

Winter/Spring 2025 Professional Learning Workshops For Early Childhood Educators

www.msvu.ca/earlychildhoodworkshops

*Child and Youth Study: Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, Early Childhood Administrator Certificate, Professional Learning Workshops —
be part of something BIG!*

Intervention • Inclusion • Diversity. Our Children. Our Youth. Our Community.



These workshops and special programs are made possible by contributions received through the Early Childhood Education Training Initiatives Agreement, including contributions received through the Canada-Nova Scotia Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, coordinated by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

The views expressed herein are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the policy of the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.



Mount Saint Vincent University
166 Bedford Highway
Halifax, NS, B3M 2J6

Child and Youth Study Department



Early Childhood Administrator - Continuing Education Course



September — June

Hear what participants are saying about the program:

“The overall programme exceeded my expectations because of the level of professionalism that was attained throughout the course”

“I have rekindled my commitment to the field of early childhood education and development and have a renewed determination to make a difference”

“I became more confident in my profession and myself”

“This program has allowed me to see where I am able to take my career.”

“I have always been a hard worker but this course showed me that I was able to accomplish a lot more than I ever thought myself capable of..”

“The skills we learned were not only relevant to a career in child and youth but to any field.”

“I feel more confident in my ability to manage groups of people “

“I would recommend this programme to any early childhood educator who wishes to aspire to a Directors position... I believe all of us should be required to take the course...”

“The exercises and assignments are not overly difficult and they are relevant to the field, which makes it much easier to work through.”

“The amount of growth I experienced personally and professionally during the past year because of the connections made with colleagues as well as the instructors and personal dedication to helping foster an even higher quality program for the children in my community could not have been accomplished in any other way during such a short amount of time.”

For more information Please visit our website;
<http://www.msvu.ca/administratorcourse>



Early Childhood Administrator - Continuing Education Course



Who: Early learning and childcare program administrators or educators.

What: Developing leadership skills, knowledge and competency in administering and managing early learning and childcare programs.

When: September - June (two days a month in person, on campus: Friday & Saturday, 9am-4pm)

Where: Mount Saint Vincent University.

Why: You will develop competence in leadership and management training. Through a mixture of lectures, presentations, guest speakers, discussions, workplace based assignments and individual and group work, participants will develop skills to effectively manage and lead early learning and childcare programs.

Modules Include:

Management & Leadership
Managerial Communication
Computer Applications
Human Resource Management
ECE Policy Development
Financial Management
Marketing Child Care Programs
Advocacy & Professionalism
Strategic Planning
Risk Management
Innovation
Curriculum Design Implementation & Evaluation
Pedagogical Leadership
Collaboration & Mentoring Practices

Module Dates for 2025/2026 Sessions

Orientation Reception;

Friday Sept. 5, 2025 9am-4pm

Sept. 12 & 13, 2025

Oct. 17 & 18, 2025

Nov. 14 & 15, 2025

Dec. 5 & 6, 2025

Jan. 16 & 17 2026

Feb. 20 & 21, 2026

March 20 & 21, 2026

April 10 & 11, 2026

May 8 & 9, 2026

June 5 & 6, 2026

Graduation TBA

Program Fee is **\$1,350 plus *\$170 for course materials**. A Continuing Education Certificate will be awarded upon successful completion of the program. For more information, please contact:

Rhonda Rees
Professional Learning Coordinator
Department of Child and Youth Study, Mount Saint Vincent University
rhonda.rees@msvu.ca

Applications are available at
<http://www.msvu.ca/administratorcourse>

This course qualifies for the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development³ reimbursement Continuing Education Program.

Early Childhood Education Assistance & Continuing Education Programs

The Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Early Childhood Development Services, has a recruitment and retention strategy to encourage more individuals into the field, and to assist those already in the early child care sector to deliver quality licensed child care services in Nova Scotia.

They offer two programs to provide financial support; the Early Childhood Education Assistance program offers a debt reduction incentive, and the Continuing Education Program offers reimbursement for continuing education courses offered through the early childhood training institutions in Nova Scotia. For more information on these programs, please visit their website:

<http://www.ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears/pd/>

ALL REGISTRATION IS ONLINE

Please visit our website www.msvu.ca/earlychildhoodworkshops and follow the links to register for workshops.

CONFIRMATION & CANCELLATION POLICY:

Participation is not confirmed until payment is received. Confirmation receipt will be sent by email upon receipt of payment.

All fees are non-refundable but you may allow an alternate person to attend in your absence. Please allow 48 hours advance notice if making a substitution, otherwise a \$10.00 administration fee is required for a revised certificate of attendance.

If a participant misses a workshop, they forfeit all fees and there is no refund or credit.

CERTIFICATES:

A Certificate of Attendance (including number of workshops contact hours) is given out for all workshops or workshop series.

Participants must attend the **full scheduled workshop session** in order to receive a certificate.

PARKING: All campus parking is "paid" parking from Monday to Friday, including evenings. Please visit our website below for pricing and parking regulations.

<http://www.msvu.ca/en/home/aboutus/safety-security/parking/default.aspx>

Workshop information & online registration is on our website:
www.msvu.ca/earlychildhoodworkshops

**Registration for
Culturally Responsive Practice in Nova Scotia's Early Learning
and Child Care Settings, Capable,
Confident and Curious; Nova Scotia's Early Learning Curriculum
Framework AND
Learning with Mi'kma'ki**

There is no charge for these Nova Scotia's Early Learning Curriculum Framework workshops

For more information on available sessions please visit the Early Years Professional Development Committee website www.eypdc.ca

Registration: To register for any of the MSVU Nova Scotia Curriculum Framework Training sessions at any of the locations across Nova Scotia please click on the link below, or visit our online brochure and follow the registration links

<https://eypdc.ca/learning/early-learning-curriculum-framework/registration/>

Curriculum Resource Centre / Lending Library

Our Curriculum Resource Centre (CRC) is located in Seton Academic Centre and serves primarily Education and Child and Youth Study students at the Mount. In addition to a wide selection of books (including many indigenous titles, picture books and young adult novels), journals, DVDs and resource kits, students are also able to borrow a variety of audio visual equipment including iPads, Chromebooks, laptops, MP3 recorders and digital cameras/video cameras. A selection of paper, markers, foamies, paint, clay, folders, and glue guns are available for use. Access to laser printers, a photocopier, a laminator, binder and a die cut machine are available for a small fee to cover materials.

The CRC is accessible to early childhood educators and the community, who are able to visit or borrow materials once they have approved access via the Mount main library. All resources except for audio visual equipment can be borrowed by the community.

Food and drinks are allowed, and the CRC has Wi-Fi, a charging station for electronic devices and earbuds available for purchase.

Please visit our link for more information <http://libguides.msvu.ca/crc>

Winter/Spring 2025 Workshops at a Glance

Workshop Links and locations

Online workshop links and/or locations/rooms for in person workshops will be sent out via the email provided on your registration approximately one week prior to your workshop. If you have not received the link or location, please contact Rhonda.rees@msvu.ca **at least 3 business days before your scheduled event.**

- **Inclusion strategies for Early Language Learners; Supporting Preschoolers with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Other learning needs and children from multi-lingual families** Date: Tuesday April 1 6:30-9pm and Saturday April 5, 9am-12:30 pm Cost: \$75 Total PD hours: 6 hrs Location: **ONLINE** Presenters: Heather Bartholomew & Debbie Thompson
- **Literacy with Young Children** Date: Wednesday April 2 & 16, 2025 Time: 6:30-8:30 pm Cost: \$50 Total PD hours: 4 hours Location: **ONLINE** Presenter: Liz Hicks
- **Numeracy with Young Children** Date: Wednesday April 9 & 16, 2025 Time: 6:30-8:30 pm Cost: \$50 Total PD hours: 4 hours Location: **ONLINE** Presenter: Liz Hicks
- ***Literacy AND Numeracy with Young Children Attend Full 6 PD hours as above April 2, 9 & 16, 2025 Cost: \$65**
- **Supporting Modern Families: Diverse Family Structure & Equitable Early Learning Spaces** Date Wednesday April 23, 2025 (6pm –9 pm) Cost: \$40 Total PD hours: 3 hrs Location: **ONLINE** Presenter: Robyn Corbett
- **Creating Engaging Provocations: Inspiring Invitations to Play in Early Learning** Dates: Saturday April 26, 2025 9:30am -3:30 pm Cost: \$75 Total PD hours: 6 hrs Location: **IN PERSON at Point Pleasant Child Care Centre Saint Mary's University Campus** Presenters Michelle LeBlanc & Jessica Morine
- **Trauma-Informed and Culturally Responsive Practices for Early Childhood Educators** Date: Saturday May 10, 2025 9am-12pm and Monday May 12, 2025 6pm-9pm Cost: \$75 Total PD hours: 6 hrs Location: **ONLINE** Presenters: Karen Carey & Colin Morrison
- **Understanding Tantrums and Dysregulation: Supporting Emotional Regulation in Young Children AND Building Emotional Intelligence: Validating Feelings and Fostering Resilience in Early Childhood** Dates: Tuesday May 13 AND Thursday May 15, 2025 6:30-8:30 pm each night Cost: \$50 Total PD hours: 4 hrs Location: **ONLINE** Presenter: Jessica Morine
- **The Image of an Early Childhood Educator** Dates: Saturday May 24, 2025 (9am-4pm Cost: \$75 Total PD hours 6 hrs Location: **IN PERSON** Presenter: Liz Hicks & guest facilitators
- **Strategies for Supporting Risk Taking in Early Learning Environments** Date Thursday May 29, 2025 (6pm –9 pm) Cost: \$40 Total PD hours: 3 hrs Location: **ONLINE** Presenter: Robyn Corbett
- ***Inspiring Spaces & Environments CAR Tour IN PERSON & ONLINE** Wednesday May 28 (7- 9 pm **Online**)* AND Saturday May 31, 2025 (9am – 4pm) **In Person**) Cost: \$85 Total PD hours: 9 hrs Presenter: Liz Hicks
- ***OPTION to attend the FULL workshop OR attend the ONLINE EVENING ONLY** Cost: \$25
- **Conflict Resolution with Caregivers** Date: Saturday June 7, 9am-12 noon & Monday June 9, 6pm-9pm. Cost: \$75 Total PD hours: 6 hrs Location: **ONLINE** Presenters: Karen Carey & Colin Morrison

Inclusion Strategies for Early Language Learners; Supporting Preschoolers with Autism Spectrum Disorder, other learning needs and children from multi-lingual families

Date: Tuesday April 1 6:30-9pm & Saturday April 5 9-12:30 pm **Cost:** \$75 **Total PD hours:** 6 hours

Location: **ONLINE** **Presenters:** Heather Bartholomew & Debbie Thompson

Description: This two-part session will guide participants through an introduction to how language delays can present in different children, how to use information from observations to make adaptations to help engage & motivate children, particularly those who may not be motivated by the same materials as peers or who resist participating in various routines. We will examine our own attitudes toward inclusion & how those attitudes influence the culture of the entire classroom. Participants will be guided through various concrete teaching strategies to build communication skills in preschoolers with limited language skills, to reduce undesired behaviours & to facilitate interaction & relationship development with peers. Participants will also be guided through discussion of how we can engage with families when there are language & cultural barriers.

Three learning outcomes

- 1) to acquire strategies for discovering motivators to engage children with ASD & other learning needs
- 2) to practice using children's interests to adapt materials & routines to build communication, play & social skills
- 3) to gain experience developing plans for reducing disruptive behaviours

Presenter Biographies: *Heather Bartholomew* graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Arts (Child & Youth Study) & in the twenty plus years since then, has been working with preschoolers. Additionally, she has recently begun working part-time with adults with developmental delays, giving her a broader, across the lifespan perspective on supporting diverse individuals at any age. She has worked as an Early Childhood Educator, one-to-one support staff & as a resource teacher. For five years, she served as Resource Teacher at the Mount's Child Study Centre, supporting children with identified special needs &, in particular, delivering programming to students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Heather has worked as a Program Implementer in Halifax's Early Intensive Behavioural Intervention program for the past seventeen years. She has developed & facilitated workshops on a variety of topics, most frequently relating to Inclusion. Heather is passionate about facilitating positive inclusion experiences & finding effective & efficient strategies to support individual & classroom-wide learning.

Debbie Thompson is a graduate from Mount Saint Vincent University with the Degree in Child & Youth. Debbie started her journey in ECE at Wee Care Developmental centre working as a Developmental teacher in an integrated setting. It was there that she knew she wanted to focus her attention on working with children with special needs. Debbie also developed the Resource position at Wee Care & was responsible for developing & implementing plans for children with special needs. Debbie now works at the IWK as a Program Implementer for the Early Intensive Behaviour Intervention program (EIBI) working with children with Autism. Through her job at the IWK she continues to work closely with preschool teachers consulting & providing feedback in various programs. Debbie also teaches regularly at Nova Scotia College of Early Childhood Education & Mount Saint Vincent University on various topics including challenging behaviour & Inclusion.

OPTION Attend the full 6 hr Literacy AND Numeracy with Young Children April 2, 9 & 16, 2025 \$65

Literacy with Young Children

Date: Wednesday April 2 & 16, 2025 **Time:** 6:30-8:30 pm **Cost:** \$50 **Total PD hours:** 4 hours **Location:** **ONLINE**
Presenter: Liz Hicks

Description: This is a revisit for the professional learning from May 2024. It will show some of the same & new ideas on how to naturally respond to children's wonderings & investigations of literacy acquisition. The difference being for this PL is YOUR input. YOUR ideas. YOUR children's investigations. The first session will be an overview of literacy acquisition & ideas to support children in this exciting world, & the second session (with participants from the numeracy workshop) will be a sharing of your ideas & research with children you have done – e.g. popular books, successful activities, children's artefacts that show their competence in acquiring literacy at such young ages.

Numeracy with Young Children

Date: Wednesday April 9 & 16, 2025 **Time:** 6:30-8:30 pm **Cost:** \$50 **Total PD hours:** 4 hours **Location:** **ONLINE**
Presenter: Liz Hicks

Description: This is a revisit for the professional learning from May 2024. It will show some of the same & new ideas on how to naturally respond to children's wonderings & investigations of numeracy acquisition. The difference being for this PL is YOUR input. YOUR ideas. YOUR children's investigations. The first session will be an overview of numeracy acquisition & ideas to support children in this exciting world, & the second session (with participants from the numeracy workshop) will be a sharing of your ideas & research with children you have done – e.g. popular numeracy books, successful activities, children's artefacts that show their competence in acquiring numeracy at such young ages.

Presenter Biography: *Liz Hicks* See Above

Literacy AND Numeracy with Young Children April 2, 9 & 16, 2025 **Time:** 6:30-8:30 pm **Cost:** \$65
Total PD hours: 6 hours **Location:** **ONLINE**

Supporting Modern Families: Diverse Family Structure & Equitable Early Learning Spaces

Date: Wednesday April 23, 2025 (6pm –9 pm) **Cost:** \$40 **Total PD hours:** 3 PD hours **Location:** **ONLINE**
Presenter: Robyn Corbett

Description: Overtime family dynamics have seen a shift in Canada & across the world. There is a requirement for ECEs to expand their early learning practices to support more equitable learning spaces for diverse families. In this workshop, ECEs will explore what family is & gain insight into how to support children from diverse family structures, such as co-parenting, blended families, & intergenerational households. Educators will look at how they can update their language & materials they use in their program to support children's lived experiences. Using reflective exercises such as eco-mapping, educators will explore on their own family & support networks. Objectives:

- 1) Define what a family is by exploring shifts family dynamics & diverse family structures.
- 2) Learn tools to support relationships with families & adapt learning spaces to reflect children's home life & experiences.
- 3) Take part in engaging reflective exercises to deepen our understanding of what family is in the modern world.

Presenter Biography; *Robyn Corbett* has a Bachelor of Arts (Child & Youth) from MSVU & has been working in early learning settings for a decade. As a certified yoga & mindfulness instructor, Robyn has encouraged young people to deepen their relationships with themselves, others, & their environment through engaging mindfulness programming. She currently is a lead pre-primary teacher in Halifax, NS. Her early learning practice is deeply influenced by contemplative practices, inspiring her to stay curious about her assumptions in order to continue her growth as an educator. Robyn is passionate about offering professional development workshops for ECEs looking to expand their understanding of concepts related to children's well-being & learning. Combining evidence-based content with reflective exercises, Robyn invites educators to deepen their early learning practice in a fun & engaging style.

Creating Engaging Provocations: Inspiring Invitations to Play in Early Learning

Dates: Saturday April 26, 2025 9:30am -3:30 pm **Cost:** \$75 **Total PD hours:** 6 hrs

Location: **IN PERSON** at **Point Pleasant Child Care Centre Saint Mary's University Campus**

Presenters Michelle LeBlanc & Jessica Morine

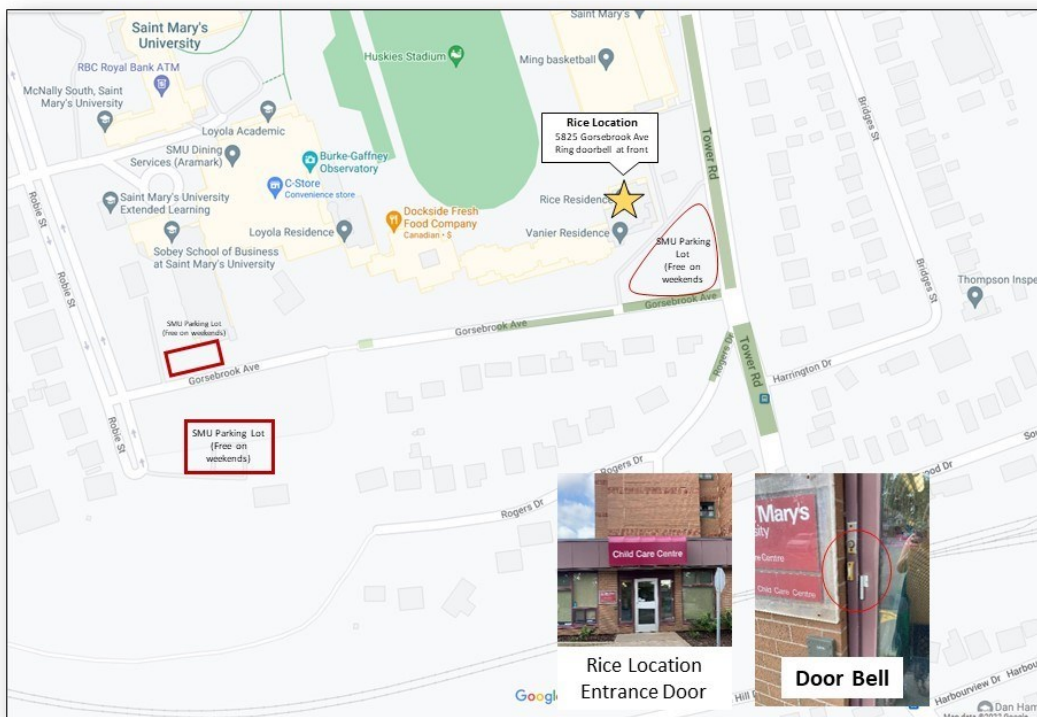
Description: This hands-on workshop explores how to design purposeful provocations & invitations to play in early learning environments. Facilitated by two experienced educators, participants will learn how to set up & implement three main types of provocations: table-top provocations, small world setups, & book-inspired invitations to play. The session emphasizes the use of loose parts, creative material-making, & intentional design to foster children's curiosity, creativity, & exploration. Participants will have the unique opportunity to practice these skills in real time within a child care setting. This workshop is ideal for educators looking to deepen their understanding of the role provocations play in fostering rich, play-based learning experiences.

Attendees will be able to articulate strategies to help children build emotional self-awareness & resilience through supportive language & meaningful interactions.

This workshop is being held at Point Pleasant Child Care Centre, SMU Campus, 5825 Gorsebrook Avenue, Halifax (free weekend parking on campus– map directions & bus route information will be sent prior to the workshop)

Presenter Biographies: **Michelle LeBlanc** is an Early Childhood Educator with over 30 years of experience working with toddlers & preschoolers in child care settings. She has completed the ECE Administrator Continuing Education Certificate at Mount Saint Vincent University & excels in responsive programming & using the environment as the third teacher. Passionate about creating meaningful learning experiences, Michelle is dedicated to fostering curiosity & connection in young children. Outside of her professional life, she is adventurous & enjoys live music, theater, & exploring new experiences. Michelle also cherishes her role as a mother to her grown daughter.

Jessica Morine has been dedicated to supporting children & families since earning her Early Childhood Education (ECE) diploma in 2006. Jessica holds an ECE Administrator Continuing Education certificate from Mount Saint Vincent University & a Parent Coaching Certificate from the Parent Coaching Institute. As a parent to two adventurous children, aged 11 & 5, Jessica brings both professional expertise & personal insight into her work. Her passion lies in fostering strong relationships, supporting early learning, & empowering families through education & connection.



Welcome to PPCC SMU Campus!

★ **Rice Location**

5825 Gorsebrook Ave
902-425-8263

If taking public transportation bus #29 runs along Tower Rd, and closest to the centre. Otherwise bus # 4, 10 and 24 travel along Inglis St. and it is a short walk to the centre.

We have several SMU parking lots on campus that are free to park on the weekends. They are indicated on the map in red. The closest parking lot is located directly in front of our centre on the corner of Tower Rd. and Gorsebrook Ave. In the event that there are no spaces available you may also park along Tower Rd or Gorsebrook Ave on Saturday and Sunday without permits.

You will see a dark red awning with the words 'Child Care' in white. Please approach this door, ring the door bell and someone will be there to greet you.

Trauma-Informed and Culturally Responsive Practices for Early Childhood Educators

Date: Saturday May 10, 2025 9am-12pm & Monday May 12, 2025 6pm-9pm **Cost:** \$75 **Total PD hours:** 6 hrs

Location: **ONLINE** **Presenters:** Karen Carey & Colin Morrison

Description: This session addresses the evolving challenges Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) face when supporting children & families impacted by trauma. Through interactive discussions, real-world scenarios, & reflective exercises, participants will enhance their skills in creating inclusive, responsive environments for all children & families. During the workshop, facilitators will address the unique challenges of working with children & families from multicultural backgrounds, including those for whom English is a second language. Insights into how cultural values, traditions, & experiences shape responses to trauma & resilience, & strategies to support ECEs who may encounter unique professional challenges tied to their personal experiences & perspectives. By the end of this session, participants will be able to (objectives):

Understand Trauma-Informed Care: Identify & apply the key principles of trauma-informed care in early childhood education settings.

Recognize Multicultural Challenges: Analyze the unique challenges faced by children & families from multicultural backgrounds, including those for whom English is a second language, in the context of trauma.

Explore Cultural Influences on Trauma & Resilience: Gain insights into how cultural values, traditions, & lived experiences influence responses to trauma & the development of resilience.

Support Diverse ECEs: Develop strategies to support ECEs from diverse cultural backgrounds who may face unique professional & personal challenges.

Foster Inclusive Environments: Enhance skills in creating trauma-informed, inclusive, & culturally responsive environments for all children & families.

Engage in Collaborative Learning: Participate in interactive discussions, real-world scenarios, & reflective exercises to apply learned concepts to practical settings.

This workshop aims to equip ECEs with updated knowledge & tools to navigate the evolving complexities of their roles with confidence & cultural sensitivity.

Presenter Biographies: *Colin Morrison* has over 20 years' experience working with children, youth & families in the mental health field. Colin has served primarily as youth care worker & case coordinator for families & children in the Child & Family Day Treatment Program at the IWK. He has extensive experience in developing & implementing skill groups with children, particularly in the area of emotional regulation, & providing supportive counselling to families. Colin is currently completing a Master of Social Worker degree at Dalhousie University, & is working on a thesis related to male childhood sexual abuse, & the impacts of "toxic masculinity" on men's help seeking behaviours. He has a keen interest in trauma focused therapy, attachment theory, men's health, & issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community.

Karen Carey has over 15 years' experience working with children, youth & families as a social worker, youth care worker, case coordinator, in home support worker & direct care practitioner. Through evidence based & best practice methods, Karen is a strong advocate for the children, youth & families. Although Karen has strong roots in attachment theory, systems theory, positive parenting, trauma & resilience; her personal philosophy is to promote mental, physical & emotional health/wellbeing through a solution focused & social learning model. Together Colin & Karen have seen positive & long lasting benefits for children AND families when they are provided education, strategies, guidance, empathy & support. They see effective communication & open collaboration as the key ingredients in supporting positive futures for the children & families under their care.

Understanding Tantrums and Dysregulation: Supporting Emotional Regulation in Young Children AND Building Emotional Intelligence: Validating Feelings and Fostering Resilience in Early Childhood

Dates: Tuesday May 13 AND Thursday May 15, 2025 6:30-8:30 pm each night **ONLINE**

Cost: \$50 **Total PD hours:** 4 hrs **Location:** **ONLINE** **Presenter:** Jessica Morine

Description: Part 1: This two part series will equip early childhood educators with the knowledge & strategies needed to support children's emotional regulation & foster the development of emotional intelligence. These skills are essential for children's social-emotional growth, resilience, & long-term success. By understanding the neurobiology of emotions & learning techniques for validating children's feelings, participants will be better prepared to create emotionally supportive environments in their classrooms.

What happens in a child's brain during a tantrum? How can caregivers & educators effectively support children through periods of dysregulation? This workshop introduces information from Dr. Dan Siegel to help participants understand the neurobiology behind emotional dysregulation in young children. Through interactive discussions, participants will learn practical strategies for connecting with, calming & supporting children during challenging moments. Key techniques include co-regulation, tone-matching, & maintaining boundaries while creating a safe & supportive environment. This session equips early childhood professionals with evidence-based tools to help children navigate big emotions & develop foundational regulation skills.

1. Objectives: Attendees will be able to describe the processes occurring in children during tantrums.
2. Attendees will be able to demonstrate effective techniques for supporting children during dysregulated states, including co-regulation & non-verbal communication.

Attendees will be able to articulate how to balance emotional support with maintaining boundaries & expectations.

Part 2: Emotional intelligence (EQ) is the ability to recognize, understand, & manage emotions—skills that are critical for social, emotional, & cognitive success. This workshop focuses on how caregivers & educators can validate children's emotions, helping them build emotional intelligence & resilience. Participants will learn how to use effective language to acknowledge children's feelings, avoid invalidation, & promote emotional self-awareness. Techniques such as replacing "buts" with "ands," using the three-because formula, & offering space for children to fully experience their emotions will be explored. This session empowers professionals to nurture emotionally intelligent children who are confident, empathetic, & equipped to manage life's challenges.

Objectives: Attendees will be able to define emotional intelligence & explain its importance in early childhood development. Attendees will be able to demonstrate techniques for validating children's emotions without minimizing or dismissing them. Attendees will be able to articulate strategies to help children build emotional self-awareness & resilience through supportive language & meaningful interactions.

Presenter Biography: *Jessica Morine* has been dedicated to supporting children & families since earning her Early Childhood Education (ECE) diploma in 2006. Jessica holds an ECE Administrator Continuing Education certificate from Mount Saint Vincent University & a Parent Coaching Certificate from the Parent Coaching Institute. As a parent to two adventurous children, aged 11 & 5, Jessica brings both professional expertise & personal insight into her work. Her passion lies in fostering strong relationships, supporting early learning, & empowering families through education & connection.

The Image of an Early Childhood Educator

Dates: Saturday May 24, 2025 (9am-4pm) **Cost:** \$75 **Total PD hours** 6 hours **Location:** **IN PERSON**
Presenter: Liz Hicks & guest facilitators

Description: We are asked to think deeply about our Image of a child... capable, confident & curious... now it is time to think of our image of ourselves as early childhood educators are we capable, confident & curious... & more?

In this workshop we will explore who we are as early childhood educators, why we do what we do, what we do & bring to this work & how we do it. We will also explore – briefly- how our roles have changed over the years, what theories & theorists have influenced this, & who we are now & what is needed to move forward with this very important work.

We will also discuss what we need to be the best we can be – Maya Angelou, says, ‘*Do the best you can, until you know better. Then when you know better do better.*’ & take a deep dive into what legacy do we want to leave for the future generations. Let’s dream about how we want early childhood learning to really feel & look like.

There will be educators joining us who have thought deeply about this work & who will share their why, how & what.

You are asked to bring two artefacts (photo, special item, etc.) that represents who you are as a person AND who you are as an educator.

Presenter Biography: *Liz Hicks*, 41 years in early childhood, in various capacities, & at present a private consultant working in early childhood education in NS, providing consulting & professional development in a variety of topics.

‘I believe children are capable, curious & have an innate need to connect with people & the world around them, which is also a belief I have for the educators that work with the children.’

Strategies for Supporting Risk Taking in Early Learning Environments

Date Thursday May 29, 2025 (6pm –9 pm) **Cost:** \$40 **Total PD hours:** 3 PD hours **Location:** **ONLINE** **Pre-senter:** Robyn Corbett

Description: Young children learn through taking risks & challenging themselves, developing confidence & strong self-identities. Increasingly there has been a trend away from types of risky play, especially in early learning spaces, due to concerns of safety & liability. As ECEs we must explore our role in creating learning spaces that challenge children & encourage risk taking, supporting their learning & lifelong well-being. There is also a requirement to create partnerships with parents, administrators, & licensing to validate concerns, while continuing to respond to the risk-taking needs of children. In this workshop, we will look closer at what risky play is & how it can be achieved. We will reflect on our own experiences with risk taking, developing an understanding how it played a role in our learning & resiliency building. We will look at risk assessment strategies, learning how to analyze in an ongoing way in order to meet the goals of risk & safety. Educators will also develop language for working with risky play skeptics.

Objectives

- 1) Define what is risky play & how it fits into early learning spaces.
- 2) Learn how to support & analyze risk, while maintaining safety goals.
- 3) Develop language for working with skeptical stakeholders.
- 4) Reflect on personal experiences with risk in childhood.

Facilitator Biography: *Robyn Corbett* has a Bachelor of Arts (Child & Youth) from MSVU & has been working in early learning settings for a decade. As a certified yoga & mindfulness instructor, Robyn has encouraged young people to deepen their relationships with themselves, others, & their environment through engaging mindfulness programming. She currently is a lead pre-primary teacher in Halifax, NS. Her early learning practice is deeply influenced by contemplative practices, inspiring her to stay curious about her assumptions in order to continue her growth as an educator.

Robyn is passionate about offering professional development workshops for ECEs looking to expand their understanding of concepts related to children’s well-being & learning. Combining evidence-based content with reflective exercises, Robyn invites educators to deepen their early learning practice in a fun & engaging style.

All Aboard for the Inspiring Spaces

& Environments CAR Tour

**OPTION Attend the full 9 hr workshop
OR attend the 2 hr online evening only**

Date: Wednesday May 28 (7–9pm) **ONLY * 2 PD hours** **Cost:** \$25 **OR** Wednesday May 28 (7-9pm) **AND** Saturday May 31, 2025 (9am – 4pm) **Cost:** \$85 **Total PD hours:** 9 hours **Location:** **IN PERSON & ONLINE** **Presenter:** Liz Hicks

***IF you are unable to attend the car tour, you are invited to register to attend *JUST* the Wednesday evening (2 hours PD) to look at previous inspiring centres, & learn about the questions that you can ask to ensure you also become an inspiring centre! You MUST come to Wednesday evening if you are going on the car tour for a total of 9 PD hours**

Description: In response to popular demand, we are offering another car tour for environments – indoors & outdoors. **Please note it is a CAR tour.** This means if you sign up for this workshop you are responsible for driving yourself (we suggest car pooling) to the sites that have generously volunteered to show you their environments.

On the Wednesday evening, May 28– by zoom - we will reflect on, discuss, & look at ideas on ways in which learning environments could inspire ourselves, the children, & families. We will be referencing the NSEYCF, & look at some previous tour NS child care spaces.

Then on Saturday, May 31, we will meet at the Mount. This will give an opportunity for car pooling. **When you register for this workshop please indicate if you are willing to drive & how many spaces you may have in your car.** E.g. Liz will be driving & have 4 spaces for participants.

*** IF you are unable to attend the car tour, you are invited to attend just the Wednesday evening (2 hours PD) to look at previous inspiring centres, & learn about the questions that you can ask to ensure you also become an inspiring centre! You MUST come to Wednesday evening if you are going on the car tour for a total of 9 hours PD.**

Each centre will give participants time to tour, & a short introduction to their program, philosophy & a question & answer session. **You will also be expected to return to the Mount to debrief together.**

The centres we will visit are:

9.30ish – 10.45am: A Tiny Lab for Early Learning, 2236 Maitland Street, Halifax www.atinylab.org

'A Tiny Lab for Early Learning provides play-based care for children between the ages of 18 months to 5 years.

This is a place to create, to explore, to wonder, to ask questions, to seek answers, to grow, to learn, to laugh, to cry, to experiment, to get messy, to sing, to shout, to problem solve, to take risks & to be whoever you want to be.'

This is an opportunity to see an innovative centre that is using space in a creative way.

11.15am – 12.45pm: University Children's Centre, 6101 South St, Halifax - <https://universitychildrenscentre.ca/>

This centre serves children from 3 months through to 12 years of age.

'Our Mission: We strive to offer high quality programs that embrace the principles of inclusion & diversity in an environment that is welcoming & supportive to all. Where caring, well-educated staff value lifelong learning & promote excellent in the field of Early Learning & Child Care; & where all children are nurtured & encouraged to grow & develop to their fullest potential within their community.'

12.45pm – 1.30pm – break for lunch – at your convenience.

1.30pm – 3.00pm - Peter Green Hall Children's Centre, 1094 Wellington St. Halifax, www.pghcc.ca

'We strive to provide quality childcare in a safe, healthy, enriched environment.

An environment in which children & adults discover together & where relationships are nurtured & valued.

Children have preparedness, potential, curiosity & interest in constructing their learning; in engaging in social interactions & negotiating everything that the environment brings them. - Lella Gandini'

3 pm – 4 pm Returning to the Mount & debriefing. Everyone on the Car Tour are expected to be part of the debrief.

You will receive instructions on how to access each location the week of the workshop.

You MUST come to Wednesday evening if you are going on the car tour for a total of 9 hours PD.

Presenter Biography: *Liz Hicks*, 41 years in early childhood, in various capacities, & at present a private consultant working in early childhood education in NS, providing consulting & professional development in a variety of topics. 13

'I believe children are capable, curious & have an innate need to connect with people & the world around them, which is also a belief I have for the educators that work with the children.'

Conflict Resolution with Caregivers

Date: Saturday, June 7 9am-12 noon & Monday June 9 6pm-9pm.

Cost: \$75 **Total PD hours:** 6 hrs **Location:** **ONLINE** **Presenters:** Karen Carey & Colin Morrison

Description: Dealing with difficult people & having challenging conversations is something most people will encounter. As Early Child Care Workers, you face various challenging conversations regularly, which can lead to additional stressors both professionally & personally. These situations can become even more complex when working with peers or families who are new to Canada, speak English as a second language, or come from culturally diverse backgrounds with differing beliefs or practices. To effectively navigate these challenges, it is essential to have strong conflict resolution skills & strategies to manage such conversations constructively. The purpose of this two-part workshop series is to support staff in preparing for high-stakes conversations with parents & colleagues, addressing concerns early & consistently before they escalate into significant issues. The workshop will also explore the role of workplace dynamics, highlight the importance of self-care, & include discussions on the unique communication barriers that can arise when working with individuals from diverse cultural & linguistic backgrounds. By the end of this session, participants will be able to (objectives):

1. **Develop Conflict Resolution Skills:** Equip participants with practical tools & techniques to effectively manage & resolve conflicts in professional settings.
2. **Enhance Communication Strategies:** Learn strategies to navigate challenging conversations with parents & colleagues, focusing on clear, respectful, & solution-oriented communication, including approaches for bridging language & cultural differences.
3. **Address Workplace Dynamics:** Explore the impact of workplace dynamics on relationships & interactions, with a focus on building positive, collaborative environments.
4. **Proactively Manage Issues:** Identify methods for addressing concerns early & consistently, preventing minor issues from escalating into significant conflicts.
5. **Practice Self-Care:** Recognize the importance of self-care & stress management techniques to maintain personal & professional well-being.

Prepare for High-Stake Conversations: Build confidence in preparing for & engaging in high-stakes conversations, ensuring concerns are addressed constructively.

This two-part workshop is designed to empower Early Child Care Workers with the skills & strategies needed to navigate difficult situations with resilience & professionalism, while addressing the unique challenges posed by cultural diversity & communication barriers.

Presenter Biographies: *Colin Morrison* has over 20 years' experience working with children, youth & families in the mental health field. Colin has served primarily as youth care worker & case coordinator for families & children in the Child & Family Day Treatment Program at the IWK. He has extensive experience in developing & implementing skill groups with children, particularly in the area of emotional regulation, & providing supportive counselling to families. Colin is currently completing a Master of Social Worker degree at Dalhousie University, & is working on a thesis related to male childhood sexual abuse, & the impacts of "toxic masculinity" on mens' help seeking behaviours. He has a keen interest in trauma focused therapy, attachment theory, mens' health, & issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community.

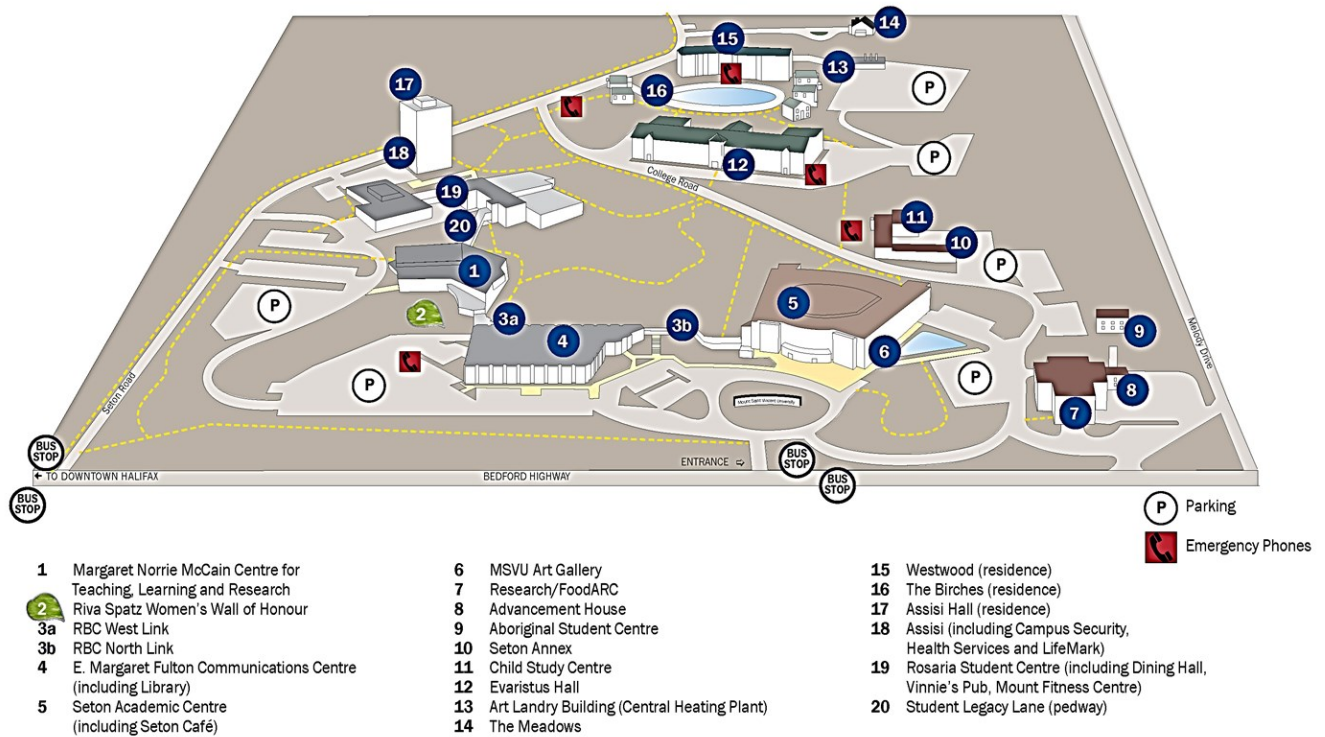
Karen Carey has over 15 years' experience working with children, youth & families as a social worker, youth care worker, case coordinator, in home support worker & direct care practitioner. Through evidence based & best practice methods, Karen is a strong advocate for the children, youth & families. Although Karen has strong roots in attachment theory, systems theory, positive parenting, trauma & resilience; her personal philosophy is to promote mental, physical & emotional health/wellbeing through a solution focused & social learning model.

Together Colin & Karen have seen positive & long lasting benefits for children AND families when they are provided education, strategies, guidance, empathy & support. They see effective communication & open collaboration as the key ingredients in supporting positive futures for the children & families under their care.

CAMPUS MAP

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 @MSVU_Halifax
 MountSaintVincentUniversity



- 1 Margaret Norrie McCain Centre for Teaching, Learning and Research
- 2 Riva Spatz Women's Wall of Honour
- 3a RBC West Link
- 3b RBC North Link
- 4 E. Margaret Fulton Communications Centre (including Library)
- 5 Seton Academic Centre (including Seton Café)

- 6 MSVU Art Gallery
- 7 Research/FoodARC
- 8 Advancement House
- 9 Aboriginal Student Centre
- 10 Seton Annex
- 11 Child Study Centre
- 12 Evaristus Hall
- 13 Art Landry Building (Central Heating Plant)
- 14 The Meadows

- 15 Westwood (residence)
- 16 The Birches (residence)
- 17 Assisi Hall (residence)
- 18 Assisi (including Campus Security, Health Services and LifeMark)
- 19 Rosaria Student Centre (including Dining Hall, Vinnie's Pub, Mount Fitness Centre)
- 20 Student Legacy Lane (pedway)

-  Parking
-  Emergency Phones

ALL REGISTRATION IS NOW ONLINE

Please visit our website
www.msvu.ca/earlychildhoodworkshops
and follow the links
to register for workshops

For additional information or to receive a copy of
our electronic brochure please contact:

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rhonda.rees@msvu.ca

<http://www.msvu.ca/earlychildhoodworkshops>