

CHILD AND YOUTH STUDY

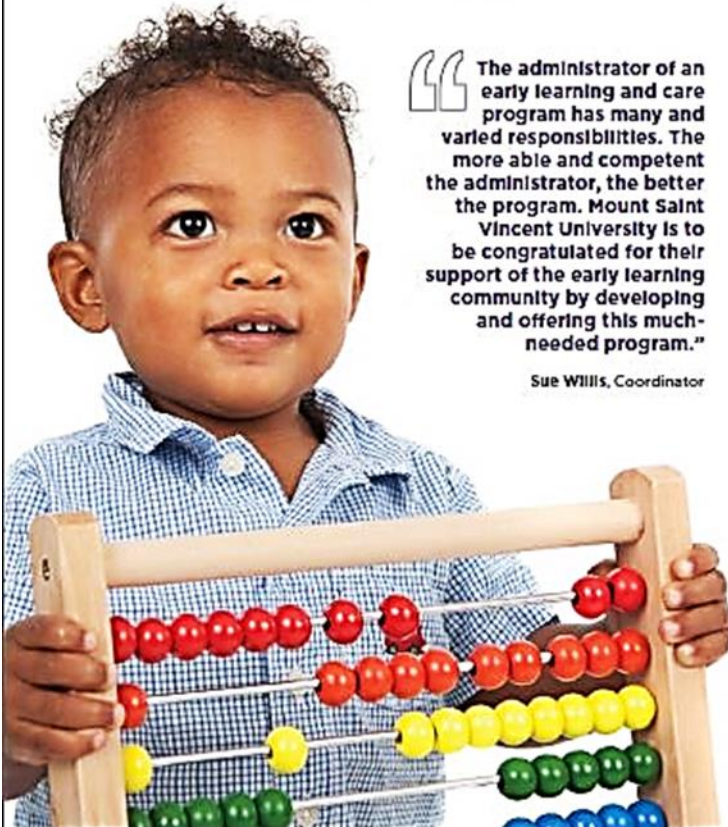
Enabling students to become one-of-a-kind professionals



At the Mount we pride ourselves on providing our students with unique experiences that enable them to follow their passions, develop their skills, and emerge into the workforce as one-of-a-kind professionals. In some instances, that has meant offering programs and opportunities as distinct and spectacular as our students.

For years, the Mount has been home to Atlantic Canada's only Child and Youth Study program, with a Bachelor's degree renowned both nationally, and internationally, in a variety of occupations and services. Since 2010, the Child and Youth Study Department has also offered a course specifically designed for early learning and childcare administrators and educators — the Early Childhood Administrator Continuing Education course — which is also the only of its kind in the Maritimes.

While attracting a mix of students from a variety of occupations, from across Nova Scotia, participants are brought together and mentored within a small group through a mixture of lectures; presentations; guest-speakers; discussions; workplace-based assignments; and a combination of individual and group work. Since the first program in 2010-2011, over 70 participants from across Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have completed the program, offering testimonials such as:



“The administrator of an early learning and care program has many and varied responsibilities. The more able and competent the administrator, the better the program. Mount Saint Vincent University is to be congratulated for their support of the early learning community by developing and offering this much-needed program.”

Sue Willis, Coordinator

“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.”



PHOTO: DEAN CASAVECHIA

“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 leader sets the tone for the organization. We must build capacity in our leaders so that they might, through their actions, influence and build capacity in those around them,” says Sue Willis, Coordinator for the course. “Participants of the program report increased skills and ability, yet perhaps most importantly, they report an increase in confidence. The early learning and care program is a relationship driven and dynamic environment. Past course participants report that completion of the early childhood administrator certificate program has given them the knowledge base and, therefore, the confidence to tackle the challenges inherent in the management of such a complex organization.” **FM**

More information on the Early Childhood Administrator Continuing Education course is available on-line at www.msvu.ca/administratorcourse