



GROW



Continuous Professional Learning in Durham



Welcome to the spring 2025 edition of GROW!

Dates to remember

- April 2 - World Autism Awareness Day
- April 9 - International Day of Pink
- April 20 - Easter
- April 22 - Earth Day
- May - Asian Heritage Month
- May 5 - Cinco de Mayo
- May 15 - International Day of Families
- June - Pride Month
- June - National Indigenous History Month
- June 6- Eid al-Adha
- June 12 - World Day Against Child Labour
- June 21 - National Indigenous Peoples Day

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





Welcome to Spring 2025 GROW!

Welcome to the Spring 2025 Edition of the GROW Newsletter!

This Spring, we are excited to present five incredible events for the early learning community:

- The Early Learning Showcase
- The Early Learning Conference
- The French Conference
- The North Durham Early Years Conference
- The Home Child Care Conference



There is truly something for everyone—do not miss the chance to sign up for one (or more!) of these fantastic opportunities. We have received amazing feedback on our previous Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) presentations, and we are thrilled to offer a diverse range of sessions this Spring, including: creating inclusive environments for Muslim children and families, DEI representation in programs, mental health training opportunities and Indigenous-focused sessions.

Family Services continues to support our community of supervisors and leaders by offering a training and networking session on Window of Tolerance, which describes ways in which widening one's window as a leader contributes to increased compassion for self and others. In June, we have Unlearn coming to facilitate a session about bias, stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination. More information about Unlearn can be found on their [website](#).

Be sure to check out page eight for insights from the QA Corner, including information on Leadership Consultation Visits and the ever-popular Durham Region Operating Criteria (DROC) sessions. Our busy resource library has many free resources, including curriculum and inquiry-based kits—turn to page eight for more details on what the library offers and how to book an appointment.

A survey was sent to pedagogical leaders that reached out and expressed an interest in a pedagogical leadership series. Their feedback helped us to understand what they hope to gain from the sessions we are planning. We are happy to launch the series this spring (details on page 17). To participate, please reach out to Janine Keith, Program Manager for more details Janine.Keith@durham.ca.

The community has expressed support for our School Age educators (SA), and we have delivered on this request. There are several opportunities for SA educators to learn, network and plan for their program. See page 14 for more information.

Lastly, we are thrilled to bring these opportunities to our community and to witness the positive networking and collaboration among participants. If you are unable to attend an in-person event or training, we kindly ask that you cancel your ticket through Eventbrite. This helps us manage resources effectively, ensuring others can attend and avoid unnecessary costs.

Thank you for your cooperation, and we look forward to seeing you this Spring!





Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives in Children's Services

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 click the date and time below:

Wednesday, April 23, 2025
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.

DEI representation in programs part two: invisible disabilities

Presented by: Region of Durham, Early Learning Team

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

Thursday, May 15, 2025
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Educators are invited to take a deeper look into what diversity, equity and inclusion means by exploring invisible disabilities. Educators will learn about the impacts of invisible disabilities on children, families and colleagues, and engage in hands-on activities and reflective discussion to help them better understand what it means to create equitable and supportive program spaces.

Eid al-Adha is in June!

What is Eid al-Adha?

Eid al-Adha is one of the most important celebrations in Islam. Eid ul-adha is the second eid of the year. The first, Eid ul-Fitr, is celebrated at the end of Ramadan.

Eid al-Adha is a special holiday where people celebrate kindness, giving, and sharing with others. It is a time when families get together to enjoy delicious food, and give to those in need. People often exchange gifts, wear new clothes, and make sure everyone has enough to eat. It is all about being kind, helping others, and celebrating together!

How can educators celebrate?

- Decorate your programs with balloons, banners, stars and crescent moons. Traditional colours include purple, yellow, green, blue and gold.
- Make paper lanterns.
- Sensory bins with traditionally associated symbols such as stars, the moon, animals, and lanterns (or try LED tealights as a representation of light).
- Organize a food drive with a local Mosque or community organization.
- Read books about Eid.



Click below for more information
[CBC Kids: All about Eid al-Adha](#)
[Books about Eid](#)



For additional resources, information, or book recommendations, please contact Training Specialist, Ameera Alhiraki, at Ameera.Alhiraki@durham.ca



Mental health initiatives in Children's Services

Understanding infant and early years mental health

Infant and early years mental health refers to the social and emotional well-being of children from birth to age six. It encompasses the development of healthy attachments, emotional regulation, and the ability to form positive relationships. This foundational period significantly influences a child's cognitive, emotional, and social development, impacting their overall well-being throughout life.

Why is it important?

Early experiences shape the development of a child's brain, affecting their capacity for learning, behaviour, and emotional health. Positive early interactions foster resilience, empathy, and self-regulation, while adverse experiences can lead to developmental difficulties. Supporting mental health during these formative years is crucial for fostering lifelong well-being and reducing the risk of future mental health challenges.

[Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University](#) [World Health Organization \(WHO\) & UNICEF](#)



Role of early learning professionals in supporting children's mental health

Child care educators play a pivotal role in nurturing children's mental health. Here are some key strategies that can support this development:

Build positive relationships: Establishing secure, trusting relationships, provides a safe environment for children to explore and learn. According to ["How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years"](#), educators should focus on building positive and responsive relationships to support children's development.

Create supportive environments: Designing learning spaces that are emotionally and physically safe encourages exploration and learning. The "Think, Feel, Act: Lessons from Research about Young Children" report emphasizes the importance of environments that support children's learning and development. [Think, Feel, Act: Lessons from Research About Young Children](#).

Promote emotional literacy: Teaching children to recognize and express their emotions enhances self-regulation and empathy. The College of Early Childhood Educators highlights the significance of supporting positive interactions and emotional development in early years settings. [College of Early Childhood Educators](#).

Engage in reflective practice: Regular self-reflection allows educators to understand their impact on children's development and adjust practices accordingly. The College of Early Childhood Educators provides resources to support educators' mental health and well-being, which in turn positively influences the children they care for. [College of Early Childhood Educators](#).

Collaborate with families and professionals: Working closely with families and consulting with mental health professionals ensures a holistic approach to supporting each child's needs. SickKids' Infant and Early Mental Health Promotion program emphasizes the importance of collaboration in promoting healthy development and provides training, resources, and research to support educators in understanding and supporting early mental health. [Sick Kids Infant and Early Years Mental Health Promotion](#).

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

For more information on the

Supervisors' Network - Window of Tolerance

scheduled for May 15, 2025, please refer to Page 7.

Mindful Creations Make and Take: Expanding Mental Health Supports and Resources for All Ages

Offered by: Early Learning Training Specialists, Durham Region
Monday, June 9, 2025
Region of Durham Headquarters
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby
7 to 9 p.m.



Strengthening our bonds - Indigenous early years learning

Strengthening our bonds - Indigenous early years learning Welcome to spring: Celebrating new beginnings with Indigenous wisdom

As the Earth awakens this spring, we embrace the opportunities for growth and renewal in our early learning communities. Spring is a time when the land begins to bloom, and with it, our children's curiosity, creativity, and connection to the world around them.

In many Indigenous cultures, spring is a season that honours balance, renewal, and nurturing the relationships we have with Mother Earth. It reminds us of the importance of tending to our connections with the land, the plants, and the animals that share it with us. Just as the Earth nurtures new life, we too have the privilege to nurture and guide young learners as they grow.

This spring, we are also excited to celebrate Indigenous creativity! This refers to the unique ways in which Indigenous peoples express their cultural, spiritual, and communal values through art, storytelling, music, dance, fashion, and other forms of creative expression. This creativity is expansive and diverse, deeply rooted in Indigenous worldviews.

The work of two talented Indigenous artists, whose beautiful displays are currently showcased at the Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, include:

Brent Hardisty: Praying to the Tree of Life



Paul Schilling: Gifts from the creator



Their art serves as an invitation to explore the deep cultural connections to the land and stories that shape their work. We encourage you to take time to connect with these pieces, or other Indigenous art installations that are on display throughout the Region. It is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to deepen our appreciation of Indigenous perspectives.

To support you in this journey, we are excited to offer several workshops designed to deepen your understanding of Indigenous ways of knowing and how to integrate Indigenous programming into your early learning environments. Wishing you a season of growth, learning, and joyful discoveries.

Upcoming workshops

To register for these teachings, please select the box below:

Indigenous Awareness and Introduction to Kits *

Offered by: Early Learning Training Specialists,
Durham Region

Monday, April 28, 2025
Location: Virtual
7 to 9 p.m.

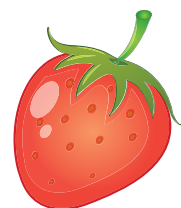
On the Journey: Creative Connections

Offered by: Early Learning Training Specialists,
Durham Region
Wednesday, May 21, 2025 Location: Durham
Region Headquarters
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby
7 to 8:30 p.m.



Ode'imín: A Summer Solstice Celebration

Offered by: Early Learning Training Specialists,
Durham Region
Tuesday, June 17, 2025
Location: Durham Region Headquarters - Room 1B,
Whitby
7 to 8:30 p.m.



*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.



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 birth to six years and 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.



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



Supervisors' Network

Supervisors' Network - Window of Tolerance

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

Date: Thursday, May 15, 2025

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

Location: Region of Durham - Ontario Works Office
200 John Street West, Suite C1A, Oshawa

Presented by: Family Services and Early Learning



During this two-hour workshop supervisors will learn about the model, developed by Dan Siegel: The Window of Tolerance. Practices to increase self-awareness regarding level of arousals for oneself and for others will be discussed. The ways in which widening one's window as a leader contribute to increased compassion for self and others and can lead to increased curiosity and appreciative inquiry will be reviewed. This workshop will involve a combination of psycho-education, group discussion and opportunities for interaction and engagement with the material. A Community of Practice will follow on June 26, 2025. Details to follow.

Supervisors' Network - Unlearn - Critical Thinking by Design

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

Date: Thursday, June 12, 2025

Time: 10 a.m. to noon

Location: Schoolhouse Playcare,
1602 Tricont Avenue, Whitby

unlearn.[®]

Presented by: Abhi Ahluwalia, Founder of unlearn

This Supervisor's Network session is designed to challenge participants to think critically about bias, stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination. Participants will be guided through activities designed to raise critical consciousness and highlight the bias we all have and to better understand how we can use this awareness to create a safe, caring and inclusive environment promoting dignity and respect for all. Participants will engage with unlearn posters designed to provoke thought to inspire positive change.



QA Corner

Leadership Consultation visits

Have you completed a Leadership Consultation visit with your QA?

Leadership Consultation visits are an exciting opportunity for child care leads and supervisors to engage in meaningful conversations with your Quality and Contract Compliance Advisor (QA). This visit is not just a routine check-in—it is a chance to reflect on your leadership role, celebrate your successes, and explore areas for growth, while receiving support that is tailored to your unique needs through open dialogue.

Your QA will be reaching out to schedule a visit with you. In thinking about timing, pick a time of day where you may experience less disruptions. This is about you - we want to make sure you have the time and space to prioritize your own well-being. The visit can take place either virtually, in-person, or out in the community, depending on what works best for you. During a Leadership Consultation visit, the conversation will be led by your needs and preferences. Remember, there are no wrong answers and therefore prep work is not necessary.

The conversation may include a range of topics, but the key focus is always reflective and open-ended. Here are some topics of conversation that might come up:

- **Program successes and milestones:** This is a time to celebrate the unique strengths of your team and highlight the milestones your program has achieved. It is about reflecting on what is going well and recognizing the hard work of your team. You can share successes that may not always be acknowledged day-to-day, bringing those highlights to the forefront.
- **Program quality and processes:** With your QA, you will discuss your program's overall quality and processes. This is a chance to reflect on what is working well and what might need further attention, keeping the conversation open for suggestions and ideas.
- **Partnerships and responsive relationships:** The conversation may explore how relationships with families, educators, and the broader community are nurtured to support inclusion and well-being. The focus is on how these relationships contribute to the overall environment of your program, fostering a sense of belonging and positive connections.
- **Professional learning and reflection:** Reflecting on professional learning and how it is impacting both you and your team is a key part of the visit. This discussion allows you to share how you are supporting your team's growth, identify learning opportunities, and explore new approaches.
- **Coaching and mentoring:** Leadership is about guiding and supporting your team. This focus is an opportunity to discuss coaching and mentoring opportunities for both you and your team. It is about recognizing areas for growth and identifying ways to enhance professional development in your practice.
- **Wellness:** Well-being is an important aspect of leadership, and this conversation may focus on how you are engaging in wellness routines within your own practice and amongst your team. Reflecting on gaps in practices that support the physical and mental well-being of both yourself and your team may support in considering successful strategies in creating work life balance.

The QA team want to thank you for your time and ongoing commitment to creating a high-quality, supportive environment for children and educators. The QAs look forward to connecting and learning more about you through these conversations. It is a real privilege in being part of your leadership journey.

Introduction to Durham Region Operating Criteria (DROC): Before and After
Offered by: Early Learning Quality Assurance Advisors, Durham Region
Tuesday, April 8, 2025
10 to 11:30 a.m.

Introduction to Durham Region Operating Criteria (DROC): Infant
Offered by: Early Learning Quality Assurance Advisors
Thursday, April 24, 2025
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Introduction to Durham Region Operating Criteria (DROC): Toddler
Offered by: Early Learning Quality Assurance Advisors, Durham Region
Tuesday, April 29, 2025
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Introduction to Durham Region Operating Criteria (DROC): Preschool
Offered by: Early Learning Quality Assurance Advisors, Durham Region
Thursday, May 8, 2025
7 to 9 p.m.



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

April to June 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.

Please contact Kim Timianis by email at Kimberley.Timianis@durham.ca to make an appointment.

The Early Learning Team is pleased to announce that the new Resource Library is open! The new and improved space 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](#).



For a full list of kits available, please refer to the [Resource Library flyer](#).



Formation en français

Réseau de superviseurs

Date : Mardi 1 Avril 2025

Heure : 10h à 12h30

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.



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. Poupes
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.

Plans individualisés

Offered by: Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth
Tuesday, May 8, 2025
7 to 8:30 p.m.
virtual

Conférence française sur l'apprentissage précoce 2025

Pour inscrire à cet événement, veuillez cliquer sur la date :

Date : Jeudi 29 Mai 2025

Heure: 18h à 21h

Venez vivre une soirée dynamique d'apprentissage professionnel, de formation et de réseautage avec vos collègues! Rejoignez l'équipe d'apprentissage précoce de la région de Durham pour une expérience enrichissante, agrémentée d'un délicieux souper, de rafraîchissements et d'un certificat de participation.



Veuillez noter: les portes ouvriront à 18h, le dîner sera servi à 18h45.



Pre-recorded workshops - spring 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 Learning

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. Click on "Reserve a Spot" on the event dashboard page.
5. Complete the Contact Information and click "Register."
6. Complete the Ticket General Admission information.
7. You will receive the link to the event with the confirmation email.
8. Click on link from your email and enjoy the workshop!



Virtual workshops - spring 2025

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.

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

Making Sense of Sensory

Offered by: Grandview Kids
Saturday, April 5, 2025
1 to 3 p.m.

Introduction to DROC - Before and After

Offered by: Early Learning Quality Assurance Advisors
Tuesday, April 8, 2025
10 to 11:30 a.m.

Preschool Literacy Development

Offered by: Grandview Kids
Tuesday, April 8, 2025
5 to 7 p.m.

Getting School Ready: Tips and Tools for a Smooth Transition

Offered by: Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth
Thursday, April 10, 2025
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Indigenous Awareness and Introduction to Kits

Offered by: Early Learning Training Specialists, Region of Durham
Monday, April 28, 2025
Location: Virtual
7 to 9 p.m.

Introduction to DROC - Infant

Offered by: Early Learning Quality Assurance Advisors
Thursday, April 24, 2025
7 to 8:30 p.m.

"Make and Take" stories

Offered by: Grandview Kids
Saturday, May 3, 2025
9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Tips and Tools for Feeding Success

Offered by: Grandview Kids
Saturday, May 10, 2025
1 to 3 p.m.

Introduction to DROC - Preschool

Offered by: Early Learning Quality Assurance Advisors
Thursday, May 8, 2025
7 to 9 p.m.

Language Learning for Littles

Offered by: Grandview Kids
Tuesday, May 13, 2025
6:30 to 8 p.m.

Clearly Speaking

Offered by: Grandview Kids
Tuesday, June 3, 2025
6 to 7:30 p.m.



In-person workshops - spring 2025

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

Continuous Professional Learning (CPL)

Offered by: Early Learning Training Specialists
Location: Region of Durham Headquarters,
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby
Monday, April 14, 2025
7 to 8:30 p.m.

"They don't listen to me!" Learning to give effective instructions to children

Offered by: Children's Developmental and Behavioural Supports, Durham Region
Location: Region of Durham Headquarters,
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby
Tuesday, April 15, 2025
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Make & Take Drumming for Home Child Care Providers

Offered by: EarlyON
Location: St. Marguerite d'Youville Catholic School
(EarlyON Room)
Wednesday, April 16, 2025
6:30 to 8 p.m.

Dramatic Play Inspiration

Offered by: EarlyON
Location: Sir Albert Lobe Catholic School
(EarlyON Room)
Wednesday, April 16, 2025
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Outdoor Play - Exploring nature at home and in our communities - Part 1 (Home Child Care)

Offered by: EarlyON
Location: St. Marguerite d'Youville Catholic School
(EarlyON Room)
Thursday, May 1, 2025
6:30 to 8 p.m.

Plans individualisés (offered in French)

Offered by: Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth
Location: 865 Westney Road South, Ajax, ON
Thursday, May 8, 2025
7 to 8:30 p.m.

On the Journey: Literacy Connections

Offered by: Early Learning Training Specialists,
Durham Region
Wednesday, May 21, 2025
Location: Durham Region Headquarters
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Mindful Creations make and take: Expanding mental health supports and resources

Offered by: Early Learning Training Specialists
Monday, June 9, 2025
Location: Region of Durham Headquarters,
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Inclusion - Community of Practice

Offered by: Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth
Location: 865 Westney Road South, Ajax, ON
Wednesday, June 11, 2025
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Ode'imin: A Summer Solstice Celebration

Offered by: Early Learning Training Specialists
Tuesday, June 17, 2025
Location: Durham Region Headquarters
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby
7 to 8:30 p.m.



In-person workshops - spring 2025

School age workshops

Community of practice - school age programming

Offered by: Early Learning Quality Assurance Advisors and Training Specialists
Tuesday, April 15, 2025
Location: Edukids Bayly
75 Bayly Street West, Ajax
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

From school days to summer ways: Supporting the transition to and from before and after school care to summer care

Offered by: Early Learning Quality Assurance Advisors, Behaviour Consultants, and Training Specialists
Monday, May 5, 2025
Location: Region of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby
7 to 8:30 p.m.

"Why won't you come with me?" Transitions and Routines

Offered by: Children's Developmental and Behavioural Services, Durham Region
Wednesday, May 14, 2025
Curiosity - Before and After School Care
320 Queen Street, Port Perry
7 to 8:30 p.m.

From school days to summer ways: Supporting the transition to and from before and after school care to summer care

Offered by: Early Learning Quality Assurance Advisors, Behavior Consultants, and Training Specialists
Thursday, May 22, 2025
Location: Region of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Community of practice - school age programming

Offered by: Early Learning Quality Assurance Advisors and Training Specialists
Tuesday, June 3, 2025
Location: Big Hearts Day Care
500 Mayfair Avenue, Oshawa
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



North Durham

North Durham

"Why won't you come with me?" Transitions and Routines

Offered by: Children's Developmental and Behavioural Services, Durham Region
Wednesday, May 14, 2025
Curiosity - Before and After School Care
320 Queen Street, Port Perry
7p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

North Durham Early Years Conference

For more information, please see page 20.





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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.

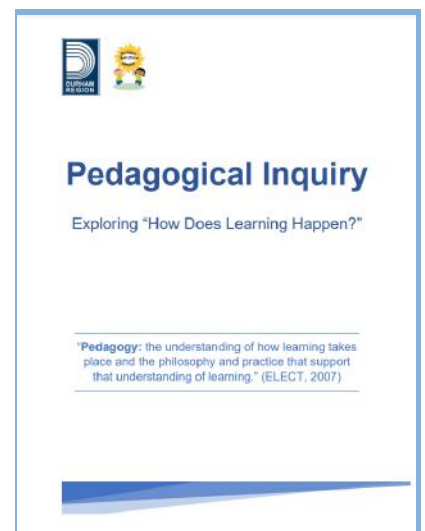
Eligible fields of study include:

- 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



Are you a pedagogical leader within your organization eager to connect with peer in similar roles? This spring, we are excited to present a Pedagogical Leadership Networking Series. We provided a survey to those who reached out and we are happy to start this series on **Thursday April 24**. This initiative will provide an opportunity for leaders to revisit the Pedagogical inquiry tool, share their unique experience, network with one another, and explore potential training opportunities to strengthen their skills as leaders. If you are interested, and would like more details, please contact Janine Keith at Janine.Keith@durham.ca. Space is still available.





Home Child Care

Nature's Playground: The Importance of Outdoor Play

"In nature, children learn to take risks, overcome fears, make new friends, regulate emotions, and create imaginary worlds"

Angela J. Hanscom Balanced & Barefoot

Outdoor play is crucial for healthy childhood development, benefiting every area of growth, from head to toe. Nature offers a natural playground that encourages physical activity as children explore and make large movements in open spaces, balance on uneven surfaces, and engage their senses in ways that indoor environments simply cannot match. As kids observe and interact with their surroundings, they enhance problem-solving and creativity. They come up with plans, test out risks, draw conclusions, and get inspired. Outdoor play also boosts social skills when children play together.

The benefits of outdoor play go beyond physical health. Outdoor play:

- Improves overall mental well being.
- Reduces stress.
- Strengthens immune systems, lowering the likelihood of developing asthma and allergies.
- Encourages curiosity, creativity and critical thinking.
- Improves social skills.
- Enables children the opportunity to reasonable risks.
- Fosters a connection to nature which builds environmental awareness and respect that will last a lifetime.



When life gives you rain, jump in muddy puddles. The mud will wash off, but the memories will last a lifetime.

Unknown



Make & Take Drumming for Home Child Care Providers

Offered by: EarlyON
Location: St. Marguerite d'Youville Catholic School (EarlyON Room)
Wednesday, April 16, 2025
6:30 to 8 p.m.

Outdoor Play - Exploring nature at home and in our communities - Part 1

Offered by: EarlyON
Location: St. Marguerite d'Youville Catholic School (EarlyON Room)
Thursday, May 1, 2025
6:30 to 8 p.m.

Home Child Care Conference

Offered by: Early Learning Quality Assurance Advisors, Durham Region
Location: Region of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby
Saturday, June 14, 2025
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Home Child Care - Make and Take

Offered by: Early Learning Quality Assurance Advisors, Durham Region
Region of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby
Tuesday, June 24, 2025
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Outdoor Play - Exploring nature at home and in our communities - Part 2

Offered by: EarlyON
Location: TBA
August 2025
More information to come.



Upcoming Events



Early Learning and Child Care Showcase and Job Fair



Saturday, April 12, 2025
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Drop-in event



Region of Durham
Upper Galleria
605 Rossland Road East,
Whitby, ON L1N 6A3



EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE CONFERENCE

2025

Saturday, April 26, 2025
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

J. CLARKE RICHARDSON
COLLEGIATE
1355 HARWOOD AVE N,
AJAX, ON
L1T 4G8

DOORS OPEN AT 8:30 A.M.

There will be **nine workshops**
for educators to choose from.

Key-note speaker:
Dr. Samra Zafar, MD



For details and to register, please [click here](#).



Upcoming Events

VOUS ÊTES INVITÉ À LA CONFÉRENCE FRANÇAISE SUR L'APPRENTISSAGE PRÉCOCE 2025



Jeudi 29 Mai 2025



18h à 21h (souper servi à 18h45)



Hilton Garden Inn Ajax, 500 Beck Crescent, Ajax, ON, L1Z 1C9



North Durham Early Years Conference 2025

Sowing seeds of success!



"The more that you learn, the places you
will go" - Dr. Seuss



Thursday June 5, 2025
6:30 to 9 p.m.



Wooden Sticks Golf Inc.
40 Elgin Park Drive
Uxbridge, ON L9P 1N2



Upcoming Events



Home Child Care Conference

Saturday, June 14, 2025

9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
8:30 a.m. registration and continental breakfast

Region of Durham
Upper Galleria
605 Rossland Road East,
Whitby, ON L1N 6A3



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 Children's Services 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 Jenn Titterton at Jennifer.Titterton@durham.ca within one week following the event to request an electronic certificate.



For more information, please contact:

Children's Services Division: durham.ca/ChildrensServices

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