Educators are encouraged to choose materials and displays that are meaningful, inclusive and free from stereotypes or bias. When these choices are made with care, children are more likely to feel welcome, respected and proud of who they are. Children feel safe and confident when they can see themselves, their families and their community represented in their program spaces. When materials reflect their real lives, it helps build a strong sense of belonging. However, representation becomes less meaningful when it is based on stereotypes or when it shows only one idea of a culture. Materials that do not match children's actual experiences may cause them to feel unseen or misunderstood. Using real and meaningful images supports children's confidence and helps them develop a positive identity.

Some materials can unintentionally reinforce stereotypes or cultural bias. For example, pictures of children from around the world wearing only traditional clothing and labeled by country can oversimplify entire cultures. Dolls or figures labeled in this way may also be misleading because they do not show the diversity within each country. These materials create one-sided ideas about cultural groups. Instead, materials should show real-life situations and a variety of experiences within any culture or community. When materials show people in everyday clothing and settings, children learn that all cultures are rich, diverse and constantly growing.

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

Introduction to Durham Region Operating Criteria (DROC): Infant

Tuesday, May 5, 2026
Virtual
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Introduction to Durham Region Operating Criteria (DROC): Toddler

Tuesday, May 12, 2026
Virtual
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Introduction to Durham Region Operating Criteria (DROC): Preschool

Tuesday, May 19, 2026
Virtual
7 to 9 p.m.

Introduction to Durham Region Operating Criteria (DROC): Before and after

Monday, May 25, 2026
Virtual
10:30 a.m. to noon

Durham Region Operating Criteria (DROC) Creating, implementing and extending quality learning experiences

Wednesday, June 17, 2026
Region of Durham Headquarters - Pickering Room
7 to 8:30 p.m.



Formation en français

Connexions et collaboration

Veillez cliquer sur la date pour vous inscrire.

Mardi 14 avril 2026

Virtuel

10h à 11h30

Une conversation introspective sur la collaboration et la connexion, et l'occasion de poser des questions à Melissa Young, conseillère en assurance de la qualité, et à Ameera Alhiraki, spécialiste de la formation.

Soirée francophone sur l'apprentissage précoce 2026

Jeudi 11 juin 2026

18h à 21h30

Durham Convention Centre

630 Beck Crescent, Ajax

Les éducateurs et éducatrices sont invité(e)s à une soirée d'apprentissage et de reconnaissance. Un souper et des rafraîchissements seront fournis.

Réseau de superviseurs

Veillez cliquer sur la date pour vous inscrire.

Mardi 9 juin, 2026

Siège social de la Région de Durham- Bibliothèque de ressources
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby

9h à 10h30

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. Un petit-déjeuner et des rafraîchissements seront offerts.



Ateliers en français offerts par Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth (RFECY)

Prendre soin de soi et pratiquer la pleine conscience pour les éducateurs et les enfants

Mercredi 29 avril, 2026

Virtuel

18h30 à 20h



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

April to June 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](#).

Congratulations to our January, February and March winners so far! We hope you are enjoying the new materials for your program space!



Continue to visit the Resource Library and win!

Our monthly draws continue 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!



Region of Durham

Child Care and Early Years Division

Training Specialists

Environment as the third teacher

Monday, June 8, 2026

Virtual

7 to 8:30 p.m.



Children's Developmental and Behavioural Supports

Let's talk behaviour

Thursday, April 23, 2026

Virtual

1 to 2:30 p.m.

Let's talk behaviour

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

Virtual

6:30 to 8 p.m.



Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth in partnership with the Region of Durham

Intentional spaces: Creating inclusive programs through visual supports

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

Region of Durham Headquarters - Courtice Room

7 to 8:30 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.



Children's Developmental and Behavioural Supports

Concepts to classrooms

A collaborative, hands-on behaviour strategies learning experience for child care teams provided by Children's Developmental and Behavioural Supports (CDBS).

Are you a child care centre looking for a collaborative learning experience that supports educators to build confidence, skills and shared approaches directly within their classrooms?

CDBS invites your team to join in Concepts to classrooms, a hands-on professional learning pilot designed with educators, for educators.

The pilot focuses on learning together, trying out key learning skills in real time and reflecting as a team on what works best for you and for your classrooms.

Educators are active partners—asking questions, practicing strategies, reflecting on experiences and sharing how the learning is applied in their classrooms all with the support of a Behaviour Consultant.

What to expect

Centres participating in the pilot will experience a mix of shared learning, in classroom practice and ongoing reflection.

The pilot experience includes:

- Brief learning surveys to help identify your team's priorities and ensure educator voices guide the learning focus.
- One in-person professional learning session during a staff meeting at your site, focused on a topic selected through a needs assessment completed by your team with the support of a Behaviour Consultant.
- Up to three behaviour consultation practice and coaching sessions in up to two child care centre classrooms, embedded within regular programming to support educators to practice and reflect on strategies in real time.
- A follow-up reflection session approximately four to six weeks to revisit learning, celebrate growth and discuss sustainability.

Professional learning topics:

These sessions focus on foundational behaviour concepts and how they can be applied to foster calmer, connected and successful classroom environments.

Together we can explore:

- Practical prevention strategies that strengthen key educator skills to support safe, proactive and consistent practice.
- Building clear expectations using relationship-based approaches that reduce power struggles and support positive engagement during routines and transitions.
- Working through real examples from your classrooms to understand the “why” behind interfering behaviours.
- Identifying simple meaningful adjustments to interactions and the environment that support positive behaviour and co-operation.

Interested in participating in the pilot?

By joining Concepts to classrooms, your centre becomes a co-creator of a new professional learning model for our community. Your experiences, insights and reflections will help shape a model that is practical, responsive and grounded in what educators truly need.

To ensure meaningful consultation and hands-on learning, we are accepting a limited number of centres into this pilot phase.

Child care supervisors or head office staff can contact us at: behaviouralsupports@durham.ca. Please indicate the Concepts to classrooms pilot in the subject of your email.



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: Before and after educators

Offered by: Region of Durham Early Learning
Thursday, April 9, 2026
Brooklin Library
8 Vipond Road, Whitby
10:30 a.m. to noon

Community of Practice: Technology in program

Offered by: Region of Durham Early Learning
Wednesday, April 29, 2026
Region of Durham Headquarters - Whitby Room
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Community of Practice: Male educator perspective

Offered by: Region of Durham Early Learning
Thursday, May 21, 2026
Region of Durham Headquarters - Whitby Room
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Community of Practice: Before and after educators

Offered by: Region of Durham Early Learning
Thursday, June 11, 2026
Region of Durham Headquarters - Whitby Room
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby
10:30 a.m. to noon

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.



North Durham

Supervisors' Network - Building and Boosting Resiliency



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

Thursday, May 7, 2026
Scugog Memorial Public Library
231 Water Street, Port Perry
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Presented by: Region of Durham, Family Services Division

Supervisors play a key role in creating resilient, healthy early learning environments. This workshop offers practical strategies to strengthen your own resiliency while supporting the well-being and adaptability of your team. Through reflection, tools and discussion, you'll explore how to navigate stress and change with confidence and clarity.

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

The indoor-outdoor classroom: Designing experiences that inspire learning

Presented by: EarlyON
Thursday, April 16, 2026
R.H. Corninsh Public School
494 Queen Street, Port Perry
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

School-age anxiety - before and after

Presented by: Region of Durham Early Learning, and
Matthew Rico RN, CPMHN(C), Psychotherapist
Clinician
Thursday, May 14, 2026
Scugog Memorial Public Library
231 Water Street, Port Perry
10:30 a.m. to 1 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.



Home Child Care

Highlight on Special Needs Resourcing in licensed Home Child Care

The Regional Municipality of Durham offers services to help Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) professionals to offer inclusive programs that support children's physical, social-emotional and cognitive development. Licensed centre and home-based early learning and child care environments are legislated in the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014, to create Individual Service Plans (ISP) that reflect the special or individualized needs of children enrolled in ELCC sites.

The Region of Durham partners with four agencies to provide a holistic and complementary set of Special Needs Resourcing (SNR) services. These partners are funded through the Child Care and Early Years Division using provincial funding guidelines to provide SNR services.

The SNR agencies work with educators to build capacity within the system to support equity and inclusion of all children in licensed child care.

[Durham Region Special Needs Resourcing \(SNR\) Agency Support Guide](#)

Early Learning Inclusion Program

- Collaborative on-site consultation visits tailored to the unique needs of home childcare educators to support inclusive practices, offered on a flexible schedule.
- Observation and reflective dialogue with home childcare educators to share evidence-informed strategies, resources and suggestions that support individual children, group dynamics and meaningful participation.
- In-the-moment coaching and hands-on modelling to teach children new skills, support development, and build home childcare educators confidence in inclusive practices.
- Professional learning opportunities, including workshops and trainings tailored to the specific needs of each program, supporting ongoing growth in inclusive practice.
- Completion of an Inclusion Scale to identify program strengths and areas for growth in inclusive practice.



- As the first point of contact, support home childcare Educators in connecting with Special Needs Resourcing (SNR) partner agencies in Durham Region by initiating referrals and obtaining informed consent from families and guardians.
- Collaborate with SNR partners to support individual children and the program holistically.
- Support for home childcare educators with child development screenings and monitoring of development.
- Support with the education and development of Individual Support Plans to support children who require more tailored approaches.
- Collaborate with Area Supervisors, Home Visitors and Home Consultants to discuss goals and strategies for the programs as needed.
- Support for families through information sharing, service navigation and connections to community resources.

Josie Cea - Resource Consultant - jcea@rfecydurham.ca
Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth - Durham Region
865 Westney Road South, Ajax, ON L1S 3M4
1320 Airport Blvd, Oshawa, ON L1J 0C6
Office: 905-427-8862 Ext 0

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

Durham Region Quality Measures for Home Child Care - Using the Assessment

Presented by: Region of Durham Early Learning
Wednesday, May 20, 2026
Virtual
7 to 8:30 p.m.



Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth and Grandview Kids

Dear early learning community,

We are excited to share an important update about the referral process for the Preschool Outreach Program (POP).

Resources and Grandview Kids have collaborated to develop a new referral process for POP. Given that Resource Consultants (RCs) are the first point of contact for Special Needs Resourcing Services, we have reviewed the current service flow and identified an opportunity to streamline and strengthen our joint approach. To support consistency and ensure that the process is co-ordinated for educators and children in your care, all referrals to POP will now be submitted by your assigned Resource Consultant.

This change is in effect as of February 23, 2026.

What does this mean moving forward:

- If your site is wondering if a referral is needed, you will need to connect with your RC to discuss.
- In most cases, the RCs will provide general strategies and suggestions and support implementation of those strategies into the program prior to sending a referral.
- When it has been determined that a referral is needed, your RCs will collaborate with you and the family to gather the information for the referral and will submit the referral directly to POP.
- RCs will obtain consent from families before completing the referral form, ensuring families stay informed and engaged throughout the process.

Thank you for your continued commitment to supporting children and for creating inclusive spaces where each child can meaningfully participate. Your attention and dedication make a tremendous difference.

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please reach out to your RC.



Grandview Kids



Resources
for Exceptional Children and Youth

Grandview Kids

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

Receptive language - The hidden delay

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Virtual

6:30 to 8 p.m.

Tips and tools for feeding success

Thursday, April 30, 2026

Virtual

6:30 to 8 p.m.

Echolalia - learning language through scripts

Thursday, May 28, 2026

Virtual

6:30 to 8 p.m.

Making sense of sensory

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

Virtual

6:30 to 8 p.m.

Learning to connect - Social communication through play

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

Virtual

6:30 to 8 p.m.



Upcoming events



Early Learning and Child Care Showcase and Job Fair



Saturday, April 11, 2026
9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Drop-in event



Region of Durham Headquarters
Upper Galleria
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby

- **Explore exciting career opportunities** in local child care and early learning settings.
- **Discover your pathway** into Early Childhood Education post-secondary programs.
- **Connect with child care organizations across Durham** and find the best fit for your career goals.

Highlights of the day:

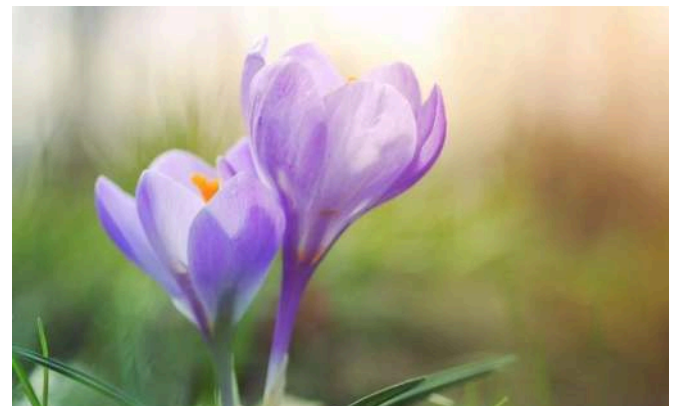
10:30 to 11 a.m.
Student and professional panel

11 to 11:45 a.m.
"Where it all begins"
The joy, meaning and impact of early learning
Keynote with Jill Javelosa

Soirée francophone sur l'apprentissage précoce 2026

Date: 11 Juin 2026
Heure: 18h à 21h30
Lieu: Durham Convention Centre

Les éducateurs et éducatrices sont invité(e)s à une soirée d'apprentissage et de reconnaissance. Un souper et des rafraîchissements seront fournis.



North Durham Early Years Conference

Hats off!

An evening to celebrate all that educators do and the many hats they wear.

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



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



Wooden Sticks Golf Club
40 Elgin Park Drive, Uxbridge



Jill Javelosa-Alvarez
RECE, Author, Speaker,
Consultant





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



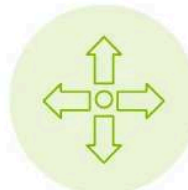
Maintaining environmental awareness



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



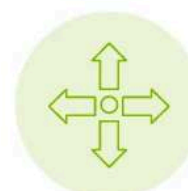
Rester attentif à l'environnement



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.



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



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