

# Fall 2021 Professional Development Workshops For Early Childhood Educators

[www.msvu.ca/earlychildhoodworkshops](http://www.msvu.ca/earlychildhoodworkshops)

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

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



Funding for these workshops is made possible through the  
Early Childhood Development Agreement  
coordinated by Early Childhood Development Services,  
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 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](http://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.

### 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>

### MEALS:

*A light lunch is included with all full day on site workshops*

Workshop information & online registration is on our website:  
[www.msvu.ca/earlychildhoodworkshops](http://www.msvu.ca/earlychildhoodworkshops)

## Capable, Confident and Curious – Nova Scotia's Early Learning Curriculum Framework workshops

*There is no charge for the Nova Scotia's Early Learning Curriculum Framework workshops.*

**Registration is open to support the delivery of our Nova Scotia Early Learning Curriculum Framework to centre Leaders & Staff.**

For more information on available Early Learning Curriculum Framework workshops please visit the Early Years Professional Development Committee website [www.eypdc.ca](http://www.eypdc.ca)

### **Registration:**

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

[www.msvu.ca/earlychildhoodworkshops](http://www.msvu.ca/earlychildhoodworkshops)

**\*\*Please Note: We recommend that individuals complete the modules in sequence whenever possible. \*\***

Mount Saint Vincent University will be offering the following sessions, all online:

### **Module 6, Reflective Practice ONLINE**

Monday September 20 AND Tuesday September 21, 2021 7pm-9pm both days

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/msvu-capable-confident-curious-module-6-registration-168135889973>

### **Module 7 Pedagogical Documentation ONLINE**

Saturday October 2, 2021 9am—2pm

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/msvu-capable-confident-curious-module-7-registration-168140162753>

### **Module 8; Building Relationships with Families and Community ONLINE**

Monday November 15 AND Tuesday November 16, 2021 7-9 pm both days

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/msvu-capable-confident-curious-module-8-registration-168144592001>

### **Module 8; Building Relationships with Families and Community (Leaders only session) ONLINE**

Wednesday November 17, 2021 7 - 8 pm

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/msvu-capable-confident-curious-module-8-extra-hour-for-leaders-registration-168145225897>

### **Module 2; Image of the Child ONLINE**

Monday December 13 AND Tuesday December 14, 2021 7-9pm both days

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/msvu-capable-confident-curious-module-2-registration-168147243933>

To register for any of the available ELCF workshops at any of the locations across Nova Scotia visit <https://www.eypdc.ca/learning/early-learning-curriculum-framework>

[www.msvu.ca/earlychildhoodworkshops](http://www.msvu.ca/earlychildhoodworkshops)

## 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 now 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>

## Fall 2021 Workshops at a Glance

- **Understanding Positive Child Guidance Series** 3 PD hours per session (9am-12 noon) *Presenter: Kathy Black*
  - ◇ Session 1: **Understanding Appropriate Guidance for Young Children** Saturday September 18, 2021
  - ◇ Session 2: **Respecting all Children and Families** Saturday October 2, 2021
  - ◇ Session 3: **Preventing Challenging Behaviors** Saturday October 9, 2021
  - ◇ Session 4: **Positive Intervention Strategies** Saturday October 30, 2021
  - ◇ Session 5: **Sharing Our Success** Saturday November 13, 2021
- **Food, Nutrition and COVID-19 Implications in Regulated Child-Care Settings**  
3 PD hours *Presenter: Andrea Penney* Tuesday September 28, 2021 (6pm -9 pm)
- **Learning Outdoors: Building Relationships with Nature Series**
  - ◇ Session 1: **Your Image of Nature**, October 12 & 19, 2021 (7pm-9pm)
  - ◇ Session 2: **Relationships with Nature**, November 2 & 9, 2021 (7pm-9pm)
  - ◇ Session 3: **Commitment to Nature**, April 12 & 19, 2022 (7pm-9pm)
  - ◇ Session 4: **Nature and Your ECE practice**, May 3 & 10, 2022 (7pm-9pm)4 PD hours per session, 16 hours total *Presenters: Bernadette Fegan & Olha Khaperska*
- **Good guys and Bad Guys: A Discussion about Violence-Themed Play in Early Learning Environments**  
2 PD hours *Presenters: Dr. Christine McLean & Matthew Sampson* Monday, October 18, 2021 (7pm -9pm)
- **VIRTUAL Inspiring Environments & Spaces** bus tour 5 PD hours *Presenter: Liz Hicks*  
Wednesday October 20, 2021 (7pm-9pm) AND Saturday October 23, 2021 Time: (9 am - 12 noon)
- **Making Sense of Trauma** 6 PD hours *Presenters: Colin Morrison & Karen Carey*  
Saturday October 23, 2021 (9am-12 noon) AND Tuesday October 26, 2021 (6pm-9pm)
- **The Extraordinary in the Lives of Infants and Toddlers!** 4 PD hours *Presenters: Liz Hicks & Dawn Gerin*  
Wednesday Oct. 27th and Wednesday Nov. 3, 2021 (7pm -9pm)
- **Supporting Communication and Learning in Early Childhood Settings Using Visual Supports**  
5 PD hours *Presenters: Heather Bartholomew & Debbie Thompson* Thursday Nov 4, 2021 AND Thursday Nov 18, 2021 (6:30pm-9pm both dates)
- **Troubled Childhoods: Mental Health Challenges and Emotional and Behaviour Disorders in Young Children**  
6 PD hours *Presenters: Colin Morrison & Karen Carey* Saturday Nov 20 (9am-12 noon) AND Tuesday Nov 23, 2021 (6pm-9pm)



## Understanding Positive Child Guidance, Workshop Series

**Date:** Saturdays 9am– 12 noon **Cost:** \$140 full 5 part series, or \$35 each session **Total PD hours:** 15 PD hours full series, or 3 PD hours per session **Location:** Sessions 1-4 ONLINE; Session 5 face to face at MSVU, Halifax (*conditions permitting*) **Presenter:** Kathy Black

### Description:

Many early childhood educators in Nova Scotia continue to seek answers and support to effectively guide children's behaviors. This workshop series will assist participants to understand their current challenges and explore new ideas and strategies to prevent future challenging behaviors in their programs. The workshop series will consist of lectures, videos, collaborative dialogue, and hands on learning opportunities. *Sessions 1-4 will be held online, with session 5 on campus at MSVU, pandemic restrictions permitting. Otherwise it will also be held online.*

*Kathy is offering a free 2 hr. observation session throughout the series (M-F 9:30-2:30) for those who are interested.* [kathymaeblack@gmail.com](mailto:kathymaeblack@gmail.com) You can register for any single sessions, or discount when registering for all of this series.

*\*If you register for all sessions, 1-4, there is no cost to attend the final Saturday November 13, 2021 session.*

*Materials for Session 5 will be supplied to participants. Participants MUST pick up these materials from MSVU before the 5<sup>th</sup> session if the session remains online. If this session is able to be held in person, materials will be supplied on site.*

### Session 1 Saturday September 18, 2021 Understanding Appropriate Guidance for Young Children 9 am– 12 noon

Positive guidance begins with the early childhood educator  
Implementing developmentally appropriate practice in the early childhood environment  
Review expected behaviors for children birth to school age

### Session 2 Saturday October 2, 2021- Respecting all Children and Families 9 am– 12 noon

Embracing similarities and differences of family culture  
Supporting children with ability differences  
Importance of observation and documentation

### Session 3 Saturday October 9, 2021- Preventing Challenging Behaviors 9 am– 12 noon

Creating an indoor and outdoor environment to encourage positive behavior  
The importance of a responsive educator and nurturing environment  
Understanding possible causes of challenging behavior

### Session 4 Saturday October 30, 2021 Positive Intervention Strategies 9 am– 12 noon

Discuss how “mistaken goals” often meet emotional needs  
How to effectively ignore, redirect, shape and prevent persistent behavior  
Using ABC charts to identify the function of a behavior

### Session 5 Saturday November 13, 2021 Sharing Our Success 9 am– 12 noon

Review sample ABC charts and practice analysing the data  
Participants will share effective strategies that were implemented throughout the series

*\*\*Participants will create four visual supports to implement in their early childhood classroom \*\**

*Materials for Session 5 will be supplied to participants. Participants MUST pick up these materials from MSVU before the 5<sup>th</sup> session if the session remains online. If this session is able to be held in person, materials will be supplied*

**Presenter Biography:** *Kathy Black* graduated from Mount Saint Vincent University with a Bachelor of Applied Arts in Child Studies. Kathy worked several memorable years as an early childhood educator, supporting families and nurturing children 4 months – 12 years of age. While working at the MSVU Child Study Centre Kathy gained knowledge and confidence that lead her to the role of Early Childhood Development Officer (ECDO) with the Nova Scotia Provincial Government. Kathy continued along her ECE journey and is currently a faculty in the Early Childhood Education program at the Nova Scotia Community College. Kathy's purpose in life is to empower others to nurture and guide young children and families.

## Food, Nutrition and COVID-19 Implications in Regulated Child-Care Settings

**Date:** Tuesday September 28, 2021 6 pm– 9 pm **Cost:** \$35

**Total PD hours:** 3 PD hours **Location:** Online **Presenter:** Andrea Penney

### **Description:**

This workshop will provide early childhood educators with the knowledge of safe food handling practices for preparing, & serving food with COVID-19 guidelines in mind. Learners will have the opportunity to submit their questions in advance of the session, which will be answered in the Q&A section of the workshop. An overview of the Nova Scotia Food & Beverage Criteria & the Manual for Food & Nutrition in Regulated Child Care Settings will also be presented.

**Presenter Biography:** *Andrea Penney* is a manager at IWK Health in Halifax, Nova Scotia, with the Business Development, Food Services, Commercial & Retail Operations departments. Andrea has worked at the IWK for the past 14 years & has recently led her team through the COVID-19 pandemic for both patient food services & in the retail food services setting. She is Advanced Food Safety certified & familiar with working with patients & customers from birth to senior in age. She is also a Mount Saint Vincent University graduate & has her Bachelor of Science in Applied Human Nutrition program, & is currently completing her Masters in the same. She has a passion for food ,supporting local, & patient safety.

## Good guys and Bad Guys: A Discussion about Violence-Themed Play in Early Learning Environments

**Date:** Monday October 18, 2021 **Time:** 7 pm-9 pm **Cost:** \$25 **Total PD hours:** 2 PD hours

**Location:** ONLINE **Presenters:** Christine McLean & Matthew Sampson

**Description:** In theory, we know that there is an inherent value when children play with themes of violence in their own dramatic play. In practice, however, it can be difficult to support this type of play because of our own thoughts & fears surrounding issues of violence, power, & control. As well, this type of play can be problematic for parents, families, colleagues, & administrators of early learning programs. During our time together, we will discuss why children are attracted to violence-themed play; the benefits & challenges of this type of play; & how to have conversations with others who have concerns about children engaging in violence-themed play. Please keep in mind that this session is intended to be a discussion so come prepared to share your experiences, ideas, challenges, & concerns.

**Presenter Biographies:** *Dr. Christine McLean*, Associate Professor, Child & Youth Study Department, Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS. Christine has been involved in the field of early childhood education for over thirty years. Most of this time was spent in Newfoundland & Labrador where she worked with early childhood educators in a variety of roles including child care consultant with the NL provincial government, registrar of ECE certification, & college instructor. In 2016, Christine joined the CYS faculty at MSVU. Her research interests include play-based learning, reflective practice, & pedagogical documentation.

*Matthew Sampson* has been working in early childhood settings for over 20 years. Most of this time was spent in emergent curriculum settings working directly with children & families. In 2018 he received the Prime Minister's award of excellence in early childhood education. Matthew specializes in afterschool care & environment design. Matthew recently completed his Master of Arts (Child & Youth Studies) at MSVU where he researched the shifts in ECEs' practice in emergent curriculum. His research interests include school-age pedagogy, & the effects of environment design & pedagogical documentation in emergent curriculum settings.

## Learning Outdoors: Building Relationships with Nature, Workshop Series

**Date:** Tuesday evenings 7pm– 9 pm **Cost:** \$50 each session OR \$160 full 4 part series **Total PD hours:** 4 hours per session/ 16 hours full series **Location:** ONLINE **Presenters:** Bernadette Fegan & Olha Khaperska

*\*There is a discount for those who wish to register for all four sessions; \$160 for the complete series.*

### Description:

This reflective series of interrelated workshops will invite you to examine your personal concept of “nature” & “learning outdoors”, reflect on benefits of outdoor play & discuss the changing play landscape in the modern times. We will expand our views by exploring the Mi’kmaq concepts of relating to the land & bringing together the Western & Indigenous knowledge about the natural world. Together, we will work on creating mission statements that capture your commitment to supporting children’s relationships with the natural environment as well as a commitment to the environment itself. The final part of the workshop is focused on brainstorming ideas & how they can be implemented in our daily practice. We will create SMART goals that will support the planning & accountability for this process.

The sessions are designed to support educators through the entire process with enough time in-between to reflect & engage in further learning. However, you can choose to sign up for a few or just one session to deepen your knowledge on the topic of interest. All sessions will be held online via Zoom platform.

### Objectives:

- a) Examine your existing practice & beliefs about children’s relationships with natural environment,
- b) Expand your views on outdoor play & learning through the concepts of Netukulimk & Etuaptmuk,
- c) Create your personal philosophy of supporting eco-conscience in children,
- d) Set attainable goals of implementing ideas in practice.

*You can register for any, or all of the sessions.*

*\*There is a discount for those who wish to register for all four sessions; \$160 for the complete series.*

**Session 1: Your Image of Nature** Tuesday October 12 & 19, 2021 7-9pm both evenings

**Session 2: Relationships with Nature**, Tuesday November 2 & 9, 2021 7-9pm both evenings

**Session 3: Commitment to Nature**, Tuesday April 12 & 19, 2022 7-9pm both evenings

**Session 4: Nature & Your ECE Practice**, Tuesday May 3 & 10, 2022 7-9pm both evenings

**Presenter Biographies:** *Olha Khaperska* is a learning environments consultant behind [Beautiful Classrooms](#), a service that helps teaching teams implement positive changes in their classroom design, layout, & materials selection. She has been working as an Early Childhood Educator since 2013 & she shares her passion for early learning with fellow educators through delivering workshops on learning environments as well as facilitating NS Early Learning Curriculum Framework sessions on behalf of EECD.

Olha has a degree in Management, an ECE diploma, & an Early Childhood Administrator Certificate. She is finishing her Master of Education degree, Studies in Lifelong Learning/Adult Education, at MSVU. She currently works in the Pre-Primary program & enjoys spending entire days outdoors with her amazing & curious students.

*Bernadette Fegan* has been working in the field of Early Childhood Education for 25+ years & has become an advocate for nature-based learning in the last ten years after connecting with Claire Warden & visiting Auchlone Nature Kindergarten in her native Scotland. She currently works as a Mentoring Coordinator for Big Brothers Big Sisters & enjoys her work as a facilitator for NS Early Learning Curriculum Framework.

Bernadette has a Master of Arts in Child & Youth Studies, an Early Childhood Administrators Certificate & a Level 3 certification. She has expended her knowledge & understanding of the benefits of nature-based play by attending conferences & workshops in Nova Scotia, Ontario & New Brunswick. In the past year she has volunteered at the South Shore Waldorf School accompanying the G1/2 children to the farm.

## *All aboard for the* **VIRTUAL Inspiring Environments and Spaces Bus Tour**

**Date:** Wednesday October 20, 2021 7pm-9pm AND Saturday October 23, 2021 **Time:** 9am - 12noon **Cost:** \$65  
**Total PD hours:** 5 hours **Location:** ONLINE **Presenter:** Liz Hicks

**Description:** In response to popular demand, we are offering a **virtual** bus tour/workshop visiting four (4) child care centres that have inspiring spaces and environments – inside and outside.

We will reflect, discuss, and look at ideas on ways in which learning environments could inspire ourselves, the children, and Families. We have a moral and ethical responsibility to maintain our values for children not just during the pandemic (I know this has been almost impossible!), but to also plan for the future.

On Wednesday evening, we will be visiting **Dr. Jane Norman Child Study Centre and Jane Norman College After School Program**, in Truro. This will be partly as a power point and in real time.

More information on the Dr. Jane Norman Child Study Centre (Lab school; 18 mths-5 years of age, plus a school age program; non-profit) <https://www.janenorman.ca/about-us/supports/child-study-centre/> A quote from their web site:

*We believe all children are born full of potential. They are capable, confident and curious little beings who are fascinated by this world they live in. We believe that all children are endowed with natural instincts to learn through play, exploration and discovery. Play is nature's way in which children learn about themselves and the world they live in.*

On Saturday morning we will virtually visit- with a mixture of video, power point and in real time tours:

**Small World Learning Centre**, Bridgewater (non-profit; 18mths – school age) Award-winning Small World Learning Centre is the only childcare organization in Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, housed in its own facility designed especially for children, an attractive and modern building constructed in 2007.

More information can be found at: <https://www.smallworldbridgewater.com/#0> . A quote from their web site:

*Small World has been offering programs for young children in Bridgewater since 1978. Today we offer several different programs of care and education based on Reggio-inspired principles and Forest & Nature for children between the ages of 18 months to 12 years.*

**Tallahassee Preschool and After school**, “Guiding their way” (private; 6 months to school age) situated in a community school. More information can be found at: <https://www.tallahasseedaycare.ca/> . A quote from their website:

*At Tallahassee, we are inspired by emergent curriculum teaching. This is a way of planning curriculum that focuses on being responsive to children's interest to create meaningful learning experiences. Children thrive and learn best when their interests are captured. This involves a lot of creativity and flexibility on the part of the teachers. There is no knowing where the learning will end up, but this makes the curriculum more exciting for the teachers and children. We believe outdoor learning is just as valuable as indoor. We make frequent visits to Fisberman's Cove and our local gardens.*

There will be plenty of time to ask questions, and requests to revisit favourite areas of their programs!

Objectives:

- Increased understanding of what makes an environment inspiring
- Demonstrated how intentional design of environments are important to children's development
- Provide strategies to take & apply these ideas to your own environment

**Presenter Biography:** **Liz Hicks** has over 31 years working within the early childhood field, as an elementary school teacher, administrator of & teacher in a part –day program for 23 years, 5.5 years as an inclusion facilitator for Partnerships for Inclusion, part time faculty with NSCECE, & she is also a private consultant working with various Centres in H.R.M providing professional development in a variety of topics, environmental & inclusion rating scales, & program coordination. Her passion is to help educators (& administrators) find & develop their potential, so they can help children find & develop their potential.



## Making Sense of Trauma

**Date:** Saturday October 23, 2021 9am-12 noon AND Tuesday October 26, 2021 6pm-9pm **Cost:** \$75  
**Total PD hours:** 6 hrs **Location:** ONLINE **Presenters:** Colin Morrison & Karen Carey

**Description:** This two-part workshop is designed to educate professionals on the impact of stress and trauma both professionally and personally. In session one we will look at different types of trauma, the effects of trauma, and the impact trauma has on a child's brain. We will also review ways Early Educators can create a safe and secure trauma-informed care environment. In session two we will discuss compassion fatigue, also known as secondary traumatic stress; moral distress, moral injury, and burnout. We will review the difference and similarities of each, discuss signs and behaviors to look for, the long-term impacts, and how to implement both self-care and healthy boundaries to help recover. Objectives: 1) To have a better understanding of stress vs trauma, types of trauma, and effects of trauma in childhood. 2) To review how common trauma is, and how our workplace(s) can be trauma-informed. 3) To reflect on compassion fatigue, burn out and setting boundaries in the workplace.

**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.

## Troubled Childhoods: Mental Health Challenges and Emotional and Behaviour Disorders in Young Children

**Date:** Saturday November 20, 2021 9am—12 noon AND Tuesday November 23, 2021 6pm– 9pm  
**Cost:** \$75 **Total PD hours:** 6 hrs **Location:** ONLINE **Presenters:** Colin Morrison & Karen Carey

**Description:** Children can show clear characteristics of anxiety disorders, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, conduct disorder, depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, and neurodevelopmental disabilities, such as autism, at a very early age. And while signs can be present before age five, a diagnosis is rarely made in very young children. Even in older children, diagnoses should be made only with extreme caution, due to controversy around the notion of labeling and stigmatizing children. And because young children respond to and process emotional experiences and traumatic events in ways that are very different from adults and older children, understanding their needs and how best to support these challenged troubled young children becomes that much more challenging.

Science tells us that the foundations of sound mental health are built early in life, and that early experiences, including children's relationships with parents, caregivers, relatives, teachers, combine and interact with biology to shape the architecture of the developing brain. Disruptions in this developmental process can impair a child's capacities for learning and relating to others, with lifelong implications. Not addressing the mental health needs of young children can come with a heavy burden and high cost to society. Objectives of workshop: Through this workshop we will explore the distinct traits of children with mental health, emotional and behavioural challenges and examine the unique ways they process emotional and traumatic events that set them apart from same age peers.. We will have a better understanding of young children's mental health problems within the context of their families, homes, and communities and how it is directly related to the well being of their caregivers and communities. We will uncover new research in emotional and behavioural challenges and self regulation that may potentially provide helpful strategies and interventions to address issues and allow troubled children to leave more healthy lives.

**Presenter Biographies:** *see above*

## The Extraordinary in the Lives of Infants and Toddlers!

**Date:** Wednesday Oct. 27 & Wednesday Nov. 3, 2021 **Time:** 7pm– 9 pm both days **Cost:** \$50 **Total PD hours:** 4 hours  
**Location:** ONLINE **Presenters:** Liz Hicks & Dawn Gerin

**Description:** In this presentation we will explore our beliefs about & our practice with infants & toddlers, using as a reference the Nova Scotia Early Learning Curriculum Framework. Plus, delve into some inspiring theories to study & reflect on how our care, connection to & learning with these little humans will give them confidence for life.

**First part;** Brief discussion/exploration of participants image of & values for infants & toddlers.

We will connect theories & inspirational practices to our own practices

Our triggers, attitudes & dispositions – how do children & Families see us?

Reflect on where & how children play throughout the day – time spent in areas/with materials/care, etc.

Homework: Observe environment, send photos back to us to use in next workshop.

Reflect & get ready to share ideas in the second workshop.

**Second part;** Re-visit the ‘homework’ – discussion, etc.

A deeper dive with materials, activities, etc. , Heuristic play, Songs/story telling, Activities – art, explorations, The outdoors, More ideas...

**Presenter Biographies; Liz Hicks,** elementary teacher from England, ECE diploma, 40 plus years in early childhood, in various capacities, & at present a private consultant working in early childhood education in NS, providing professional development in a variety of topics, consultations & pedagogical leadership. I believe in lifelong learning for all (especially myself!) & want to help people provide the best environments & experiences for ALL children that encourage awe, wonder, learning & excitement in discovery.

**Dawn Gerin,** an Early Childhood Educator from Winnipeg Manitoba, 30 plus years in Early Childhood, has experience with Infants, Toddlers, Preschoolers, & School Age children, has worked in Manitoba, Ontario, & Nova Scotia. For the past 12 plus years has worked in an Infant room. I am passionate about pedagogical leadership, Infant & Early Childhood mental health & the importance of quality care for all young children.

## Supporting Communication & Learning in Early Childhood Settings Using Visual Supports

**Date:** Thursday November 4 6:30 pm– 9 pm **AND** Thursday November 18, 2021 6:30 pm– 9 pm **Cost:** \$65

**Total PD hours:** 5 hours **Location:** Online **Presenters:** Heather Bartholomew & Debbie Thompson

**Description:** This workshop will explore the value of using visuals within early childhood settings. We will consider who benefits from use of visual supports and the numerous opportunities for a wide variety of visual formats. The facilitators will focus on the many ways these tools can support learning play skills, create smoother transition times, promote positive behaviour and support peer interaction. We will discuss finding the most efficient and effective supports and other considerations such as teaching their meaning, age appropriateness and fading them out over time.

Three learning outcomes

1. Understand how visual supports can be used to support individuals and classroom-wide learning
  2. Learn variety of formats for visual supports, including many alternatives to printed, laminated visuals
- Learn support options for various routines throughout the day

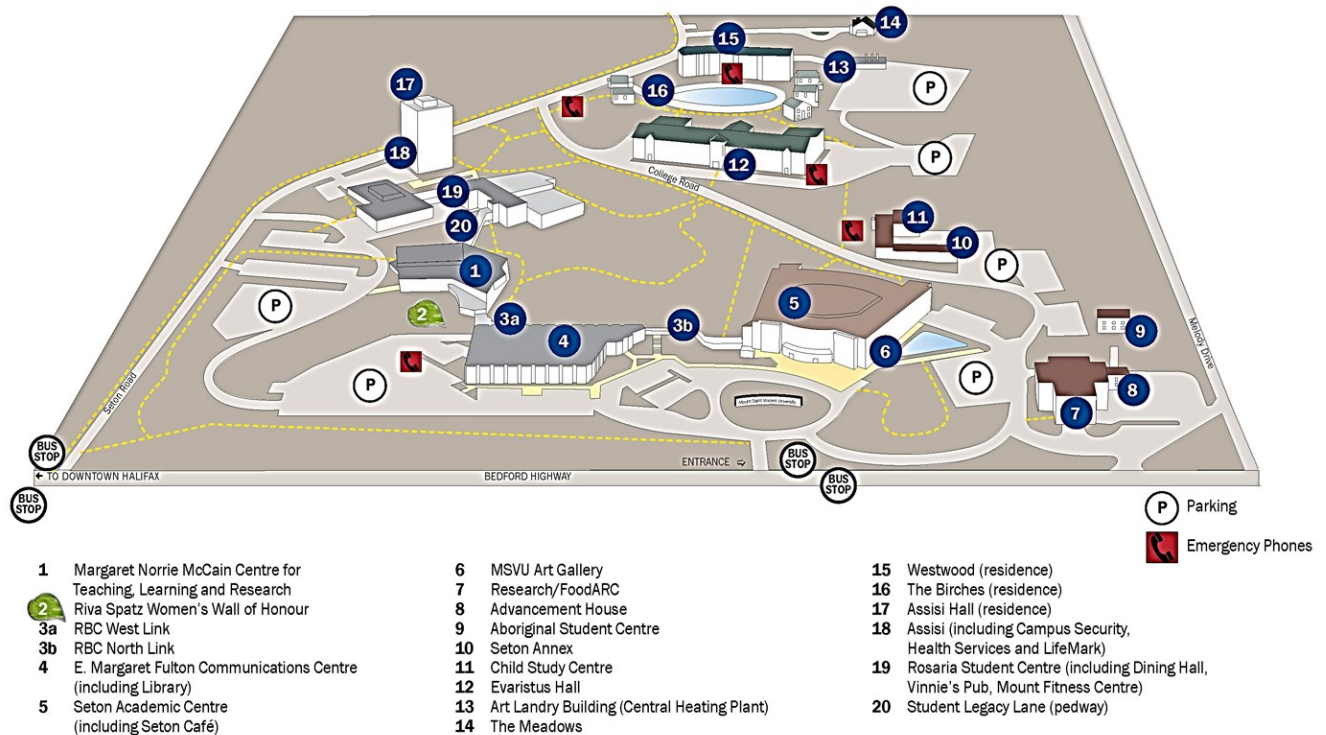
**Presenter Biographies:** *Heather Bartholomew* graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Arts (Child and Youth Study) and in the twenty plus years since then, has been working with preschoolers. She has worked as an Early Childhood Educator, one-to-one support staff and as a resource teacher. For five years, she served as Resource Teacher at the Mount's Child Study Centre, supporting children with identified special needs and, 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 sixteen years. She has developed and facilitated workshops on a variety of topics, most frequently relating to Inclusion. Heather is passionate about facilitating positive inclusion experiences and finding effective and efficient strategies to support individual and 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.

## CAMPUS MAP

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## ALL REGISTRATION IS NOW ONLINE

Please visit our website  
[www.msvu.ca/earlychildhoodworkshops](http://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:

**Rhonda Rees**  
Professional Development Coordinator  
Department of Child and Youth Study  
(902) 457-6313  
[rhonda.rees@msvu.ca](mailto:rhonda.rees@msvu.ca)

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