

CHILDREN  
the **Heart** Of the  
**MATTER** 20 years



**February 17 & 18, 2017**

**Sheraton Guildford Hotel**  
15269 104 Ave, Surrey, BC



# CHILDREN the **Heart** of the **MATTER** 20 years

20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
February 17 & 18, 2017

Sheraton Guildford Hotel  
15269 104 Ave  
Surrey, BC



Ministry of  
Children and Family  
Development



# Celebrating 20 years

In 1997, the Delta, Langley and Surrey Child Care Resource and Referral Programs and the South Fraser Family Child Care Society partnered to plan a conference for family child care providers and all other early care and learning professionals working in the communities of South Fraser. Seeing an opportunity for a February event, the newly formed committee named the conference "Children the Heart of the Matter", linking the focus of the care and education of young children with 'Valentine's Day'. The first event was held on February 15, 1997 with 80 participants attending.

The Children the Heart of the Matter Conference has continued to be a popular and affordable annual event for all those involved in the care and education of young children. Participation has grown from the original 60 participants to over 600. The conference promotes best practise in inclusive settings, raises the awareness and profile of child care, early childhood development services, family resource programs and others through professional development, networking, and sharing of information and resources.

Since its inception, the planning and delivery of the conference has been a result of the collaboration and partnerships of a number of local organizations and service providers, the City of Surrey, and the Surrey School District. Committee members have dedicated from 5 years to 20 years attending monthly meetings and devoting many hours to the preparation and hosting of the conference. The CCRR team has also been invaluable with all of the behind the scenes logistics of putting on the conference.

Over the past 20 years, we have been fortunate to welcome some noted experts and distinguished keynote speakers, but our greatest pleasure and success has been welcoming back many individuals who have attended every year since 1997!

This conference will be of interest to persons who work with young children and families in all early learning programs.



# Conference Planning



The conference planning committee is comprised of a group of individuals from the community working in the field of early care and learning. Committee members and staff contribute many hours to ensure this is a well-planned and organized conference. Through the dedication of the committee, provincial funding, and sponsor support, we are able to keep the conference fees down for care providers and other professionals working with young children.

## 2017 CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS

### **Sherrie Jamieson**

Manager, Early Intervention  
Reach Child and Youth Development Society

### **Ruth Beardsley**

Senior Manager  
Options Community Services

## 2017 CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Karen Came	Langley Child Development Centre
Shea Carson	Child Care Options, Options Community Services
Shelby Gordon	Child Care Options, Options Community Services
Gisele Haines	Child Care Options, Options Community Services
Danielle Jimeno	A Place to Grow, Surrey Hospital Community Childcare Society
Elizabeth Kimura	Child Care Options, Options Community Services
Dr. Vanessa Lapointe	Wishing Star Lapointe Developmental Clinic
Karen Norman	Early Childhood Educator
Colleen Strachan	City of Surrey
Jennifer Street	The Centre for Child Development
Jennifer Vanderberg	Delta Continuing Education
Barb Walks	Early Childhood Educator
Sharlene Wedel	Child Care Options, Options Community Services
Lisa Wade	City of Surrey

# CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>

- 5:30 PM Registration Open  
Marketplace Open
- 6:30 PM Conference Welcome
- 7:00 PM Keynote Presentation  
"You're Not the Boss of Me"  
with Dr. Deborah MacNamara
- 9:00 PM Book Signing  
with Dr. Deborah MacNamara

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>

- 7:15 AM Registration Open  
Marketplace Open  
Community Tables Open
- 8:15 AM Conference Welcome
- 8:30 AM Morning Warm-up  
with Charlotte Diamond
- 8:45 AM Keynote Presentation  
"Play Counts!"  
with Denita Dinger
- 10:15 AM Morning Break
- 10:45 AM A.M. Session Workshops
- 12:45 PM Lunch Break
- 1:45 PM P.M. Session Workshops  
Marketplace Close  
Community Tables Close
- 3:45 PM Conference Close

## INTRODUCING... PRE-CONFERENCE

For the first time we are able to offer some additional opportunities for pre-conference events on Friday February 17th. Watch for pre-conference details on our website! More information will be available in the fall at [www.childcareoptions.ca](http://www.childcareoptions.ca)

Our pre-conference partners are the Dalai Lama Centre for Peace and Education, the Psychology Foundation of Canada, Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre, and the Provincial Office of the Early Years.

GET  
CONFERENCE  
UPDATES

Follow us on...  
Twitter @chcareoptions  
Facebook @childcareoptionsccrr  
Instagram @childcareoptions

Visit Our Website  
[www.childcareoptions.ca](http://www.childcareoptions.ca)  
and click on CONFERENCE

VISIT THE  
MARKETPLACE

Be sure to stop by the Marketplace for a look at the latest toys, equipment and materials available in the early care and learning field! There is an ATM available on site.

Don't forget to visit our community tables and get connected with the resources available in your area.

(note: the community resource tables are available on Saturday only)



CERTIFICATE  
HOURS

Conference attendees will receive certificates for training attended.

Friday only	2 hours
Saturday only	5.5 hours
Friday & Saturday	7.5 hours



### GIVING BACK CAMPAIGN

For the third year the Children the Heart of the Matter Conference is partnering with the Rotary World Help Organization ([www.rotaryworldhelp.com](http://www.rotaryworldhelp.com)) to present the "Children the Heart of the Matter Giving Back Campaign." Rotary World Help is a non-profit organization aimed at collecting and distributing medical equipment and supplies, dental, optical, education and sports equipment, and disaster relief supplies to international recipients in need. It is a non-religious, non-political charity run by Rotary Clubs in BC. We are asking CHOM participants to help support education in other parts of the world by bringing new school supplies of your choice to the conference for donation. Help us to help others; show that children really are the "heart of the matter."

# Friday Night Keynote Speaker

Dr. Deborah MacNamara

## You're Not the Boss of Me: Understanding Resistance & Opposition in Children

Children are naturally inclined to resist and oppose when feeling pressed upon or controlled. Although the reaction is quite normal and even healthy in certain circumstances, its manifestations and impact can be highly disruptive and disturbing, making life difficult for parents and teachers. Counterwill can take many forms from negativism to noncompliance depending upon the age and personality of the child. We will discuss the meaning of this deep-rooted instinct as well as the dynamics that control its existence and expression.



.....

Dr. Deborah MacNamara is on Faculty at the Neufeld Institute and presents, teaches, and writes on all facets of child and adolescent development based on the relational-developmental approach of Gordon Neufeld. She is also in private practice where she offers counselling services to parents and professionals in making sense of learning, behavioural, and developmental issues in children and adolescents. Deborah is a dynamic teacher and experienced counsellor who takes developmental science and makes it come to life in the everyday context of home and classroom.

Deborah presents regularly to audiences including parents, educators, child care professionals, social workers, counsellors, foster and adopt community, and health care professionals. Her particular passions include providing insight into preschooler behaviour, helping adolescents transition into adulthood, and walking people through the journey of parenthood. She is a developmentalist at heart who is continually fascinated by the mysteries and beauty inherent to human maturation.

Deborah has over 20 years experience as a counsellor and teacher working in educational and community mental health settings. She writes for a number of newsletters, parenting magazines, blogs, and is interviewed for radio talk shows.



# Saturday Morning Keynote Speaker

Denita Dinger

## Play Counts!

Play counts... if we let it. Denita's passion for following a child's lead is contagious. Through her 16 years of working with young children she has learned that teaching isn't so much about showing and doing as it is about stepping back, observing and supporting. You will leave her session with a new appreciation for play and a fresh perspective on the value of trusting children to lead their learning. This keynote is filled to the brim with simple ideas for setting the environment for successful play-based, child-led learning. Denita shares the steps she went through in order to put age-appropriate learning IN, and take her adult-ideas and plans OUT. Participants will leave this session refreshed, energized and feeling empowered with valuable tools that will help them let PLAY COUNT, and educate the parents as well!



.....

After stopping young children's play in order to get to the "important stuff" for 9 years, I realized a change was needed. Step by step, one "aha moment" after another, I was able to transition my program from teacher-led and what I thought was "play-based" to child-led and TRULY, "play-based".

OUT with the rigid, controlling schedule, forced, teacher-led learning and children who depended on me to lead the way,

IN with authentic learning and empowered young children who "wonder if...", imagine, create, fail, discover, manage conflict, solve problems, try, persevere, help, succeed and LOVE the freedom to lead and learn through play.

Now, I proudly, and LOUDLY proclaim: "Play IS the "important stuff". I love to defend play by speaking at early childhood professional events all across the country and have co-authored three books on the topic.

# Saturday Morning Special Guest

Be prepared to start your day energized with Charlotte Diamond!

Over the past 30 years, Charlotte Diamond has made an enduring contribution to Canadian children's music. Her understanding of how music and lyrics are foundational to literacy has also helped teachers, as she has produced learning guides that focus on brain development and language patterns in young learners. This past July, Charlotte was awarded the Order of Canada.



## Saturday Workshop Overview

### AM SESSION 10:45 AM - 12:45 PM

A1

**Discipline That Doesn't Divide**

*Dr. Deborah MacNamara*

A2

**The Joy of Singing Inspires a Love of Language, Creativity, & Self-Expression**

*Charlotte Diamond*

A3

**Empowering Children with the Gift of Control**

*Denita Dinger*

A4

**Enriching Children's Inquiry Through Literature**

*Natsuko Motegi*

A5

**Emergent Learning in School Age Care**

*Tyler Summers*

A6

**Working with Gender Variant Children and LGBTQ Families**

*Joel Harnest*

A7

**Nature is Calling: Please Act**

*Dr. Diane Kashin*

### PM SESSION 1:45 - 3:45 PM

P1

**Kindergarten Transitions: Promising Practices in BC School Districts**

*Maureen Dockendorf*

P2

**Mindful Caregiving: How Mindfulness Reduces Burnout and Improves Outcomes for Children**

*Dr. Jillian Haydicky*

P3

**Let Them Play!**

*Denita Dinger*

P4

**Culturally Sensitive Pedagogy**

*Bernice Cipparrone McLeod & Safra Najeemudeen*

P5

**Creating a Culture of Thinking & Compassion in the Early Childhood Classroom**

*Laura Manni*

P6

**Infant Toddler Studio: Creating Spaces that Inspire**

*Lina Brasil Do Couto & Nita Pedersen*

P7

**Experiencing Loose Parts and Documenting**

*Dr. Diane Kashin*

Special  
welcome to our  
out-of-town  
presenters!

Denita Dinger - Sioux Falls, SD, USA

Dr. Diane Kashin - Toronto, ON, Canada

Bernice Cipparrone McLeod - Toronto, ON, Canada

Safra Najeemudeen - Toronto, ON, Canada

Laura Manni - New York, NY, USA

## AM SESSION - WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

### A1 Discipline That Doesn't Divide

One of the biggest challenges faced by parents, caregivers and educators is the safe discipline of children in their care. Given that connection is the greatest need a child has, discipline that protects this attachment is critical. Seven principles of attachment safe discipline will be discussed along with an understanding of the 4 most common principles that erode attachment and threaten development.

Dr. Deborah MacNamara

Dr. Deborah MacNamara is on Faculty at the Neufeld Institute and presents, teaches, and writes on all facets of child and adolescent development based on the relational-developmental approach of Gordon Neufeld. She is also in private practice where she offers counselling services to parents and professionals in making sense of learning, behavioural, and developmental issues in children and adolescents. Deborah is a dynamic teacher and experienced counsellor who takes developmental science and makes it come to life in the everyday context of home and classroom.



Deborah presents regularly to audiences including parents, educators, child care professionals, social workers, counsellors, foster and adopt community, and health care professionals. Her particular passions include providing insight into preschooler behaviour, helping adolescents transition into adulthood, and walking people through the journey of parenthood. She is a developmentalist at heart who is continually fascinated by the mysteries and beauty inherent to human maturation.

Deborah has over 20 years experience as a counsellor and teacher working in educational and community mental health settings. She writes for a number of newsletters, parenting magazines, blogs, and is interviewed for radio talk shows.

**A2**

## The Joy of Singing Inspires a Love of Language, Creativity, & Self-Expression

Music plays an important role in Early Education. Through her “easy to follow” P.R.I.Z.E. Method, (The use of Props and Puppets, Rhythm and Movement, Imagination, Zipper Songs and Echo Songs), Charlotte inspires educators of young children to use songs and rhythmic stories for the development of oral as well as written language, creativity, social and communication skills. Charlotte has a special interest in children with learning challenges and delayed language and speech development. Participation is encouraged. Some songs include French and Sign Language. The Song is Just the Beginning!



Charlotte Diamond

Charlotte Diamond is an award-winning, internationally-recognized songwriter, educator and recording-artist. Based in Richmond, BC, she has presented numerous concerts, conference keynotes and workshops throughout Canada and the USA, including BC Primary Teachers Conferences, Kindergarten Conferences and Early Childhood Conferences, such as NAEYC. She was a keynote presenter for Children the Heart of the Matter in 2012. Her musical career spans 30 years and she recently produced her 14th album, “Diamonds by the Sea” with her son, Matt Diamond. Her songs, “Four Hugs a Day”, “I am a Pizza (Je suis une pizza)”, “Each of us is a Flower”, “Octopus (Slippery Fish)” are classroom favourites. Charlotte was a headliner for the 2016 Surrey International Children’s Festival, and this past July she was awarded the Order of Canada.

**A3**

## Empowering Children with the Gift of Control

Afraid of what that “out of control” child in your program will do if you “just” let them play? Feeling like sticking to a rigid schedule is the only way for you to be able to control unacceptable behaviors? Do you think “play-based” and “child-led” means no structure? Then this is the workshop for you! We all have a desire to be in control. Children are the same, they seek control, they NEED control. Taking a toy away from another child fills that urge for control. Being trusted to solve problems, choose a task and find a new way to use materials also fills the need for control and has the bonus effect of being empowering. You will walk away from this workshop with practical ideas that will empower children with the type of control that provides opportunities to build life-long skills.

Denita Dinger

After stopping young children’s play in order to get to the ‘important stuff’ for 9 years, I realized a change was needed. Step by step, one “aha moment” after another, I was able to transition my program from teacher-led and what I thought was “play-based” to child-led and TRULY, “play-based”. OUT with the rigid, controlling schedule, forced, teacher-led learning and children who depended on me to lead the way, IN with authentic learning and empowered young children who “wonder if...”, imagine, create, fail, discover, manage conflict, solve problems, try, persevere, help, succeed and LOVE the freedom to lead and learn through play. Now, I proudly, and LOUDLY proclaim: “Play IS the “important stuff”. I love to defend play by speaking at early childhood

*We HIGHLY RECOMMENDED registering for both of Denita’s workshops. (see P3 for her PM session)*

## A4

### Enriching Children's Inquiry Through Literature

How do you choose a book to deepen children's engagement in their investigation? How do you use it to captivate their mind in the story and stimulate on-going exploration? Why do the children become so interested in certain books? What is the underlying idea that appeals to them? The curriculum we offer can be enriched with stories and books. The presenter will share the principles of adapting literature in this workshop through the examples from Marpole Preschool that has been working in Reggio-inspired ways for years. Participants will have the opportunity to examine books and ponder what experiences will make the story more meaningful.

Natsuko Motegi

Natsuko graduated with M. Ed. from UBC and started to work in the Early Childhood Education field in 2002. She has been working as a preschool teacher at Marpole Preschool through the Reggio Emilia inspired approach since 2005, and now also co-teaches Responsive Curriculum at the ECE program at Burnaby Community and Continuing Education.



**A5**

## Emergent Learning in School Age Care

Emergent learning in child care is rapidly becoming a recognized and recommended practice for Educators seeking to provide the best possible care for their children and families. Recent research shows that a meaningful and positive learning environment has several factors in common: access to a consistent and reliable adult with up-to-date training and education in child development, health and safety, care and guidance, and nutrition; space provided for investigation, self-determination and exploration of the interdependence between educators, children, families and the community; elements of each child's home life represented in the program; flexible play spaces with open ended natural material; programming that honours the processes at play in 'child centered' experiences and activities vs. pre-determined, theme-based 'adult-directed' experiences and activities; seeing each child as competent and full of potential (The Image of the Child – British Columbia Early Learning Framework).

In this workshop participants will explore these elements while planning with a 4 step emergent curriculum framework and 7 best practice principles that support and accompany an emergent curriculum framework.

Tyler Summers

Tyler has been working in School Age Care for 23 years and is currently the Program Manager at Jericho Kids Club and chair of the School Age Child Care Association of British Columbia. He also serves as co-chair of the Vancouver Middle Childhood Matters Steering Committee, Member of The Ministry of Children and Family Development Early Childhood Occupational Standards Reference Group, Member of the Vancouver Westside Childhood Development Hub. He is also a father and husband with a side passion for freelance writing, martial arts and yoga.

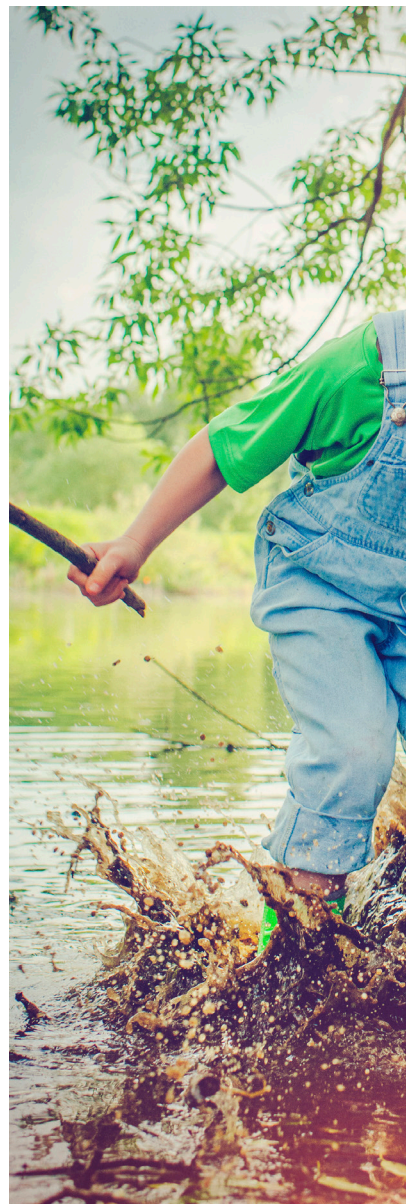
**A6**

## Working with Gender Variant Children and LGBTQ Families

In this highly interactive workshop, participants will discuss definitions of words of significance within the LGBTQ community; review the gender binary and spectrum models that influence how and when gender identity is shaped; discover new ways to build inclusive environments and safer spaces; and apply their learnings to case studies and scenarios.

Joel Harnest

Joel brings over 10 years of experience in adult education and group facilitation to his role at QMUNITY, where he facilitates 100 workshops a year with service providers, educators, & business leaders, building their capacity to be queer & trans inclusive in their client services & customer relations.



## Nature is Calling: Please Act

Children belong in nature, it is in their nature. Being able to play freely in and with nature is vital to children's healthy development and supports their learning in wondrous ways. This session will focus on ways teachers can program for children outdoors using the best classroom – the one without a roof. Teachers will be encouraged to go beyond the fence to nature's playground and learn how to look closely for sparks and investigative triggers that support inquiry learning. This interactive session will give teachers a taste of possibilities for outdoor learning and will involve the discussion of bringing the outside in, which is not a substitute for outdoor learning but a way to enhance the outdoor experience.



Dr. Diane Kashin

Diane earned her Bachelors of Honours from York University and an early childhood education diploma from Seneca College. Diane worked as an early childhood educator and centre director before beginning graduate studies at the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education at University of Toronto and teaching early childhood education at Seneca College at both the degree and the diploma level. Diane earned a Masters and Doctorate of Education successfully defending her doctoral thesis: *Reaching the Top of the Mountain: The Impact of Emergent Curriculum on the Practice and Self-Image of Early Childhood Educators* in 2007.

Diane has co-authored two early childhood education textbooks with Pearson Canada; *Playing and Learning in Early Childhood Education* (2012) and *Empowering Pedagogy in Early Childhood Education* (2016) (available on Amazon.com). Diane retired from Seneca College in 2014 and is excited to be teaching part time at Ryerson University, consulting and providing workshops provincially, nationally and internationally. Her research interests include Reggio inspired practice, the philosophy of Frances and David Hawkins, forest/nature schools, technology integration in ECE and social media for professional learning. Diane is the author of a blog that she writes to support professional learning in early childhood education: <http://tecribresearch.wordpress.com> and moderates Twitter chats for educators and students.

Diane is passionate about her volunteer work as the chair of the York Region Nature Collaborative [www.yrnature.ca](http://www.yrnature.ca) as well as engaging and learning through social media.

On Facebook:

York Region Nature Collaborative  
Technology Rich Inquiry Based Research  
Bachelor of Child Development Program

On Twitter:

@DianeKashin1  
@YRnature

Diane will be at the conference with the support of



**RBC**  
Learn to Play  
Project

# PM SESSION - WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

P1

## Kindergarten Transitions: Promising Practices in BC School Districts

This session will highlight promising practices in BC School Districts in relation to transitioning children into Kindergarten settings, with a particular focus on children with special needs and children and families who have not accessed early years programs and practices.

Maureen Dockendorf

Maureen Dockendorf is the newly appointed BC Superintendent of Early Years. This position has a strong focus of working with school districts to strengthen and build upon their work in the early years.

Maureen has worked as a Teacher, SFU Faculty Associate, Principal and Assistant Superintendent. Most recently, Maureen has been the Superintendent of Literacy and Numeracy at the Ministry of Education to support the redesign of curriculum and competency development within the context of the transformational change process in BC's education system.

Maureen is well-known for her work as a conference speaker, an educational author, facilitator, and staff development consultant. Maureen also works closely with ME TO WE/FREE THE CHILDREN to coordinate BC educators' volunteer experiences working with local communities to build schools in Kenya, Ecuador, and India.



P2

## Mindful Caregiving: How Mindfulness Reduces Burnout and Improves Outcomes for Children

Many of the children in our centres and schools have difficulty regulating their big feelings, resulting in challenging behaviour that can evoke frustration in the adults caring for them. As caregivers, we invest so much in our children that we often find ourselves too busy, tired or overwhelmed to tend to our own emotional needs. In this workshop, you will learn how a mindful approach to caregiving mitigates stress and reduces the risk of burnout. We will also explore how taking care of yourself improves relationships, supports emotion regulation, and fosters resilience in our highly sensitive, intense or spirited children.

Dr. Jillian Haydicky

Dr. Jillian Haydicky is a Registered Psychologist who is committed to promoting wellness and resilience through the use of family-focused treatments. Dr. Jill is a certified facilitator of an evidence-based mindfulness program for caregivers and youth. Her research on mindfulness has been published in peer-reviewed journals, and presented at national and international conferences. Dr. Jill's research studies suggest that mindfulness can help children and their caregivers improve their relationships, regulate their emotions, and cope with life's challenges.



P3

## Let Them Play!

Come and explore up to 30 hands-on activities that are loaded with open-ended learning opportunities. Based on the book Denita co-authored with Jeff Johnson, "Let Them Play: An Early Childhood "Un"curriculum", this hands-on workshop will inspire you to bring more play to your program. Not only will you take loads of simple, inexpensive ideas back to your program, you will also leave empowered to educate parents of the true value of child-led play. Time will be spent dissecting play and articulating the learning that occurs during child-led play as well as digging in and letting your inner child emerge through play!

Denita Dinger

After stopping young children's play in order to get to the "important stuff" for 9 years, I realized a change was needed. Step by step, one "aha moment" after another, I was able to transition my program from teacher-led and what I thought was "play-based" to child-led and TRULY, "play-based". OUT with the rigid, controlling schedule, forced, teacher-led learning and children who depended on me to lead the way, IN with authentic learning and empowered young children who "wonder if...", imagine, create, fail, discover, manage conflict, solve problems, try, persevere, help, succeed and LOVE the freedom to lead and learn through play. Now, I proudly, and LOUDLY proclaim: "Play IS the "important stuff". I love to defend play by speaking at early childhood professional events all across the country and have co-authored three books on the topic.

*We HIGHLY RECOMMENDED registering for both of Denita's workshops.  
(see A3 for her AM session)*



Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) continue to be of paramount relevance to the field of early childhood education and child care, particularly with immigration rises across the globe. While a child's principal sources for learning experiences are at home, many children also attend early learning and child care programs. Practitioners will benefit from critically reflecting on their own assumptions, cultural biases and values, which influence their practice when working with culturally diverse children. This presentation will explore teaching strategies promoting EDI in the classroom through a focus on empowering children by utilizing knowledge of the child's cultural strengths to inform pedagogy, creating connections between home and school, and fostering children's sense of belonging.

### Bernice Cipparrone McLeod

Bernice Cipparrone McLeod has been in the field of early childhood education for over thirty years including work in children's mental health specializing in trauma as well as early child development. Bernice has developed three evaluation tools for the Ministry of Children and Youth Services aimed at creating inclusive programs as well as co-author of a textbook focusing on children with exceptionalities. Bernice has worked at a senior level for the Ontario Trillium Foundation while she was an instructor with George Brown College in the School of Early Childhood since 2000 before becoming full-time faculty in 2011. Bernice was cross-appointed as Executive Director of the Atkinson Centre in 2014 where she continues to focus on promoting healthy child development through key relationships, community engagement and capacity building.

### Safra Najeemudeen

Safra Najeemudeen is completing a Master's degree in Early Childhood Studies at Ryerson University. After graduating, she hopes to pursue a PhD in Policy Studies. Safra has extensive experience working with and supporting young children and their families, in both Sri Lanka and Canada. Through her work



as a program facilitator for a family resource program, she has developed a strong interest in supporting new Canadian families and policies affecting these families. She is also an instructor with George Brown College in the School of Early Childhood. Safra's research interests focus on supporting immigrant children develop cultural identities and fostering their sense of belonging through culturally sensitive pedagogy.

P5

## Creating a Culture of Thinking and Compassion in the Early Childhood Classroom

It is precisely at a time when “we are doing earlier and earlier to children what we shouldn’t do later,” (L Katz), that we have to share practices and philosophies that recognize and support children’s intellectual capacity, while honouring the uniqueness of this time in a human being’s life. As teachers of the youngest learners, we have an opportunity to provide developmentally appropriate experiences that allow children to develop the dispositions associated with lifelong learners (curiosity, creativity). In this interactive workshop, we will explore ways teachers can use language, thinking routines and feedback to help promote this dispositional growth, while developing deep, positive relationships, which truly lead to growth.

Laura Manni

Laura Manni is currently serving as Director of Development at the non-profit, Bridges of Peace and Hope. She has worked in the field of early childhood, predominantly as a teacher, for over 16 years. She was also the coordinator of the Early Learning Centre at the AISL, Zambia and a research assistant at the Institute of Education, University London, where she worked with Early Years Professor Iram Siraj. Her most treasured personal experience was her involvement of setting up and expanding Mukwashi Trust School in Zambia, where she has been the volunteer director for almost 10 years. She has an Honours BA and BEd from York University, Toronto and a Masters of Education with a focus on Early Years from Cambridge University, UK.



P6

## Infant-Toddler Studio: Creating Spaces that Inspire

Nita and Lina will share their journey of providing a space that honoured our children under 3, even though these types of spaces are often only considered for preschool aged children or older.

The studio began as a space to explore art and its many materials and mediums morphed into a place to where stories were being told. The babies began to tell stories and give ideas to the many things that they created. Through pedagogical narrations, the educators were able to beautifully capture their stories through photos, drawings, artwork and written reflections.

Lina Brasil Do Couto & Nita Pedersen

Lina and Nita are both senior educator in infant toddler programs at SFU Childcare. Their work with children exemplifies SFU’s vision that states, “SFU Childcare Society Values children as the heart of our respectful, collaborative and reflective community by providing them with an environment to develop their potential through freedom to explore and engage the world around them.”

## Experiencing Loose Parts and Documenting

In this interactive session, participants will have the opportunity to select from an array of loose parts to experience first hand materials that support children as creators rather than consumers. This session will demonstrate the theory of loose parts as they will be combined, transported and transformed into works of transient art that emphasize process but allows for digital documentation of product. With the addition of other materials, participants will have the opportunity to represent and reflect on the experience by creating documentation panels that tell the story.

Dr. Diane Kashin

Diane earned her Bachelors of Honours from York University and an early childhood education diploma from Seneca College. Diane worked as an early childhood educator and centre director before beginning graduate studies at the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education at University of Toronto and teaching early childhood education at Seneca College at both the degree and the diploma level. Diane earned a Masters and Doctorate of Education successfully defending her doctoral thesis: *Reaching the Top of the Mountain: The Impact of Emergent Curriculum on the Practice and Self-Image of Early Childhood Educators* in 2007.

Diane has co-authored two early childhood education textbooks with Pearson Canada; *Playing and Learning in Early Childhood Education* (2012) and *Empowering Pedagogy in Early Childhood Education* (2016) (available on Amazon.com). Diane retired from Seneca College in 2014 and is excited to be teaching part time at Ryerson University, consulting and providing workshops provincially, nationally and internationally. Her research interests include Reggio inspired practice, the philosophy of Frances and David Hawkins, forest/nature schools, technology integration in ECE and social media for professional learning. Diane is the author of a blog that she writes to support professional learning in early childhood education: <http://tecribresearch.wordpress.com> and moderates Twitter chats for educators and students.

Diane is passionate about her volunteer work as the chair of the York Region Nature Collaborative [www.yrnature.ca](http://www.yrnature.ca) as well as engaging and learning through social media.

On Facebook:

York Region Nature  
Collaborative

Technology Rich  
Inquiry Based Research

Bachelor of Child  
Development Program

On Twitter:

@DianeKashin1

@YRnature



Diane will be at the conference with the support of



**RBC**  
Learn to Play  
Project

# Registration

Registration is available online only. Visit [www.childcareoptions.ca](http://www.childcareoptions.ca) and click on the registration link on the conference page.

**No workshop changes are permitted once registration is processed. We do not maintain waitlists for popular workshops - registration is first come, first served!**

All workshop confirmations will be sent by email. You will not receive a confirmation without an email address. Please add [childcareoptions@options.bc.ca](mailto:childcareoptions@options.bc.ca) to your email address book to ensure you receive your confirmation.



Certificates of attendance will be provided for the completion of each workshop and keynote presentation. **Please note:** A \$20 fee will be applied to all duplicate receipts and certificates issued. Certificates and receipts will be available for one month after conference close.

	<b>EARLY BIRD PRICE</b>	<b>REGULAR PRICE</b>
	October 1st to November 30th, 2016 (by 4:00 p.m.)	December 1st, 2016 to February 10th, 2017 (by 4:00 p.m.)
Friday only	\$20.00	\$20.00
Friday and Saturday	\$115.00	\$140.00
Saturday only	\$100.00	\$120.00

..... **Cancellation Policy** .....

• Cancellations will be accepted until **February 10, 2017** and will be subject to a \$25.00 administration fee. **Cancellations will not be accepted after this date for any reason.**

• Replacement delegates are welcome with prior notice.

.....

# General Information

## Get Social!

Be sure to follow along with us on social media. We'll be using the hashtag #CHOM2017 so be sure to use it when you're posting about the conference, so we can find you!

You can find us at:

- [Instagram.com/childcareoptions](https://www.instagram.com/childcareoptions)
- [Twitter.com/chcareoptions](https://twitter.com/chcareoptions)
- [Facebook.com/childcareoptionsccrr](https://www.facebook.com/childcareoptionsccrr)

## Selfie Station

We'll be setting up a selfie station again this year for you to have fun with your colleagues and new friends! Be sure to drop by, take a photo, and post it to Instagram or Twitter using the hashtag #CHOM2017 for your chance to win a great prize!



## Consent to Use Photographs

Photographs will be taken during the Children the Heart of the Matter conference. By registering, you will be giving permission that photos containing your image/likeness may be used.

### Helpful Tips ...

#### Purchases

Consider bringing a wheeled bag for shopping in the Marketplace.

#### Networking

Bring business cards to exchange with new colleagues you meet.

### Nutrition

Morning refreshment break and lunch are included in the Friday and Saturday, and Saturday only conference fees. Vegetarian options will be available.

If you have any food restrictions or allergies, you will be responsible for providing your own food and beverages.

# Hotel Accommodations

Conference participants receive a discounted rate at the Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel from February 16 to 18, 2017.

Rooms	Single	Double	Triple	Quad
Traditional Double Queen (TRQ)	\$119	\$119	\$135	\$155
Traditional King (TRK)	\$119	\$119	\$135	\$155



Rooms can be booked online at:

[www.childcareoptions.ca](http://www.childcareoptions.ca) and click on CONFERENCE.



## Facility and Parking

### Address

15269 104 Ave Surrey, BC, V3R 1N5

### Parking

Parking at the Sheraton is pay parking. There is an underground parking lot below the hotel. There are additional pay parking lots near the hotel in case the underground lot is full.

### Transit

The Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel is just a few blocks from the Guildford Bus Exchange. This exchange has busses running directly from Surrey Central Sky Train Station, with service from Downtown Vancouver.

CHILDREN  
the **Heart** of the **20** years  
**MATTER**