

ELCC ADVISORS' NEWSLETTER

August 2026

An Evening with... Anisha Angella

Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at
6:30 pm EST – 8:00 pm EST

Welcome to "It Starts with You: Building a Culture of DEI with Awareness and Action," an inspiring workshop tailored for early childhood professionals eager to shape programs or classrooms that champion Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Throughout this transformative workshop, participants will embark on a comprehensive journey, beginning with the foundational understanding of the vital role DEI plays in early childhood education. We'll delve into personal biases, foster self-awareness, and explore the profound impact of a diverse and inclusive learning environment on children's holistic development.

The workshop culminates in an empowering session dedicated to acting, where attendees will develop personalized DEI action plans, implement sustainable changes, and celebrate successes. Through engaging hands-on activities and discussions, "It Starts with You" aims to equip early childhood professionals with the knowledge and tools necessary to create lasting positive change in their educational settings. Join us in shaping a future where diversity, equity, and inclusion thrive from the very foundations of early childhood education.

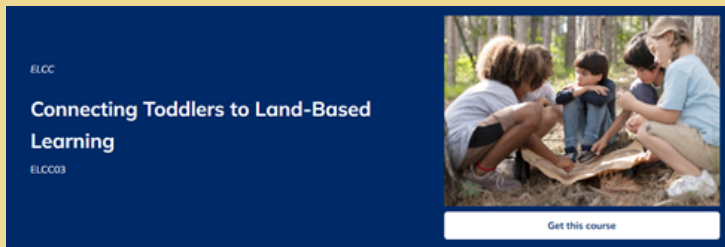


REGISTER NOW

Connecting Earth Day and Truth & Reconciliation Through Early Learning

On April 22, we recognized Earth Day, and on September 30, we observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. While these dates honour different events and histories, they share a focus on relationships with the land, with others, and with the world around us. In early learning, this connection closely aligns with the principles set out in How Does Learning Happen? (HDLH), Ontario's pedagogy for children emphasizes belonging, well-being, engagement, and expression. It also aligns with the Kindergarten program's play-based and inquiry-based approach, in which children learn through exploration, relationships, and meaningful experiences with people, places, and materials. Together, these 2 days help children begin to understand that the land is something we are in relationship with, not separate from us; that caring for the Earth is connected to caring for one another; and that every child deserves to feel a sense of belonging, safety, and respect. In practice, educators support these understandings by creating opportunities for outdoor exploration and inquiry-based learning (engagement), supporting children's curiosity about nature, seasons, and living things (expression), building safe, responsive environments where children feel valued and connected (belonging), and promoting emotional safety, respect, and care for self and others (well-being). From an Indigenous perspective, the land is also a teacher, offering knowledge through observation, relationship, and respect. By linking these two important days, children begin to build early foundations for caring relationships with the land, with people, and within their communities.

Now Available: Connecting Toddlers to Land-Based Learning LMS Self-Paced Module



On April 22 (Earth Day) and September 30 (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation), we are reminded of the importance of our relationships with the land and with one another. These understandings align with early learning pedagogy grounded in How Does Learning Happen? (HDLH) and play-based inquiry.

This Learning Management System (LMS) or online course helps early childhood educators strengthen their practice by exploring how play schemas and land-based learning work together to support meaningful, responsive programming.

In this course, educators will learn to:

- Identify play schemas in children's play
- Understand the principles of land-based learning and Indigenous ways of knowing
- Design developmentally appropriate, play-based experiences connected to the land
 - Support children's natural inquiry and developmental growth

This learning helps educators extend children's thinking in ways that honour curiosity, connection, and relationship, supporting meaningful, responsive, and land-based learning.

[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](#)

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.

Jennifer Boston JenniferB@metisnation.org
Courtney Scott CourtneySc@metisnation.org
Sylvie Hebbard-Langille sylvieh@metisnation.org
Ashley Gour AshleyG@metisnation.org