



Resource Library & Workroom Services **Member Handbook**



Who we are

The ECCDC is a charitable organization inspiring excellence in early learning and child care through thought leadership, cutting edge training, innovative resources and coaching services highlighting best practices and emerging trends.

The ECCDC was founded in 1993 by a group of local volunteers who shared a common vision of enhancing the quality, range and affordability of child care services in Niagara. The ECCDC's understanding of the needs of the early learning and care sector and its capacity for innovation has contributed to our ongoing success in early learning and child care resource, referral and support.

Our Mission

Inspiring excellence in early learning and child care.

Our Vision

The leading source of innovative supports for early learning and child care.

Our Values

Collaboration • We work with like-minded organizations to respond to the emerging needs of the early learning and child care community.

Innovation • We are dedicated to pursuing the development of quality products and services that stimulate early learning in young children.

Leadership • We bring our courage, conviction and guidance to creating supports that nurture the healthy development of children.

Respect • We support, recognize and honour the early learning professional as pivotal to the healthy development of children.

Professionalism • We bring together knowledge and expertise to mentor those working in early learning and child care settings to be at their best.



Individual and Group Membership Benefits

The ECCDC provides its members with affordable access to the specialized resources, tools, technologies and training they need to make Niagara's early learning and care services some of Canada's very best.

New members will receive

- An individual tour of the resource lending library and specialized workroom, where eccdc staff will get to know you and customize the tour to meet your specific needs. We want you to get the most from your Individual Membership.
- An ECCDC exclusive reflection journal. This journal was designed by eccdc as a tool to support individuals on their journey of reflective practice. Small enough for you to carry with you to professional development opportunities, network meetings, or to keep by your side throughout the day to write down your inspirations (one-time).
- An ECCDC exclusive professional development tracking binder. The binder was designed to help you keep track of your professional development. Include sections for professional development sessions, network opportunities, reflections about articles read, and much more (one-time).

All members will have

- Access to the Resource Lending Library of learning materials, curriculum and pedagogy resources and Provocation for Learning kits for use with children of all ages.
- Access to the ECCDC's new Beautiful Stuff Store. This area includes a variety of natural, unique and captivating beautiful items available to purchase. These loose materials allow educators to create provocations for learning where they become collaborators with the children as they discover, create, construct, and experiment in their early learning environment. Come "mess about" with the materials, fill a bag for \$5, and see the provocations we have created with the beautiful stuff on display.
- Use of our Learning Café and specialized workroom;
- Volume discounts on early learning materials, furniture and educational supplies;
- Guidance in curriculum planning and designing early learning environments;
- Networking opportunities with others in the community who share your passion for high quality early learning and child care; and
- Access to a variety of cutting edge professional learning opportunities



All group members will have

- A group tour to familiarize your staff team with the ECCDC's resource lending library, specialized workroom and group membership benefits. If your team can't make it in for a tour, we can come to one of your team meetings and share a presentation on the benefits that are included with your group membership.
- Onsite coaching and support services - an ECCDC team member can come into your program and support your team with environmental design, pedagogy & curriculum, professionalism & relationships, program start-up/operations, technology & consulting, board development, and much more.
- We can bring our resources & equipment to you, through our resource delivery service. An ECCDC team member will visit your program and bring the resources you are looking for to support the children's interests. Unsure of how to incorporate them into your program? The ECCDC team member will be happy to answer your questions and provide suggestions (advance booking required).
- Use of meeting room facilities and access to various audio/visual equipment for staff and board meetings (advance booking required).
- Exclusive use of the resource library and workroom on Wednesday evenings (advance booking required).
- Advertising opportunities that connect child care programs and educators with families who need their services through Parent Direct Niagara.
- Access to posting employment opportunities on the ECCDC job board.
- A professional learning plan for your team.

ECCDC partner benefits

- ECCDC group members receive discounted rates if they wish to participate in our Naturalized Playground Partnership with Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds.
- ECCDC group members will receive discounted rates when they subscribe to HiMama, a child care app.

Individual and group memberships are valid for one year from the date purchased. It is important that we have home contact information for all members and we ask that you ensure that your individual records are updated with current information. New members will receive an electronic copy of the Member Handbook for their records



During your visit

The inspiring, resource-rich surroundings and knowledgeable staff of the ECCDC make it easy for you to develop engaging, play-based learning experiences for young children. Whether you stop by for a few minutes or bring along a colleague and make an evening of it, you won't find a better selection of inspiring Provocation for Learning kits, loose parts and other materials. We also have accessible tablets, Wi-fi, laminators, a colour photocopier, a poster printer, button maker and a host of technology tools for children and educators to demo.

If you wish to invite a colleague to accompany you to the ECCDC's workroom, we are pleased to offer day passes. Unfortunately, resource borrowing privileges are not included with the purchase of a day pass; however, day passes offer many other opportunities.

Highlights in the ECCDC Learning Café

Our Coaching and Support Team is pleased to bring you a variety of suggestions for designing innovative early learning spaces. Visit the ECCDC to get inspired, "mess about" and reflect on resources, furniture and materials that may be incorporated within your early learning environment. You may also have the opportunity to "mess about" with resources at professional development sessions and community displays offered throughout the year.

Provocation for Learning Kits and Inquiry Based Materials, Early Learning Tools, Resources and Classroom Equipment

Keeping the learning environment rich with unique and engaging educational resources is easy when you're a member of the ECCDC. Our resource lending library offers more than 3000 resources that you may borrow and integrate into your daily curriculum. All of our resources are designed for use by all children and have been selected to stimulate children's growth, development, curiosity and wonder.

Using the ECCDC's resource lending library means you can be sure you're delivering meaningful experiences and designing rich environments that inspire children. We are pleased to consider requests for purchasing; if ever there's a learning resource you'd like to use and it isn't part of our collection, please let us know. And don't forget, if you call ahead we can have your resources ready for pick up at the time you specify, or for group members, they may be delivered to your location through our resource delivery and demonstration service.



Coaching & Support Services – available to Group Membership holders

Environmental Design

The ECCDC provides a variety of services, supports and resources to enhance your learning spaces. We have team members who are qualified to offer a range of environmental design suggestions, including a written report complete with specific recommendations on affordable enhancements. The ECCDC would be pleased to visit your program to offer your staff team strategies for naturalizing your indoor and outdoor settings including playground design, furniture purchasing and arrangement, as well as resources and tips for incorporating natural materials.

Pedagogy & Curriculum

ECCDC Early Learning & Child Care Consultants are trained to help you design developmentally appropriate, play-based experiences that engage children in active, creative and meaningful inquiry-based learning. Additionally, our team will offer strategies to support your goals for children's development, health and well being, as well as suggestions for developing authentic relationships with children, families and each other.

No matter what curriculum model your organization has adopted, working with the ECCDC is a great way to keep your staff inspired to deliver excellence. Choose an on-site consultation at your centre, a special customized session at our Lending Library and Workroom, or both. Members of your staff team are also welcome to attend any of the ECCDC's community-wide workshops on curriculum planning.

Professional Learning Planning

Every month, we offer highly affordable workshops and training programs that are open to any individual of Niagara's early learning and child care community. We also offer customized training sessions for owners, administrators, supervisors, and early learning and child care staff.

To help you make the most of these opportunities and achieve your organization's overall performance goals, the ECCDC is pleased to assist you in mapping out a long-term professional development plan for each member of your team. Confidential, free, and no-obligation; please call 905.646.7311 x.321.



Coaching & Support Services – available to Group Membership holders

Customized Training for Early Learning Teams

The ECCDC offers customized training sessions for early learning teams. These sessions can be designed to meet the needs of licensed child care programs, full day early learning teams, family support programs, home child care programs and other related children’s services agencies. Typically these sessions provide suggestions for designing innovative early learning environments; curriculum planning and pedagogy strategies for engaging families in authentic ways; recommendations for enhancing interactions; and tips and ideas for using the many resources available in the ECCDC’s Lending Library.

These ECCDC training sessions may incorporate the use of specialized equipment, provocation for learning kits, and play-based resources, and also provide opportunities for reflection and discussion, as well as hands-on experiences. We’ll even customize our visit to meet your time requirements and work with your team over the lunch hour, during staff meetings, or in the evening.

Children on Site

The Resource Library & Workroom is designed as a quiet working environment for educators. Members or Day Pass users visiting the ECCDC, accompanied by children, will be asked to visit on another occasion without children being present.





eccdc

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