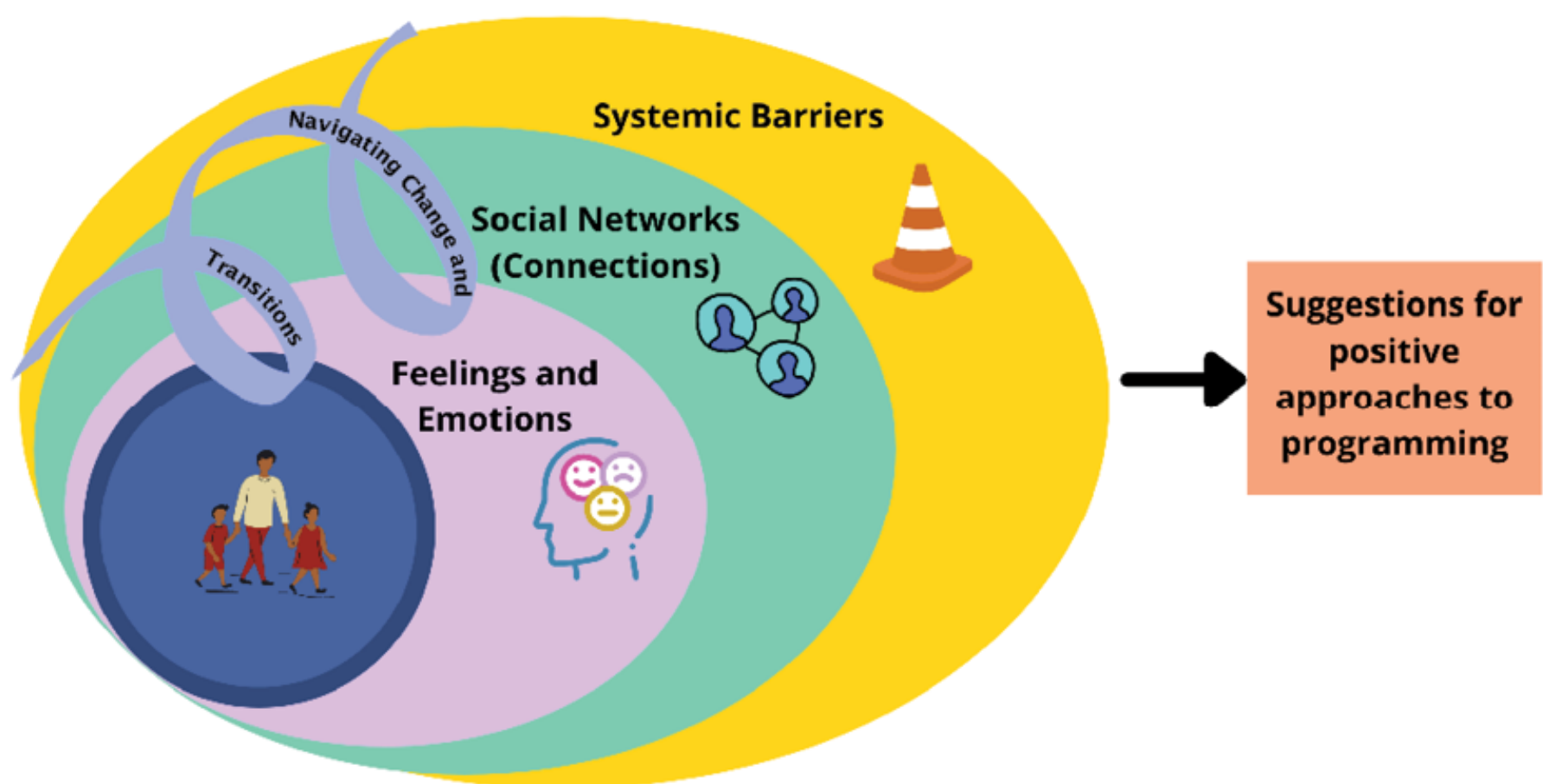


# LOOKING THROUGH THE LENS OF NEWCOMER FAMILIES

Early childhood educators identified four levels that influence newcomer families as they access early childhood programs and services that relate to their experience navigating change and transitions



## Navigating Change and Transitions

This is illustrated by a spiral to represent their complex journey navigating change and transitions

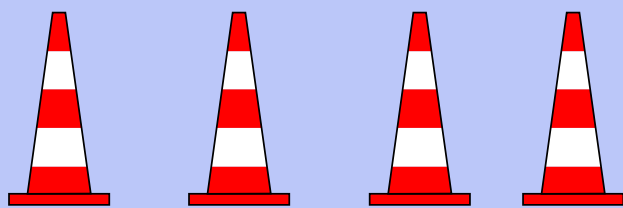
**Unique family stories** include each family's identity, culture and traditions, experiences, needs, emotions, and perception of stigma.

It is at the centre because the family's story and needs influence everything.



**Feelings and emotions** influencing families were described through the fear of unknown and uncertainty, family loss, separation, isolation, anxiety, and grief. Resilience was also described as being informed by unique family stories (above), social networks and systemic barriers (both below).

**Social networks and connections**, through family and friends, play an important role in helping newcomer families navigate barriers and finding what families need for their children.



**Systemic barriers** were described through language barriers, financial challenges, stigma, safety, service flexibility, informational issues, and gender norms. These are inherent challenges within the systems that influence how families find and use programs and services.

## Positive Approach to Programming

A number of recommendations were suggested by ECEs to better meet the needs of newcomer families. Some of these suggestions include: collaboration with families, focusing on play as a universal language for children, and using a trauma-informed approach.

Learn more about the project:



### Questions?

Email: [crcearlychildhood@msvu.ca](mailto:crcearlychildhood@msvu.ca)

Phone: (902) 430-3096

SSHRC  CRSH

**isans** | Immigrant Services  
Association of Nova Scotia

 CANADA RESEARCH CHAIRS  
CHAIRES DE RECHERCHE DU CANADA

 MOUNT  
SAINT VINCENT  
UNIVERSITY

 Early Childhood  
Collaborative  
Research Centre