



# 2012 Fall 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)

## Little Hands, Big Growth

Did you know there is a developmental progression to how a child holds a pencil and prints letters? Or that providing young children with the wrong type of writing tool in preschool can prevent them from developing a mature pencil grasp? Come learn helpful ways to incorporate toys and activities into the preschool classroom that support children in the development of age appropriate fine motor and pre-writing skills.

**Melissa Gibbons** is an Occupational Therapist and the owner of Hands For Growth Occupational Therapy. She brings years of experience working with children to help them develop their fine motor and handwriting skills. Check out her blog at [www.handsfor growth.ca](http://www.handsfor growth.ca) or join her on Facebook.  
**September 18, 2012**

## Creating Healthy Attachments with Infants and Toddlers

When caring for infants and toddlers one of our most important jobs is to facilitate healthy attachments. But how do we accomplish this with changing shifts and busy days? And what is our role in supporting children's attachments to their families? Participants will explore strategies to create healthy attachments and develop a personal plan-of-action to strengthen their practice by using an article from NAEYC written by Linda Gillespie and Amy Hunter.

**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.  
**September 25, 2012**

## Understanding Child Sexual Development

Healthy sexuality begins at conception and evolves across the lifespan. Strategies about how to support the healthy sexual development of preschoolers will be reviewed, including how to respond to "Where do babies come from?" and "Show me yours, I'll show you mine". Communication tips, resources and supports, plus information about prevention and risk reduction will be covered in this interactive discussion.

**Emily Martinello's** work in early intervention and her volunteerism in recreation for youth and adults with disabilities has inspired her to pursue a Masters degree in order to address a lack of information resources about sexuality and disability.  
**October 2, 2012**

## Nourishing Body, Mind and Spirit—Mealtimes in Childcare

Mealtimes are an opportunity to connect, catch up and enjoy each other's company. In childcare programs we are faced with a choice, do we make snack and mealtimes as efficient as possible or do we try for something richer? Come explore ways to create an enjoyable environment and engage children in healthy eating and fine dining. Topics include; smooth transitions; open-ended snacks; involving children; and creating wonderful conversations.

**Tishe Petite** is an ECE with thirty-one years of experience. She has worked with all age groups, in many types of settings and mentored many student teachers. She is currently a Family Home Day Care Consultant for YWCA Halifax.  
**October 9, 2012**

## Behaviour Guidance and Toddlers ... Dealing with the "Mine" Stage

In this workshop participants will discuss developmentally appropriate means for intervening for problem behaviour and the effective teaching of social skills to children ranging in age from eighteen months to three years old. Small group activities will lead to active programming for real life scenarios. Bring your questions and dilemmas. We can't "fix" individual problems but we can explore options and share our thinking about how to best meet the guidance needs of toddlers in group care.

**Crystal A. Harms (M.ED)** As the founder of Paths to Learning, Crystal creates, implements and closely follows each client's unique programming, progress, and development. She became a Board Certified Associate Behavior Analyst in 1997. She is also a Practicum Advisor at NSCECE.  
**October 16, 2012**

## Ramps and Pathways (REPEAT SESSION)

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.  
**October 23, 2012**

**Please note we have increased fees to \$40 for our Tuesday workshops. 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 \$40 per workshop to:

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

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### **Let's Draw! (RESCHEDULED SESSION)**

Remember when you used to draw, just for pure enjoyment? Ever stop to think about what you actually got from it? Asking children to draw is a frequently under-utilized approach in early childhood. If encouraged and supported appropriately it strengthens and helps grow most developmental domains. We will examine the research on drawing with children, practice our own skills, and learn about how educators can cultivate this expressive art.

**Elizabeth Hicks** is an independent consultant with *Beacon of Quality* who supports ECEs in thinking about their programs and their goals for children. **Angela McNamara** is an ECE and a Teacher. Currently working in child care, she continues to learn and grow from her own teachable moments.  
**October 30, 2012**

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### **Outdoor Learning Environments**

Outdoor environments can be incredibly rich and full of learning opportunities for young children and their teachers. Come discover how well-designed outdoor environments can support all areas of the curriculum as well as children's play, active learning, creativity and investigation. Participants will discuss teacher practices and ways of engaging that build on the potential of outdoor spaces; ideas for designing and equipping natural play spaces; and explore how beliefs about safety and risk-taking can support or limit outdoor learning opportunities.

**Lisa Davies** has been working with children and families in not-for-profit agencies and government for over 20 years. Lisa was a full-time faculty member at the Nova Scotia College of Early Childhood Education and is currently the Director of the Dartmouth Child Development Centre.  
**November 6, 2012**

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### **Making Sense of the World—Schemas in Early Childhood**

ECEs have a sense that children construct knowledge by actively engaging with the environment. This understanding often collides with the sense that children learn the things we teach them. Schema theory can help us better appreciate that the seemingly random behaviour we notice in play may in fact be part of a pattern and a child's process of acquiring a particular kind of knowledge or understanding. Workshop participants will be introduced to some easily observed schemas and identify possible ways to grow curriculum based on these interests.

**Elizabeth Hicks** has been working in child care for 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.

**November 13, 2012**

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### **Guidance Matters**

As early childhood educators we are frequently challenged by children who exhibit aggressive behaviours. Using an article from the National Association for the Education of Young Children by Dan Gartrell you will be taken on a guided exploration of ways to help children who experience serious conflicts. Current research, techniques and reflective practice methods will be used to help support early childhood educators as *guidance professionals*.

**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 20, 2012**

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### **Inclusive Environments for Families and Children**

The *Leave It To Beaver* family of our collective TV imagination has been replaced by *Modern Family* and while real families have always been complex, diverse and unique in their dynamics, early childhood programs have only recently begun to consider ways to acknowledge and visibly welcome children and families in all their diversity. We'll explore recommended practices and strategies for helping families feel included and valued from their first contact with your program. We'll also look at our challenges and hesitations as we wave farewell to the "Beave".

**Lisa Davies** has been working with children and families in not-for-profit agencies and government for over 20 years. Lisa was a full-time faculty member at the Nova Scotia College of Early Childhood Education and is currently the Director of the Dartmouth Child Development Centre.  
**November 27, 2012**

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### **Rights for Children**

Under the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* every child is born with rights of protection, provision and participation. That can be an unsettling notion for governments, parents and the adults who work with children. It's applauded in theory but what does it mean in practice? Come share a conversation about how, and why, some early childhood educators seek to include children's perspectives in everyday decisions. We'll explore examples of how educators at the Boulder Journey School have been inspired by Reggio's "pedagogy of listening" to do just that.

**Carrie Melsom** is the Coordinator of the NSCECE Early Childhood Educator Resource Centre. She has been teaching children or adults since 1986. She sees classrooms as communities and believes the thoughts and voices of every member have value when creating rich and engaging learning environments.  
**December 4, 2012**

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### **Going on a Lion Hunt—Field Trips in Metro**

Field trips help expand children's knowledge of their world and help remind the community that children and childcare programs are active and vital members of the community. Getting out and about can be a challenge but it is well worth it. Come share ideas and strategies for getting the most out of your field trips. We'll discuss familiar favourites and brainstorm possibilities that range from visiting parent workplaces, caring for the community, going on art walks, and how field trips can become an integral part of an emergent curriculum.

**Joelle Rowlings & Jessica Landry** work at Leeds Street Child Care Centre, a NSCECE lab school. Joelle is the centre director and Jessica teaches in the preschool room. They value the learning opportunities available in their local community and the excitement that grows out of adventuring further afield.  
**December 11, 2012**

**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.**