

ELCC ADVISORS' NEWSLETTER

January 2026



An Evening with Sarah Spethmann

Sarah Spethmann invites educators to explore Métis ways of knowing through the joyful lens of play. Sarah will offer accessible ways to respectfully incorporate Métis understandings through stories, music, movement, and games into early learning environments. Participants will experience how traditional and contemporary Métis play can foster young children's appreciation, inclusion, and curiosity. Rooted in joy and community, this session invites participants of all backgrounds to experience Métis ways of knowing as something living, evolving, and accessible.



Click on the registration link or scan the QR code to register.

[CLICK HERE](#)



Registered Early Childhood Educator Support Program

Are you an MNO citizen and a Registered Early Childhood Educator (RECE)? If so, there are supports to help offset costs associated with continuous professional learning. To learn more, reach out to our team at: elccpartnerships@metisnation.org.

Click here for the online reimbursement application.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Virtual Presentations

The Giving Tree Story Bag Presentation

Join the ELCC Advisors for an introduction to 'The Giving Tree' Story Bag. This presentation will build on the educator's confidence to use Métis specific cultural items from 'The Giving Tree' Story Bag in their early learning and childcare settings.

Click on the registration link or scan the QR code to register.

[CLICK HERE](#)



Toddlers and Land-Based Learning

This workshop will discuss the importance of "play schemas" and the benefits of intentionally planning based on an understanding of key child development principles. Participants will engage with thinking about land-based learning and the importance of getting toddlers outdoors to develop their curiosity, understand the interconnectedness of all living things, and use this as a key strategy to ensure positive mental health.

Participants will receive a free copy of The Art of Land-Based Learning Vol 1 by Sophie Anne Edwards, subject to availability.

Click on the registration link or scan the QR code to register.

[CLICK HERE](#)



MNO ELCC Resources Available for Purchase!

Did you know that Wintergreen Learning Materials now offers Métis-centered resources developed by the MNO ELCC Advisory Team?

Now Available:

- The Giving Tree Story Bag Kit
- Christmas Mittens Story Bag Kit.
- Ways to Carry a Métis Baby Story Bag Kit.

These kits are sold at cost to ensure Métis children and their families can see their history and traditions reflected in their learning environments. Wintergreen and the MNO do not profit from the sale of these resources.



ELCC Infrastructure And Partnership Advisor Team

The ELCC Advisor Team at the Métis Nation of Ontario is dedicated to enhancing relationship building with existing early learning centers/programs across Ontario and strengthening relationships with regional municipalities.

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Loose Parts in the Winter!

Educators and children love the open-ended nature of loose parts. Children and materials found in nature have a reciprocal relationship that can act as an essential connection to place and ecology.

Items needed:

- Snowy surfaces such as the ground, hill, or sidewalk.
- Natural items found in nature.

Nature items to collect:

- Small rocks
- Leaves
- Twigs
- Feathers
- Pinecones
- Icicles
- Nuts/seeds
- Tree bark
- Small toys



How to do this activity:

1. During outdoor play, encourage children to collect their own assortment of natural loose parts items with an outdoor scavenger hunt around your outdoor space.

2. Once children have collected the materials from nature, invite them to explore their materials freely and openly. Encourage children to explore new materials to create patterns, animate creatures, and build, and use their imagination to tell stories on snow or a surface.

For more activities, visit the
MNO Tiny Tribune
newsletter!

[CLICK HERE](#)



Métis Nation
of Ontario