

# Child care and early learning updates e-newsletter

**May 28, 2026**

Welcome to The Regional Municipality of Durham's child care and early learning updates e-newsletter. These e-newsletters provide licensed child care operators in Durham Region with updated information related to child care.

This edition includes the following topics:

- Special Needs Resourcing (SNR) update
- 2026 Professional learning
- Child care operator survey
- Operating capacity change form

## Special Needs Resourcing (SNR) update

The Child Care and Early Years Division (CCEYD) is excited to share a significant and forward-thinking investment in our early learning community, made possible through Ministry of Education-approved Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) innovation funding. Through this funding, the division has launched an ambitious, year-long partnership with internationally recognized inclusion expert Dr. Shelley Moore to strengthen special needs resourcing (SNR) and advance inclusive practices across our system.

This work is grounded in, and directly responsive to, the voices of our community. It has been intentionally shaped by key system insights, including the outcomes of a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats (SWOT) analysis conducted during the 2025 SNR Networking Day, as well as findings from a SNR Services Program Review led by Dr. Kathryn Underwood of Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU). Most importantly, it reflects the priorities, challenges, and opportunities identified by educators, leaders, and partners across our community.

This initiative is not only informed by research and system data. It is a coordinated, system-wide approach to building educator and leadership capacity, equipping teams with practical, responsive, and strength-based strategies that empower educators to intentionally use the learning environment as a key tool to support all children.

Throughout 2026, educators and leaders will have access to a comprehensive suite of professional learning opportunities designed to meet diverse needs and schedules. These include self-guided online learning modules, collaborative learning experiences, and in-person opportunities. All virtual sessions will be recorded for ongoing access,

with many accompanied by supplemental resources and embedded learning activities to support deeper reflection and application in practice.

### **System-wide speaker series (June to November 2026)**

As part of this initiative, the CCEYD will host a six-part speaker series running from June 24 through November 2. These sessions are designed to spark thinking, deepen practice, and create shared understanding across the community. Participants are encouraged to attend one, several, or all sessions. Please refer to the attachment included for registration information on the speaker series.

All sessions will be held virtually from 7 to 8:30 p.m., with the exception of the final session, which will be in person and include a light dinner and networking.

- June 24: Engaging Social-Emotional Learning Through Outdoor Play (Speaker: Lauren MacLean)
- July 9: Side by Side: Navigating Inclusion through the Eyes of a Family (Speaker: Katie Jameson)
- July 14: Unpacking the Senses: Promoting Sensory Health in Early Learning Settings (Speaker: Hina Mahmood)
- July 22: Teachers These Days: A Closer Look at the Best-Selling Book (Speaker: Laurie McIntosh)
- August 10: Reframing Behaviour in Early Learning: Anti-Ableist and Restorative Approaches (Speaker: Dr. Carly Christensen)
- November 2 (In-person from 6 to 8:30 p.m.): Opening the Door to All Children: Removing Barriers with Universal Design for Learning (Speaker: Dr. Shelley Moore)

### **Professional learning resources for every centre**

To support sustained and embedded learning, each child care centre will receive three carefully selected books:

- Teachers These Days (distributed in advance of the corresponding July 22 speaker series session)
- One Without the Other by Dr. Shelley Moore (in the fall)
- Finding Common Ground by Lauren MacLean (in the fall)

These resources are intended to support team dialogue, reflection, and ongoing practice, regardless of session attendance.

### **New learning modules and micro-learning supports**

Dr. Shelley Moore is developing three foundational learning modules, launching in the early fall:

- What is inclusion?
- Getting to know children/youth and their families in strength-based ways
- Responding to the needs of children and youth

In addition, seven “Five Moore Minutes” videos will provide short, focused learning opportunities that can be embedded into staff meetings and ongoing team discussions.

Topics will include:

- People are not supports
- Don’t “should” on me
- Removing the barriers
- Infrastructure of inclusion
- Strength-based and inclusive IEPeas
- Linking How Does Learning Happen? To inclusion in practical ways
- Inclusion and interfering behaviours

### **Fall learning series for leaders and educators**

Two in-depth five-session series will provide opportunities for deeper engagement:

- **For program Leaders:** Leadership Series (Virtual, 1to 2:30 p.m.)
  - Facilitated by Emily Mostovoy-Luna
  - Dates: September 23, October 13, October 28, November 17, December 10
- **For front-line educators:** Infrastructure of Inclusion Series (Virtual, 7to 8:30 p.m.)
  - Facilitated by Dr. Shelley Moore
  - Dates: September 16, September 29, October 28, November 18, December 9

Registration for each series includes participation in all five sessions to support continuity and deeper learning.

### **In-person learning and system connection (November 2 to 3)**

This initiative will culminate in two days of in-person learning, collaboration, and system connection:

- November 2 (afternoon): Leadership-focused session for supervisors and staff supporting the coaching and development of others
- November 2 (evening): Community-wide session with educators and supervisors (speaker series finale)
- November 3: Leadership Network session co-facilitated by Dr. Shelley Moore and Emily Mostovoy-Luna

## **A sector-leading resource for educators**

As part of this collaboration, Dr. Shelley Moore will develop a comprehensive crosswalk resource tailored specifically for use in Ontario early learning environments. This tool will meaningfully align:

- Principles of Universal Design Learning 3.0, the ELECT framework, the Province's pedagogy on early learning -How Does Learning Happen? and Think, Feel, Act resources.

This practical, integrated resource will support educators with planning, reflection, and responsive pedagogy, and will be available in late fall.

## **Looking ahead – Building momentum together**

This initiative reflects a bold and intentional step forward for our community. It is an investment rooted in evidence, guided by research, and shaped by your voices.

The consistent message we hear from the community is clear. There is a strong desire for practical, meaningful, and sustained learning that supports inclusive practice in real, everyday ways. This work is our collective response to that call.

As we move through the year, this initiative invites all of us, educators, leaders, and partners to lean in, stay curious, and actively engage. Each session, resource, and conversation is an opportunity to strengthen our shared understanding of what it means to be inclusive and to translate learning into impactful practice that will support all children and families across Durham Region.

Together, we are not just participating in professional learning; we are shaping a more inclusive, responsive, and equitable early learning system where every child and every family experiences a true sense of belonging.

## **2026 Professional learning**

This is a reminder to complete your application for Professional Learning Funding. Professional Learning Funding supports professional development initiatives aimed at strengthening the recruitment and retention of Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) and other early years program staff. This funding supports professional learning opportunities that build sector capacity and enhance the delivery of high-quality early years and child care programs. Licensees are encouraged to incorporate some or all of the identified priority areas into their professional learning plans.

To access Professional Learning Funding in 2026, child care operators must submit an [application](#) by September 30 outlining detailed information about the proposed professional learning opportunity. All professional learning activities must be completed between January 1 and December 31, 2026, and will be subject to year-end reconciliation with required supporting documentation.

For more information, please review the Professional Learning Funding policy (Policy #1-110) in the Child Care Operator Portal. If you have questions about Professional Learning Funding, please contact Stacey Stevenson at [Stacey.Stevenson@Durham.ca](mailto:Stacey.Stevenson@Durham.ca).

## Opportunities to support Early Childhood Education (ECE) placement students

George Brown Polytechnic's Early Childhood Education (ECE) program is expanding access to ECE training across Ontario through both in-person and online learning. To support students preparing for the profession, the program is strengthening partnerships with licensed child care centres and community agencies to offer placement opportunities in regions throughout the province. These placements are a critical component of educator preparation and also provide programs with opportunities to connect with emerging professionals interested in working within their local communities following graduation.

Please see the attached flyer for opportunities to support ECE students for placement experiences.

Alternatively, the online ECE diploma pathway may also be of interest to individuals currently working in the sector who are seeking flexible pathways to complete their ECE diploma while remaining in their communities and workplaces. For further details on the various pathways to becoming an ECE through George Brown, please visit the [George Brown Polytechnic website](#) for more information.

## Child care operator survey

The Child Care and Early Years Act (CCEYA) requires all licensees to submit annual statistical information to the Ministry of Education through the Child Care Licensing System (CCLS).

The Ministry of Education will send a link to the survey to operators during the week of June 1, 2026. A reference guide to assist operators in completing the survey was provided in the Ministry's memo dated May 26, 2026.

It is important to complete the survey accurately. The information helps the Ministry better support licensed child care in Ontario by guiding the development of policies, programs, and resources. **All responses must be submitted by June 26, 2026.**

## Operating capacity change form

As the year progresses, changes in enrolment are anticipated. To keep your allocation accurate, please report any updates to your operating capacity as soon as they occur. Although the CWELCC program mainly focuses on children aged zero to five, the number of school-age children can also influence allocations by affecting the weighting of CWELCC-eligible children. Timely reporting of all operational changes helps ensure that our information remains current and accurate. The operating capacity change form is available on the Child Care Operator Portal.