



2011 Fall Evening Workshops

Workshops are held Tuesdays from 7:00 PM—9:00 PM at 6208 Quinpool Road, 2nd Floor, Halifax (**unless noted as a workshop + tour)



Connecting With Families

Families know their child best. Educators know about their child in a group setting. The family is the child's first and most enduring teacher. When we work together we have a positive impact on the child's social, emotional and intellectual development. So how can we work together to make this partnership work well? In this interactive workshop we will explore ways to connect with families of the children in our care. Please bring your success stories.

Elizabeth Hicks has been working in child care for over 25 years. She currently works as an independent consultant with Beacon of Quality and supports early childhood practitioners in thinking about their programs and their goals for children.

September 20, 2011



Goal Setting is a Powerful Tool

Join us for a relaxed, interactive and personalized evening...together we will explore the difference between a wish and a goal. YOU will choose your goal for the year. Why is it important to YOU? Is it realistic, challenging, and attainable? What's YOUR plan of action? What are YOUR potential roadblocks? How will you measure success? Finally YOU will write it down. The most important step on YOUR road to success!

Valerie Hanson is a Professional Organizer, Business Consultant, Writer and Public Speaker. She has offered workshops on a wide variety of topics to diverse audiences; having owned and operated a family daycare, and a school-age childcare centre, she has a natural affinity to the childcare profession.

September 27, 2011



Parachute Play and Outdoor Games for Students and Teachers!

We will briefly examine the daily physical activity requirements for children in our care. As well we will examine the reasons we are seeing so much in the media about children needing 60 minutes of physical activity each day. Half of the evening will be spent engaged in play outdoors so please come dressed appropriately. Everyone will leave with a resource booklet of my favourite parachute & outdoor games.

Paula Richard is the Director of Christopher Allan's Preschool. She has a degree in physical education and has worked with young children for many years. Paula currently teaches a Movement and Wellbeing course to students at NSCECE.

October 4, 2011



Having Difficult Conversations with Parents (repeat session)

Come explore the challenges of relaying difficult information to parents of children in your program. Participants will review and apply the steps necessary to identify a problem and discuss how to bring it to the attention of parents in an empathic, respectful way. We will look at the stages parents go through when dealing with the emotions of having a child with special needs and how to apply basic communication principles during adult/adult conversations.

Denise Stone has a BCS and M.Ed., and over 25 years in the ECE field. She has worked in various capacities, taught adults, licensed centres, done policy/program development for government, and is currently a casework supervisor for ECDS.

October 11, 2011



I've Tried Everything and Its Not Getting Better (repeat session)

There are times when it feels like you have tried everything to change a child's behaviour and nothing makes a difference. When it feels like that, it's time to consider that you might be accidentally reinforcing the behaviour. Children do what works. Understanding the function of the behaviour and why a child is persisting with it is often the key to helping the child find a more acceptable way to get that need met. Come prepared for a frank conversation about how we can sometimes make things worse when we're trying to make them better.

Debbie Thompson is an MSVU Child Studies graduate. She is currently working as an EIBI Program Implementer for the IWK. Debbie has offered a number of upbeat and energetic workshops for NSCECE over the past few years.

October 18, 2011



Building Spirit, Trust and Effective Relationships in the Workplace

Everyone wants to be on a winning team. How do you get there and what can you do to build a winning team? It starts with the environment you work in and how you create opportunities where relationships can grow and be nurtured. We'll focus on a positive approach to building workplace relationships and explore what gets in the way of creating positive relationships. Participants will engage in team building activities which can be used in their centres.

Janet Boutilier has a Masters in Adult Education. In addition to being the NSCECE Registrar she teaches courses in Interpersonal Skills and Research Issues to students enrolled in our Early Childhood Education Diploma program.

October 25, 2011

All questions regarding equivalency accreditation should be directed to the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services at 424-3207.

Workshop fees are non-refundable. A workshop voucher will be issued if the College is notified of cancellation a minimum of 7 days before the scheduled workshop date. Non-attendance does not constitute cancellation.

Registration is only accepted with a payment. Write down the date and title of the workshop(s) you wish to attend, and forward with payment to NSCECE. You will be notified if your workshop is full or is cancelled for any reason.

To register, forward payment of \$35 per workshop to:

Nova Scotia College of Early Childhood Education, 6208 Quinpool Rd (2nd Floor) Halifax, NS B3L 1A3, 423-7114 Ext. 227



Play Memories—Encouraging Play in Our Classrooms

Play is an important part of the life of a child and in our lives too. It is important for teachers to reflect on our ideas about play and its role in the classroom. This workshop offers an opportunity to discover more about ourselves as 'players' and how we can encourage learning through play. Through discussions and case examples participants will discover their own play values, where they sit on the "play continuum", and how to help children learn through play.

Lisa Harrietha is a Child and Youth graduate from MSVU. She is currently working on her MA (CHYS). She has been working with children aged one to twelve for the past ten years and has a passion for providing open-ended and play based activities.

November 1, 2011



Sign Language in Early Childhood Classrooms (repeat session)

Do you have children in your classroom who don't get it? Do you find yourself having to use constant reminders and feeling frustrated by this? Sign language may be part of a solution for you. Sign language is an inclusive teaching strategy that can do more than bridge communication challenges. It can transform a classroom. Come learn some basic signs that can be used to improve communication, reduce problematic behavior, create friendships and inspire learning!

Laura Coish is an Early Childhood Education graduate with a B.A. in psychology. She worked as a preschool teacher for 14 years and is currently employed with the Progress Centre for Early Intervention. Laura has her Level 2 Sign Language.

November 8, 2011



Ramps and Pathways

We've all seen children send cars and other objects caroming down slides, ramps, and inclines. In this workshop participants will explore the value and meaning of this type of play. Using a variety of hands-on materials participants will reconnect to their inner scientist and discover the powerful learning opportunities of a constructivist approach to early learning. The workshop draws from the book *Ramps & Pathways* by Rheta DeVries & Christina Sales.

Shari Ridgewell, M Ed., BAA ECE, has worked for over 28 years in the field of early childhood. She enjoys facilitating PD opportunities for child care staff on many different topics that support a play based, child centered approach to learning.

November 15, 2011



Sharing the Value of Play with Parents

Many childcare centres use play as the basis for their learning activities. Teachers involved in play-based programs are sometimes asked questions such as: "What are the children learning?", "What is the point?", and "How will the children get the skills they need for school?" Come discover how to answer these questions confidently and advocate for play by discovering ways to communicate the significance of play.

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November 22, 2011



Where's the Camera?—Documentation in Early Childhood

Join us for a relaxed evening of hands-on activity as we explore the possibilities of documentation in the classroom. We will present a short power point outlining quick and easy ideas. We will also discuss the significance of what documentation offers children and their families. There will be documentation showing past and current interests in our classroom available for viewing. Some of this documentation may spark ideas for methods of daily documentation and also for in-depth projects that may be happening in your centres.

Jessica Landry and **Shawna Bennett** teach together in at Leeds Street Child Care Centre, an NSCECE Lab School. For them documentation is a teaching and a communication tool that allows children and families to re-visit learning. They are both graduates of NSCECE.

November 29, 2011



Literacy and Young Children: To 'go there' or not?

When we work with preschoolers, we see many signs of what children know about the written word and how it works. What are those signs, and what do we do about them? Developmentally Appropriate Practice gives us guidelines about what to do and what not to do when introducing aspects of literacy. Yet, some educators feel nervous or ambivalent about teaching literacy within an emergent, child-centred environment. Come share a conversation about meaningful and appropriate ways to offer reading and writing activities to young children.

Susan Stacey has been in the field for over 30 years, as a teacher, director, college professor and writer. She often works with ECEs addressing such topics as, documentation, reflective practice, emergent curriculum, and Reggio Emilia inspired approaches.

December 6, 2011



Freedom Within Structure: School-Age Programming

In this workshop you will explore strategies for working with the range of ages we find in our school-age programs. Together we'll look at how to offer age appropriate activities which are engaging, fun and flexible. School is full of structure and offers limited choices to children—but our school-age programs can be organized to offer children opportunities to make choices by giving them an framework that supports their participation and decision making.

Jennifer Solomon and **Sherry Bland** are school-age teachers at Needham Preschool and Daycare. Sherry a graduate of SJCC and has been teaching over twenty years. Jennifer graduated in 1999 from the ECE program at Algonquin College. She has been offering workshops for past last few years.

December 13, 2011

*Workshop Location: **Needham Preschool 3372 Devonshire Avenue, Halifax**

Note location

The College will accept in-person debit or credit card payments, in addition to cash or cheque. Resource Centre individual members receive a \$5 workshop discount. There is a \$10 fee to replace a lost certificate. There is a \$25 fee for NSF cheques. Please contact Carrie Melsom, Resource Centre Coordinator, 423-7114 Ext. 227 with questions, comments, or concerns about this workshop series.