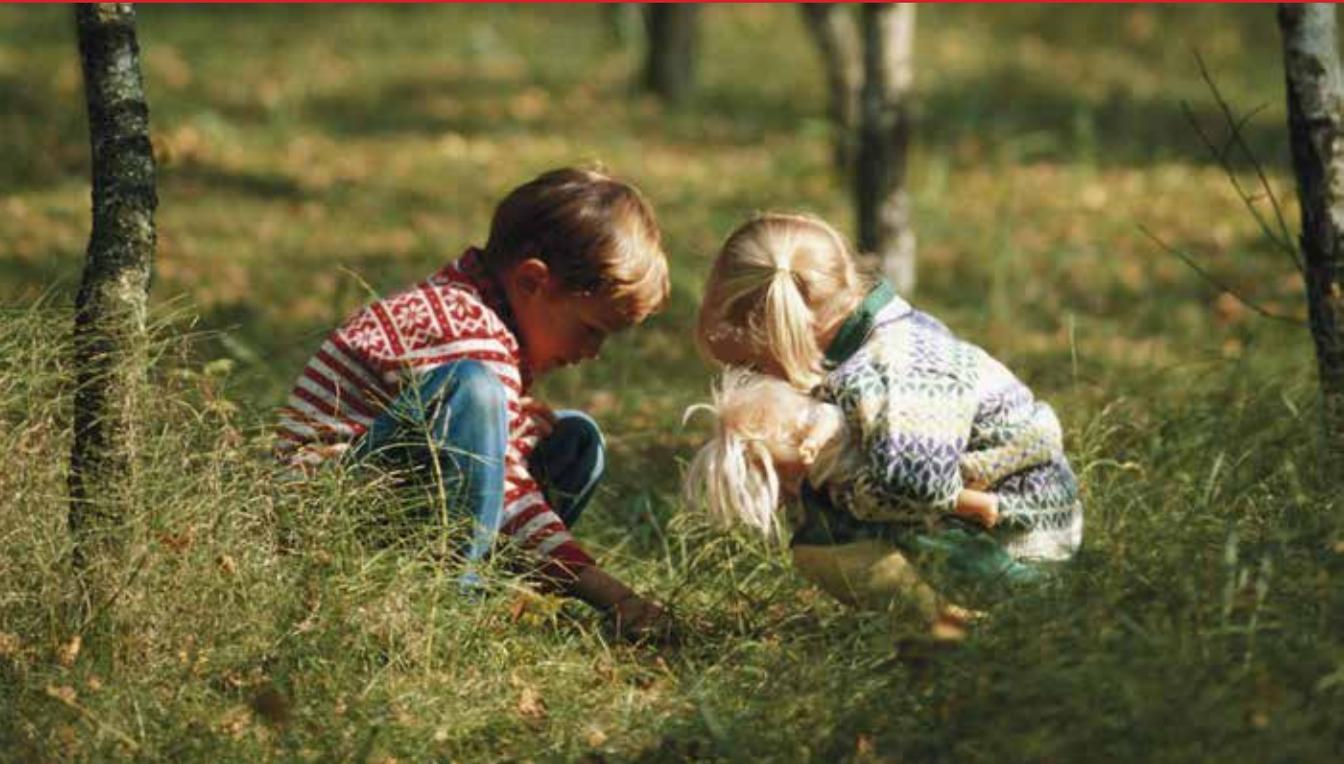




Children THE HEART OF THE MATTER

January 26TH & 27TH 2018

The Bell Performing Arts Centre
6250 144 Street, Surrey, BC





January 26th & 27th, 2018

**The Bell Performing Arts Centre
6250 144 Street, Surrey, BC**

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

We are excited to invite you to attend the 21st Annual Children the Heart of the Matter Conference! This 2018 conference will feature a selection of workshops and information sessions on early childhood development.

The conference kicks off on Friday evening with a welcome reception followed by a presentation with Dr. Scott Sampson, President and CEO of Science World, paleontologist, author, and host of the PBS kids' series "Dinosaur Train".

Saturday will bring another great learning day beginning with a keynote presentation by Jeff A. Johnson; presenter, toymaker, and author of 10 books including *Let Them Play: An Early Learning (Un)Curriculum*.

The conference will be of interest to all persons who work with young children and families in early care and learning programs.

OUR MISSION

The Children the Heart of the Matter conference brings together all those involved in the care and education of young children. Our mission is to raise the awareness and profile of child care and early learning programs. Through professional development, networking, and sharing of information and resources between child care professionals, we aim to help provide the best for young children.



Ministry of
Children and Family
Development



Conference Overview

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26TH

6:30 PM Welcome Reception
Registration Opens
Marketplace Opens

7:30 PM Keynote Presentation
How to Raise a Wild Child with Dr. Scott Sampson

9:30 PM Book Signing
with Dr. Scott Sampson

10:00 PM Marketplace Closes

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27TH

8:00 AM Registration Opens
Marketplace Opens

8:45 AM Keynote Presentation
Finding Your Smile Again with Jeff A. Johnson

10:15 AM Morning Break

10:45 AM A.M. Session Workshops

12:45 PM Lunch Break
*last chance to shop in the Marketplace!

1:45 PM P.M. Session Workshops and
Marketplace Closes

3:45 PM Conference Ends

Partnering with the Food Bank...

The Surrey Food Bank is the second largest food bank in BC and supports low income individuals and families living in Surrey and North Delta. Of our 14,000 monthly clients, 41% are children and babies. Proper nutrition and support is vital in the first few years and lays a good foundation for a child's life.



Our Tiny Bundles, Toddler Tote and Pre-K 2 to 5 yr programs provide age appropriate nutrition for babies, young children, nursing and pregnant mums.

We are asking CHOM participants to help create hampers for these special programs by bringing donations of formula, infant cereal, diapers, and other most needed items. Cash donations will also be welcomed as they allow us to buy needed items wholesale.

For a complete list of most needed items please visit:
www.surreyfoodbank.org/donors/top-items/

GET
CONFERENCE
UPDATES

Twitter @chcareoptions

Facebook @childcareoptionsccrr

Instagram @childcareoptions

Visit Our Website

www.childcareoptions.ca

WELCOME
RECEPTION

The welcome reception on Friday evening will feature light appetizers, live music, and a chance to catch up with old friends and colleagues, as well as meet new ones.

This is also a great time to visit our vendors in the Marketplace!

VISIT THE
MARKETPLACE

Be sure to stop by the Marketplace for a look at the latest toys, equipment and materials available for the early care and learning field!

Please note: There is **NOT** an ATM on site.

PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
CERTIFICATES

Conference attendees will receive certificates for training attended.

Friday only 2 hours

Saturday only 5.5 hours

Friday & Saturday 7.5 hours



Keynote Presentations

Friday Keynote

How to Raise a Wild Child

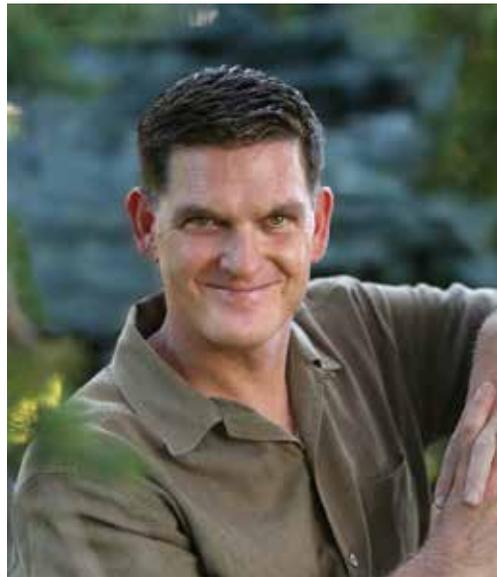
North American children currently spend about seven hours a day staring at screens, versus seven minutes playing outdoors. Yet recent research indicates that abundant experience in nature is essential for healthy growth. Regular exposure to natural settings can help relieve stress, depression, and attention deficits. It can reduce bullying, combat illness, and boost academic scores. Most critical of all, abundant time in nature can yield long-term benefits in children's cognitive, emotional, and social development. Tapping into the latest research findings summarized in his book, *How to Raise a Wild Child*, Scott Sampson, President & CEO of Science World British Columbia, offers timely guidance to parents, educators, and others interested in mentoring strong bonds between children and nature. Sampson will also talk about a bold and exciting new initiative around place-based learning taking place right here in British Columbia.

Born and raised in Vancouver, BC, Scott Sampson is a dinosaur paleontologist, science communicator, and passionate advocate for re-imagining cities as places where people and nature thrive. He serves as the President and CEO of Science World British Columbia.

Scott's scientific research has focused on the ecology and evolution of Late Cretaceous dinosaurs, and he has conducted fieldwork in many countries, including Kenya, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Madagascar, Mexico, the United States, and Canada. He has published numerous scientific and popular articles, and regularly speaks to audiences of all ages on topics ranging from dinosaurs and education to sustainability and connecting kids with nature.

Scott has appeared in many television documentaries and served as a science advisor for a variety of media projects, most recently the BBC movie, "Walking With Dinosaurs". He has also authored multiple books, including *Dinosaur Odyssey: Fossil Threads in the Web of Life*, and *How to Raise a Wild Child: The Art and Science of Falling in Love with Nature*. However, he is perhaps best known as "Dr. Scott," host and science advisor of the Emmy-nominated PBS KIDS television series "Dinosaur Train", produced by the Jim Henson Company.

Dr. Scott Sampson



Saturday Keynote

Finding Your Smile Again

Many caregivers spend so much time focusing on the needs of others that they fail to take care of themselves, which often leads to stress and burnout. This session looks at how burnout impacts caregivers and ways to deal with that impact.

Outcomes/ Goals:

- Attendees will understand how stress and burnout impacts them.
- Attendees will understand the causes of stress and burnout.
- Attendees will leave with simple and doable ideas for managing stress and burnout.

Jeff A. Johnson opened Explorations Early Learning, a family child care program, in 2003 with his wife, Tasha, after spending 16 years directing a child care centre and community centre for a large non-profit agency. Their programs focused on supporting emergent learning in a play-based and child-centred environment.

On August 14, 2013, they closed their family child care program and retired to pursue their hobbies: speaking at early learning events, making toys, recording podcasts, and advocating for child-led play and caregiver self-care. These hobbies have become full-time jobs.

Jeff presents regularly at early learning conferences across the United States, Canada, and Australia, and has keynoted an international conference in Cork, Ireland. He produces a number of early learning podcasts that currently have over 250,000 downloads a year. Toy-making, his preferred pastime, has led to a business that ships simple wooden toys across the USA and internationally. Jeff has a growing and very active social media following on Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, and YouTube, and he blogs at www.playvolutionhq.com

Jeff A. Johnson



Saturday Workshops

AM SESSION 10:45 AM - 12:45 PM

A1

Cows in the Basement
Jeff A. Johnson

A2

Your Image of the Child: Creating Your Personal Pedagogy
Karen Begley

A3

How to Talk to Parents About Their Child's Behaviour
Malgosia Tomanik

A4

WORKSHOP CORRECTION
Planning With Intention and Impact
Paula Milbradt

A5

The Heart and Soil of Relationship: Cultivating Roots With Nature-Based Play
Courtenay Crucil & Barbara A. Smith

A6

Creative Reflection: Educators Using Poetry, Short Stories, and Journaling to Support Professional Reflection
Denise Pawliuk

A7

Helping Children Improve Emotional Regulation and Social Skills
Tara Dolan & Carlee Freeman

A8

Questioning Our Biases: Growing in Self-Awareness
Lesley Richardson

A9

Are Your Children Tuned in? Addressing Noise Issues and Improving Children's Success
Zara Gauthier & Valerie Marshall

PM SESSION 1:45 - 3:45 PM

P1

Zombie, Vampire, Veterinarian Moms
Jeff A. Johnson

P2

Connections With Nature for All Children
Karen Begley

P3

Bringing the Inside Out and the Outside In
Sarah McCarthy

P4

Is Children's Creativity Really All That Important?
Maryann Kohl

P5

Storytimes Using Magic Tricks #2
Susan Andrews

P6

Bringing Natural Elements into Your Learning Space
Alisha Inch

P7

Professionalism & Partnering With Parents
Vicki Lepper

P8

Supporting Outdoor Play and Exploration in the Early Years
Heather Fraser

P9

Hurt Kids, Hurting Caregivers
Meagan VanDierman

A1

Cows in the Basement

A child's life should be full of whim, fantasy, imagination, and goofiness, but all too often kids are forced to grow up too soon. This session will look at how caregivers can feed their need for fun and fantasy...and have a good time while doing so.

Outcomes/Goals:

- Attendees will leave with ideas for supporting fantasy and imaginative play
- Attendees will practice using their imaginations
- Attendees will see the relationship between fantasy play and learning

Jeff A. Johnson

Jeff A. Johnson opened Explorations Early Learning, a family child care program, in 2003 with his wife, Tasha, after spending 16 years directing a child care centre and community centre for a large non-profit agency. Their programs focused on supporting emergent learning in a play-based and child-centred environment.

On August 14, 2013, they closed their family child care program and retired to pursue their hobbies: speaking at early learning events, making toys, recording podcasts, and advocating for child-led play and caregiver self-care. These hobbies have become full-time jobs.

Jeff presents regularly at early learning conferences across the United States, Canada, and Australia, and has keynoted an international conference in Cork, Ireland. He produces a number of early learning podcasts that currently have over 250,000 downloads a year. Toy-making, his preferred pastime, has led to a business that ships simple wooden toys across the USA and internationally. Jeff has a growing and very active social media following on Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, and YouTube, and he blogs at www.playolutionhq.com



A2

Your Image of the Child: Creating Your Personal Pedagogy



What we believe about children forms the foundation of our practice - our personal pedagogy. Through a process-based discussion, participants will uncover their personal Image of the Child and examine how this image impacts their practice. A framework will be provided to participants for examining their practice within a social-constructivist Reggio inspired lens. Participants will leave feeling empowered and confident with some big and small ideas about possibilities for shifting their practice into a more emergent and responsive approach that closer aligns with their own values and beliefs about children, care, and learning.

Karen Begley

Karen is a teacher. She has taught children of all ages, adults, and families. She works with educators of all levels to simplify their practice by aligning it with their values and beliefs about children, childhood, and learning. She is passionate about the rights of children, the power of unstructured play, outdoor education, incorporating families into the school community and learning process, and creating a respectful community and curriculum to empower young learners. She enjoys mentoring individuals and groups of teachers through explorations of inquiry-based learning, purposeful pedagogy and place-based learning. She shares her thoughts and offers support for educators and parents of young children at www.connectionsinearlylearning.wordpress.com

A3

How to Talk to Parents About Their Child's Behaviour

This presentation is intended to emphasize the current information on recommended practices for working with families. It includes a brief review of the parents' and service providers' roles, a review of recommended and promising family centred practice, and applies the content to the role of service providers. It also provides strategies on how to talk to parents in a friendly but informative professional way that will enhance parent-service provider relationships and prompt parent participation in their child's development. The importance of, and strategies for, collaborative communication within a family centred approach is also presented. Also included are strategies and recommendations for different scenarios such as how to deal with parents who are angry, upset, or anxious.

Malgosia Tomanik

Malgosia Tomanik, M.Ed., is a Family Consultant who specializes in supporting children from preschool to high school age and their parents/caregivers in a variety of environments, including homes, school, and child care settings. Malgosia is experienced in addressing concerns associated with the daily challenges of caring for a child/youth who requires support, helping to make sense of difficult behaviour and supporting the big people for each child in finding a way through. Malgosia also works as an FASD Key Worker with the Fraser Valley Child Development Centre. In her role as a Key Worker, Malgosia provides support to parents/caregivers raising children and youth who are living with FASD. She has delivered numerous workshops and training sessions to various adult audiences: child care providers, school staff, parents and caregivers, potential adoptive families, social workers, police officers and mental health clinicians regarding children's development, transitions, addressing challenging behaviours, parenting issues and specific disabilities such as FASD.

A4

WORKSHOP CORRECTION Planning With Intention and Impact

During this hands-on workshop participants will review their image of the child, create a plan based on this image and learning outcomes for the children. Social competence, communication, general knowledge and emotional maturity will be highlighted to strengthen our community's needs. Let's prepare children for life with the skills needed to impact a healthy and compassionate community!

Paula Milbradt

Over the last 25 years, Paula has served children, family, community and professionals. Paula moved to Surrey BC in 2011 from Ontario to continue her passion and vision to support community by collaborating and sharing with those working with young children and youth. Paula is passionate about healthy attachments, the importance of movement and the outdoors and curriculum planning that strengthens healthy child development. She was a foster parent for 4 boys which inspired her to share the power of social emotional brain development with those working with young children. Paula has presented to numerous groups of ECE professionals, coaches and teachers. Paula has also led workshops at CHOM, various CCRR groups, YMCA parent groups and various conventions. She believes it takes a village to raise a child, but the child to fill it with innovation and creativity.

A5

The Heart and Soil of Relationship: Cultivating Roots With Nature-Based Play

Direct, indoor instruction has seemingly taken over despite a substantial knowledge base regarding the positive impact of outdoor play on children's development. Open ended, playful experiences outside, particularly with an engaged and enthusiastic adult, support children's learning, creativity, and problem solving skills. Outdoor play fosters positive relationships, and just walking in nature can reduce anxiety and improve mood and attention. The growing evidence supports nature's healing properties, yet we live in a world that increasingly limits connection to the outdoors and to each other. This experiential workshop will explore nature-based activities for enhancing relationships with children, self, and nature.

Courtenay Crucil & Barbara A. Smith

Courtenay Crucil, M.A. is a Registered Clinical Counsellor, gardener, and active community member who lives, plays, and practices on the unceded territory of the Snunemuxw people. Her clinical specialties lie in interpersonal trauma, attachment, and eco-therapy. She works as a Clinician for Aboriginal Child and Youth Mental Health, and also has a private practice. Courtenay has developed (and currently runs) a number of eco-therapy groups for children, youth and families, and also integrates nature into her one-on-one therapy work.

Barbara A. Smith, M.Ed., M.A. is a Registered Clinical Counsellor living, working, and creating on the unceded territory of the Snunemuxw people. She is also an award winning instructor and researcher completing her Ph.D. in counselling psychology at UBC, specializing in creativity and play in practice. Barbara has worked intensively with children, adolescents, and families at Child and Youth Mental Health focusing on mental health, school, relational, and family concerns. She works from a trauma informed, integrated attachment and existential perspective, incorporating expressive therapies, play, and mindfulness to emphasize connection with the self, with others, and with the world.



A6

Creative Reflection: Educators Using Poetry, Short Stories, and Journaling to Support Professional Reflection

Participants will have an opportunity to experience a variety of writing practices that can support their professional practice and self-reflection. The intent is that by using structured writing approaches, the participants will be able to more deeply reflect on their practice, particularly if they can identify a writing approach that engages them.



Denise Pawliuk

Denise Pawliuk is a certified early childhood educator in both British Columbia and Alberta. Her path in early childhood education began in Edmonton, Alberta, working in a variety of early childhood education and care settings including the MacEwan Demonstration Child Care Centre. Denise has a nomadic soul and this desire to try new things and experience new locations has taken her to Fort Nelson, British Columbia to open and manage an on-reserve early childhood education and care program, and to Victoria where for eight years Denise was the Registrar with the Early Childhood Educator Registry. In that role she had an opportunity to meet a wide variety of people within the early childhood education and care field. For the last four years, Denise has been an instructor at a public college in Vancouver while completing her graduate degree in leadership, organization, and work.

A7

Helping Children Improve Emotional Regulation and Social Skills

This interactive workshop is designed to showcase strategies utilized in a group format with children who have anxiety, depression, and/or executive functioning issues such as ADD/ADHD, high functioning autism, or FASD. Participants will be part of a group and learn how the skills presented assist children and their families to help improve emotional regulation, develop distress tolerance and social skills that will benefit the family at home and the child at school. This workshop will highlight that parental involvement is essential to skill retention and transfers to other environments such as home and school.

Tara Dolan & Carlee Freeman

Tara Dolan, B.A., is a Family Counsellor at Deltassist who has worked extensively with families who have complicated issues. She has provided many groups for children with anxiety/ADD/ADHD/FASD/High functioning Autism. She has also worked with individual children and their families to develop coping skills and stress management techniques that will assist children both at home and at school.

Carlee Freeman, B.A., has worked at Deltassist since 2003, first as a Reconnect Worker with teens, then as a Family Counsellor. Carlee co-facilitates groups at Deltassist for children with anxiety and executive functioning for over a decade. She supports pregnant and parenting teens, children, and families to increase their ability to cope and manage stress as well as strengthen emotional connections with one another.

A8

Questioning Our Biases: Growing in Self-Awareness

We all have biases that are part of our life experiences and worldview. If we become aware of our hidden, even unrecognized biases, we can monitor and attempt to amend these hidden attitudes before they are expressed through behavior. Research suggests that a change in self-awareness can modify personal beliefs and attitudes and, over time, reduce the strength of unconscious biases and lead one to critically think about bias and discrimination and take action to eliminate it. This interactive workshop will be an opportunity for professional growth and development of our own self-awareness on this topic.

Objectives:

- To define what is bias or discrimination.
- To discuss ways of uncovering personal bias as a way of developing self-awareness.
- To understand how greater self-awareness leads to developing comfort levels in working with diversity in the ECE field.
- To set personal goals to develop an anti-bias approach to working with others.

Lesley Richardson

Lesley is an experienced Early Childhood Educator and Instructor, with a passion for introducing anti-bias/diversity education in the early years. She has worked in adult education for many years, recently retiring as the Early Childhood Education Coordinator from Vancouver Community College. She now works as a consultant and speaker in the early education field and continues to mentor and teach ECE students. Lesley also collaborated recently on updating and revising Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre's curriculum, Safe Spaces: Bullying Prevention for Preschool-Aged Children.



A9

Are Your Children Tuned in? Addressing Noise Issues and Improving Children's Success

So you've created a great program, but can everyone hear you? We live in a noisy world that creates often overlooked challenges for young learners. Young children cannot filter out background noise in the same way that adults can. For children who are learning English as a second language, or those with sensory processing difficulties, attention needs, or hearing differences those challenges increase further. When children tune out, they miss out! Social skills, confidence, language skills, and academic success are all affected. Learn to identify noise, understand its impact, and equip yourself with strategies that will benefit everyone in your program, including you!

Zara Gauthier & Valerie Marshall

Zara Gauthier is a Registered Speech Language Pathologist who brings 20 years of international pediatric experience to her work. Zara has worked in homes, preschools, child development centres, mainstream schools & resource bases in England, New Zealand and Canada. For the past nine years Zara has worked as a Senior Outreach Consultant and Mentor at the BC Family Hearing Resource Society, where she provides early intervention services to families with children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing as well as consultation and training to professionals across British Columbia. Zara is a guest lecturer at UBC, as well as the author and presenter of the current PEER program (a course designed to prepare parents for their d/hh child's transition to kindergarten) and the two day workshop for SLPS: "Working with Infants".

Valerie Marshall is a Speech Language Pathologist with BC Family Hearing Resource Society, where she works with children (0-5 years) who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. As an Early Interventionist, Valerie educates families and professionals on how to create better listening environments and use communication strategies, to reduce the impact of a child's hearing loss in order for them to reach their learning potential. Valerie has developed the Foundations provincial outreach workshop, which travels around British Columbia to support and connect families with children with hearing differences. Valerie has also led the classroom portion of the PEER program, which focuses on developing confidence and self advocacy skills as children prepare to enter Kindergarten.



P1

Zombie, Vampire, Veterinarian Moms

Weapons play, rough-and-tumble play, superhero play, and death play get a bad rap in many early learning settings. Attempts are made to restrict and outright ban these types of play because they are loud, rowdy, aggressive, violent-looking, and make many adults uncomfortable. The problem is, such play is ripe with learning possibilities. This session looks at the positive side of such play and offers suggestions for making it a part of your program.



Outcomes/ Goals:

- Attendees will understand why aggressive play is beneficial.
- Attendees will look at their own feelings about and experiences with aggressive play.
- Attendees will leave the session with simple ideas for managing aggressive play.

Jeff A. Johnson

Jeff A. Johnson opened Explorations Early Learning, a family child care program, in 2003 with his wife, Tasha, after spending 16 years directing a child care centre and community centre for a large non-profit agency. Their programs focused on supporting emergent learning in a play-based and child-centred environment.

On August 14, 2013, they closed their family child care program and retired to pursue their hobbies: speaking at early learning events, making toys, recording podcasts, and advocating for child-led play and caregiver self-care. These hobbies have become full-time jobs.

Jeff presents regularly at early learning conferences across the United States, Canada, and Australia, and has keynoted an international conference in Cork, Ireland. He produces a number of early learning podcasts that currently have over 250,000 downloads a year. Toy-making, his preferred pastime, has led to a business that ships simple wooden toys across the USA and internationally. Jeff has a growing and very active social media following on Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, and YouTube, and he blogs at www.playvolutionhq.com

P2 Connections With Nature for All Children

Developing a connection with nature is an integral piece of childhood. Through interactions with the natural world, children develop a sense of wonder, calm, joy, and fascination. In this interactive session, Karen shares her experiences in place-based learning with school-aged children, young children, and their families. We will discuss ways of moving past challenges and engaging parents and other partners. Participants will explore simple and meaningful open-ended lay ideas and learning invitations that bring children outside and bring nature in. Participants will leave with a nature play idea kit filled with strategies and inspiration, including ideas that require little to no preparation or materials and ideas that include Aboriginal perspectives and understandings.

Karen Begley

Karen is a teacher. She has taught children of all ages, adults, and families. She works with educators of all levels to simplify their practice by aligning with their values and beliefs about children, childhood, and learning. She is passionate about the rights of children, the power of unstructured play, outdoor education, incorporating families into the school community and learning process, and creating a respectful community and curriculum to empower young learners. She enjoys mentoring individuals and groups of teachers through explorations of inquiry-based learning, purposeful pedagogy and place-based learning. She shares her thoughts and offers support for educators and parents of young children at www.connectionsinearlylearning.wordpress.com

P3 Bringing the Inside Out and the Outside In

Get ready to be part of an outdoor play revolution! Let's get together and review outdoor play and how we can bring the inside out and outside in! Participants will consider time, space and materials, and the roles early learning educators exhibit to encourage children to experience play in a meaningful way. Using loose parts in the outdoor and indoor play space, and setting up invitations to play that provoke children's thinking and ideas.

Objectives:

- Discover that you can easily connect the outdoor to the indoor.
- Understand the importance of being outside for long periods of time.
- Be inspired to create beautiful environments outside and inside.
- Invite curiosity and discovery both inside and outside.
- Encourage bringing children outside, to connect with nature and promote the benefits of being outside.
- Better understand the importance of free play both inside & outside.
- Review David Sobels' seven design principles that can be used to shape outdoor experiences that are offered to children.

Sarah McCarthy

Sarah McCarthy has a Bachelor of Science in Education and Training, a Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Montessori (0-12 years) and a Certificate for working with children with special needs. Sarah has been in the educational field for over 15 years. She has taught in Reggio preschools, play-based centres, Montessori schools, and was an Early Childhood Coordinator and Instructor for Spratt Shaw College.



P4 Is Children's Creativity Really All That Important?

Join well known educator, author, and publisher MaryAnn F. Kohl in coming to an important understanding about the benefits of creativity in a child's life. Hear stories of how creativity has changed the lives of children and teachers, see slides of children's artworks, and discuss strategies for bringing easy process art experiences to kids.

MaryAnn Kohl

MaryAnn Faubion Kohl began her love of art and children as an elementary school teacher (grades K, 1, 2) and college instructor (ECE Art). She later founded Bright Ring Publishing, Inc. (www.brightring.com) in 1985 with her first book, *Scribble Cookies*. Her most recent book is a national bestseller titled *Action Art*. MaryAnn has written and/or published 20+ titles about art for kids. She has a busy national presentation schedule throughout the year sharing her passion for process art with child care providers, teachers, librarians, and educators. She is on the Board of Directors for the Independent Book Publishers Association, her local Library Foundation, and was chosen to be a Barnes and Noble Parent Expert as well as a NAEYC Live Learning Center Speaker. MaryAnn lives in Bellingham, Washington.

P5 Storytimes Using Magic Tricks #2

This workshop brings stories and storytimes magically to life, using simple magic tricks, science, props, & songs:

- The folk tale, Robin Hood, what really happened, and how Robin Hood saves the day.
- Emperor's New Clothes gone wrong, but magical turns out alright in the end.
- Story of a little boy who brings a special hat to show & tell at preschool!
- Retelling of the Three Little Pigs will thrill your audience of little ones.
- What happens when your child's teddybear gets hurt? We can fix it with a little magic.
- The magic of science comes to life with color and amazement.
- And much more fun with songs & magic props, and books...

Susan Andrews

Susan's magical storytimes have motivated, inspired, and entertained Surrey's children in hundreds of libraries, schools, and festivals every year for the past 20+ years. Her knowledge and passion for children's stories and the gift to share is infectious for children, teachers, and parents alike!

P6 Bringing Natural Elements into Your Learning Space

Changing our learning environments will provide children with wonderful, inspiring natural learning spaces where we can foster connections to nature. In this workshop you will get to examine your current child care space and be encouraged to dream, plan and implement new ways of bringing beautiful things into your space! **Come prepared with paper and pen.** There will be a lot of hands-on learning, examples and brainstorming together. You will walk away with new inspiration!

Alisha Inch

Alisha Inch has been in the child care field for about 20 years. She has worked with all ages in daycare, preschool and out of school care. In 2000, she left Canada to work with children overseas. After returning to Canada she opened her own preschool in Surrey, BC.

P7

Professionalism and Partnering with Parents

As child care providers we are often the parents' first line of information about child development, behaviours, and community resources. As well, we are sometimes a sounding board for the stresses they feel in their lives. In this workshop we will look at who are the parents of the children we care for, how we get to know them and the power of good old fashioned conversation. Through understanding of culture we will be better able to work with each child and their families. We will also look at how to maintain your professionalism from the time you have first contact on the telephone to the final day of attendance of the child at your centre.

Vicki Lepper

Vicki Lepper has been providing licensed child care in Coquitlam since 1989 and is a passionate child care advocate. Vicki was a board member for BC Family Child Care Association from 2011 to 2015. Vicki presents workshops, sits on the Tri-Cities ECE Community, networks with child care providers and is also actively involved in her community. Vicki has received many awards including being the "Individual" recipient for the "The Tri-Cities Award of Excellence Working with Young Children" for her exceptional work for making the Tri-Cities a better place for families and children. Vicki strongly believes in quality child care by sharing her knowledge and experiences with those who have chosen to work with young children as their profession.

P8

Supporting Outdoor Play and Exploration in the Early Years

This workshop aims to inspire educators to further incorporate the natural environment in their programs. It will look at the importance of unstructured play, and the role of inquiry and interest-led play in learning. We will touch on the role of risk, and look at benefits of outdoor/nature based play. **If possible this workshop will involve an outdoor portion so please dress for the weather.**



Heather Fraser

Heather is a mother of two, is passionate about working with children, and has a love for the outdoors. She has taught in a number of early childhood settings including toddler, preschool, and school-aged programs. Heather has a passion for nature and is excited to share that passion with others. She feels that it is so important to get outside whatever the weather and connect with the world around us. Her academic background includes a BA in Child and Youth Care from the University of Victoria, as well as an Early Childhood Certificate and Canadian Forest School Practitioners Training. She continues to take many professional development courses in Early Childhood Education to keep up with current information in the field. Inspired by the Reggio-Emilia Approach, her passion for outdoor play and understanding of the importance of connecting children with nature, she decided to build Saplings Outdoor Program.



P9

Hurt Kids, Hurting Caregivers

Caring for a child who has experienced trauma can be confusing, and often, very challenging. Caregivers may find themselves feeling manipulated, rejected or victimized by the child's behavior and questioning their ability to respond effectively. This workshop will explore some common experiences for those caring for traumatized children such as vicarious trauma and secondary traumatic stress. Participants will learn supportive strategies they can use immediately, be given an understanding of more intensive therapies that have proven to be successful and have the opportunity to reflect on their own experiences. Caregivers will take away hope that healing is possible no matter the circumstances.

Meagan VanDierman

Meagan holds a Masters Degree in Counselling Psychology and has specific trauma therapy training in both Observed Experiential Integration (OEI) and Lifespan Integration (LI). Meagan is dedicated to the area of anxiety and trauma with a focus on parent child relationships. She is effectively able to work with parents and caregivers to find a greater understanding of their child's experience, to make sense of difficult behaviours and implement strategies that reduce anxiety. Meagan has benefited from overseas orphanage work and realizes that these experiences were formative in developing a passion for working with children who have experienced caregiver disruptions and other relational trauma. Meagan is thrilled to provide educational opportunities for child care professionals and feels privileged to come alongside them in their journey.

Registration

General Information

EARLY BIRD PRICE

REGULAR PRICE

October 1st to October 31st, 2017 November 1st, 2017 to January 12th, 2018 (by 4:00 p.m.)

| | | |
|---------------------|----------|----------|
| Friday only | \$20.00 | \$20.00 |
| Friday and Saturday | \$115.00 | \$140.00 |
| Saturday only | \$100.00 | \$120.00 |

- ☛ Registration is available online only. Visit www.childcareoptions.ca and click on the registration link on the conference page.
- ☛ No workshop changes are permitted once registration is processed.
- ☛ We do not maintain waitlists for full workshops - registration is first come, first served!
- ☛ All workshop confirmations will be sent by email; you require an email address to complete your registration. Please add childcareoptions@options.bc.ca to your email address book to ensure you receive your confirmation.
- ☛ Certificates of attendance will be provided for the completion of each workshop and keynote presentation attended.
- ☛ Please note: A \$20 fee will be applied to all duplicate receipts and certificates issued.
- ☛ **Duplicate certificates and receipts will only be available for one month after conference close.**



Cancellation Policy

- Friday only registrations are non-refundable.
- Cancellations and participant substitutions for Friday and Saturday, and Saturday only registrations will be accepted until January 12th, 2018 at 4:00 PM. Cancellations will be subject to a \$25.00 administration fee, and will not be accepted after this date for any reason.

Parking Information

Parking in the main lot is limited. If the main lot is full please park in one of the overflow lots:

- On 146th Street just south of 64th Avenue.
- On 144th Street just south of the main lot.

Please arrive early enough to allow time to find parking before the event begins.

Photography

Photographs will be taken during the Children the Heart of the Matter conference. By registering for the conference, you will be giving permission that photos containing your image/likeness may be used.

Helpful Tips

- Purchases**
Consider bringing a wheeled bag for shopping in the Marketplace.
- Networking**
Bring business cards to exchange with new colleagues you meet.

Selfie Station

We'll be setting up a selfie station again this year for you to have fun with your colleagues and new friends! Be sure to drop by, take a photo, and post it to Instagram, Twitter, or Facebook using the hashtag #CHOM2018 for your chance to win a great prize!

Nutrition

Morning refreshment break and lunch are included in the Friday and Saturday, and Saturday only conference fees. Vegetarian options will be available.

If you have any dietary restrictions or allergies, you will be responsible for providing your own food and beverages.

Hotel Accommodations

Conference participants receive a discounted rate at the Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel from January 26th to 28th, 2018. These rates are only available until December 27th, 2017 at 4:00 pm. After this time regular rates will apply.

[Click here to book your rooms](#) or go to our website: www.childcareoptions.ca and click the accommodations link on the conference page.

| Rooms | Single | Double | Triple | Quad |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Traditional Double Queen | \$125 | \$125 | \$145 | \$165 |
| Traditional King & Pull Out | \$125 | \$125 | \$145 | \$165 |
| Deluxe Rooms | \$145 | \$145 | \$165 | \$185 |
| Club Room | \$185 | \$185 | \$205 | \$225 |
| Suite | \$285 | \$285 | \$305 | \$325 |



2018 CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS

Sharlene Wedel

Program Manager, Child Care Options CCRR
Options Community Services

Colleen Strachan

Community Service Coordinator
City of Surrey

The conference planning committee is comprised of a group of individuals from the community, working in the field of early care and learning. Committee members and staff contribute many hours to ensure this is a well-planned and organized conference. Through the dedication of the committee, provincial funding, and sponsor support, we are able to keep the conference affordable for care providers and other professionals working with young children.

2018 CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Karen Came | Langley Child Development Centre/Langley Association for Community Living |
| Shea Carson | Child Care Options CCRR, Options Community Services |
| Rachel Chernoff | Reach Child and Youth Development Society |
| Leah Drayton | Surrey School District #36 |
| Shelby Gordon | Child Care Options CCRR, Options Community Services |
| Gisele Haines | Child Care Options CCRR, Options Community Services |
| Danielle Jimeno | A Place to Grow, Surrey Hospital Community Childcare Society |
| Elizabeth Kimura | Child Care Options CCRR, Options Community Services |
| Karen Norman | Early Childhood Educator |
| Erin Pourfalleh | City of Surrey |
| Jennifer Street | The Centre for Child Development |
| Jennifer Vanderberg | Delta Continuing Education |
| Lisa Wade | City of Surrey |
| Barb Walks | Early Childhood Educator |
| Darby Wilkinson | Options Community Services |

In 1997, the Delta, Langley and Surrey Child Care Resource and Referral Programs and the South Fraser Family Child Care Society partnered to plan a conference for family child care providers and all other early care and learning professionals working in the communities of South Fraser. Seeing an opportunity for a February event, the newly formed committee named the conference 'Children the Heart of the Matter' (CHOM), linking the focus of the care and education of young children with 'Valentine's Day.' The first event was held over 20 years ago on February 15, 1997 with 80 participants attending.

Today, the conference committee continues to be comprised of volunteers and staff from various local organizations and service providers and the City of Surrey, with Options Community Services as the hosting agency. The not-for-profit 'Children the Heart of the Matter' conference has continued to be a popular and affordable annual event for all those involved in the care and education of young children. Participation has grown from the original 80 participants to more than 700 annually.

Participants who have attended the conference year after year can attest to the growth of the conference and will recognize the committee's effort to continually seek ways to meet the needs of a much larger and increasingly diverse group of participants, while maintaining a welcoming and affordable event.

Expanding the conference from one day to two in 2008 provided the opportunity to seek out speakers who would be of interest to parents as well as early learning and care professionals. With increasing attendance from all over BC and a wide range of professionals including child care providers, preschool teachers, family resource program staff, primary teachers and those working with children requiring extra support and immigrant and refugee families and children, the scope of workshops also needed to expand.

As participant numbers grew every year, the committee searched for venues that could accommodate larger keynote presentations, more workshop offerings, and community and marketplace areas. With limited affordable rental space in the area, the conference has often been waitlisted or had to move to a less preferred location due to the priorities of the venue operators.

While the conference committee works all year round (beginning just weeks after conference end) to evaluate, plan, organize, and prepare for every possible eventuality, there are always situations that arise in a conference of this size which are unpredictable, and they are dealt with as best as can be. There have been times over the years when workshop presenters were not able to attend at the last minute due to sudden illness or family events, border crossings, scheduling mix-ups, and so on. Conference participants have graciously cooperated when there was a scramble to accommodate an emergency workshop substitution.

We might laugh about it now, but the committee has agonized over things that go wrong after so much planning. Some conference attendees may remember the fire evacuation that disrupted conference one year, sound and technical issues, long refreshment lineups where no food was left for those at the end of the line, trying to find space to sit and eat lunch (or actually getting some lunch!), ambulances arriving, parking issues, and so on. We have learned that even the best-laid plans go awry at times.

The Children the Heart of the Matter Conference grew from a tiny seed of an idea in 1997 and with hard work and a dedicated local early years community, it has flourished over the past 20 years. As a committee, we are proud of what the conference has grown into and realize that there will always be challenges in providing a conference of this size - and we are absolutely convinced that it's worth it.

We hope you agree, and we welcome you to attend the 2018 Children the Heart of the Matter Conference!



Children
THE HEART OF THE MATTER