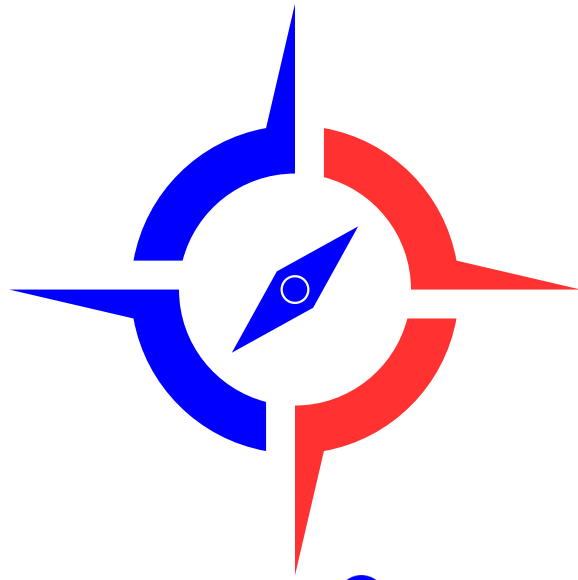




early Years

Kootenay Boundary 2025 Early Years Conference

Seeing, Guiding, Trusting



2025 Conference Package

www.gov.bc.ca/ChildCareResourceReferralCentres



earlyYears

Kootenay Boundary 2025 Early Years Conference

Seeing, Guiding, Trusting

Welcome Message

Welcome to the 2025 Early Years Conference!

We are honored to welcome you to this year's gathering, held on the unceded and ancestral territories of the Sinixt Peoples. As we come together in this beautiful place, we acknowledge the deep history and knowledge of these lands, and we hold gratitude for the stewardship of Indigenous Peoples, past and present.

Our theme, "Seeing, Guiding, Trusting" invites us to reflect on how we engage with children, families, and communities. To truly see means to recognize each child as a whole being—capable, curious, and connected. To guide is not to direct, but to walk alongside, nurturing a sense of wonder, belonging, and discovery. And to trust is to honor the relationships that shape learning—between children, caregivers, educators, families, and the land itself.

Thank you for bringing your passion, wisdom, and openness to this space. Together, let us co-create a path forward—we invite you to engage with different ways of knowing and being, to challenge assumptions, and to embrace the complexity of learning in diverse and evolving contexts. Together, we hold the compass—not to dictate a single path but to help one another navigate this meaningful work with openness and intention.

Welcome, and may this time together inspire and guide us all.

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Planning Committee

- Boundary Child Care Resource and Referral of Sunshine Valley Child Care Society
- Early Childhood Pedagogy Network
- Family Action Network of the Lower Columbia
- Kootenay-Columbia Child Care Resource and Referral of Trail Family and Individual Resource Society
- Métis Nation of British Columbia
- Supported Child Development of Kootenay Family Place
- Rocky Mountain Child Care Resource and Referral of Golden Community Resources Society
- West Kootenay Child Care Resource and Referral of Kootenay Kids Society
- Southeast Kootenay Child Care Resource and Referral of Community Connections Society of Southeast BC
- Selkirk College

Conference Schedule

Friday May 30th, 2025

8:00 – 9:00	Registration & Breakfast
9:00–9:45	Opening
10:00 – 12:00	Morning Keynote Session
11:30	Trade Fair opens
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 3:00	Afternoon Keynote session

8:00am - 4:30 pm
A Material Exhibition:
Moseley Room

6:30-9:30 pm Garden Party Banquet

Saturday May 31st, 2025

8:00 – 9:00	Registration & Breakfast
9:00–9:45	Opening
10:00 – 12:00	Morning breakout sessions
11:30	Trade Fair opens
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 3:00	Afternoon breakout sessions
3:30 - 4:30	Closing Session

8:00am - 4:30 pm
A Material Exhibition:
Moseley Room

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Our Keynote

*Mr. Chazz
Educator*



Chazz Lewis's mission in life is to enjoy the process of becoming the best version of himself and help others do the same. He goes by "Mr.Chazz" to his massive online following, and to his many students and fellow teachers, leaders, and human beings. Having stepped into the classroom in the early days, largely because he needed a job, he discovered a passion for inspiring and understanding and igniting curiosity and possibility in kids. And, he realized, he'd have to buck a lot of systems and do a metric ton of his own learning and reimagining to make it happen. He decided to open up his own school in Brooklyn, New York to create his own systems with the focus of improving the early childhood profession.

Along the way, he completed a master's degree in executive leadership at American University and spent years using his own classrooms as living laboratories, developing a more conscious, informed, joyful and dignity-driven and inspired approach to learning, leading, and elevating others. His philosophy began to find relevance far beyond the classroom and has found a home everywhere from parenting to education, personal development, and organizational leadership. And he shares his ideas in a fun, playful, and accessible way, training thousands of teachers, and with his giant following on Tiktok and Instagram. He is in the process of writing a book, and he goes deeper on his podcast, "Mr. Chazz's Leadership, Parenting and Teaching Podcast".

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Kootenay Boundary 2025 Early Years Conference

Registration

Registration Opens: March 3, 2025

Registration will open to Kootenay Boundary Residents only March 3-16th. General Registration for all opens March 17th.

Registration Fee

General Admission (2 day conference fee) May 30-31, 2025 **\$60.00**

- Includes Breakfast & Lunch both days
- Keynote, Breakout sessions, Trade Show, Closing Session
- Door prizes awarded after closing session on May 31st

Garden Party Banquet - Evening Social May 30th 6-9 pm **\$20.00**

- Buffet style meal
- Live music, Photo Booth, Candy Bar & Games

Register Online:

Use the QR code to access the Eventbrite listing or copy and paste URL below into a new browser:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/kootenay-boundary-2025-early-years-conference-tickets-1218365055679>



Connect with Us!

Learn more about the conference, presenters and engage with participants! Watch for draw prizes leading up to the Conference.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/931835209117096>



Registration Deadline: May 2, 2025

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Conference Schedule with Breakout sessions

Thursday May 29th, 2025

6:30 - 8:00 pm Early Registration - Prestige Lakeside Resort Hotel Lobby

Friday May 30th, 2025

8:00 – 9:00 am Registration & Breakfast
 9:00–9:45 am Opening
 10:00 – 12:00 pm Morning keynote Session - Mr. Chazz
 11:30 - 4:00 pm Trade Fair open
 12:00 – 1:00 pm Lunch
 1:00 – 3:00 pm Afternoon keynote session - Mr. Chazz

 6:30-9:30 pm Garden Party Banquet



Saturday May 31st, 2025

8:00 – 9:00 am Registration & Breakfast
 9:00–9:45 am Opening

10:00 – 12:00	Morning workshop sessions
1a BRIXX	Stories to Heal Anxiety, Aggression & Heartache - Kate Guthrie
1b ROBSON	A Childrens' Rights Based Approach to Practise in Early Childhood - Jewel May & Emmie Henderson Dekort
1c MONASHEE	Rethinking the Early Learning Framework - Part 1 - Ana Valle Riviera
1d SELKIRK	Growing Leaders - Katelyn Moon
1e KOOTENAY	Infinite Possibilities in Care Routines - Debbie Laurin
11:30 - 4:30 pm	Trade Fair open
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 – 3:00 pm	Afternoon workshop sessions
2a BRIXX	Delving Deeper with Inquiry - Deidre Price
2b ROBSON	Storying with Waste - Feier Chen
2c MONASHEE	Rethinking the Early Learning Framework - Part 2 - Ana Valle Riviera
2d SELKIRK	Got Grit? - Katelyn Moon
2e KOOTENAY	Place Based Pedagogies - Veronica McLean
3:30-4:30 pm	Closing Session with Shelly Boyd & LaRae Wiley

****Moseley Room:** A Material Encounter Exhibition will be open 8:00 - 4:30 pm both Friday and Saturday



Evening Garden Party & Banquet

Friday May 30th, 2025 - 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Prestige Lakeside Resort, Nelson BC

Photo Booth Candy Bar Live Music

Join us for an evening social opportunity on Friday May 30th, 6:30 pm at the conference hotel. This garden themed event will include games, a photo booth, candy bar and live music by Truckvancar.

Truckvancar is a five piece, Alt. Soul, Reggae, Rock band out of Rossland, B.C. They play original music and cover tunes that they make their own. The result is a groovy fusion of rock, reggae and everything in between.

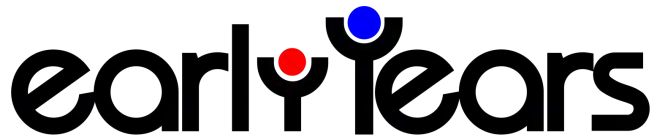


Tickets are \$20 to attend the evening banquet and can be purchased with registration.



<https://truckvancarmusic.com/>





Kootenay Boundary 2025 Early Years Conference

Accommodations

Prestige Lakeside Resort, Nelson BC
701 Lakeside Dr, Nelson, BC V1L 6G3
(Conference Hotel)

Discounted conference room rates available on a first come first serve basis. Book by May 1st by calling the hotel direct on 250 352 7222. Use referral: Kootenay Kids Conference, when booking



ALTERNATIVE HOTEL OPTIONS

Hume Hotel, Nelson BC
422 Vernon St, Nelson, BC V1L 4E5
(15 min walking distance from conference hotel)

Discounted rates available with
CODE: JFred1024
Book Online

Best Western, Nelson BC
153 Baker St, Nelson, BC V1L 4E5
(25 min walking distance from conference hotel)

Discounted rates available until
April 15th, 2025
Book online or phone 1-888-255-3525

Travel Bursary

Are you traveling more than +50km to attend the Early Years Conference in Nelson?

Thanks to the Provincial ECE Professional Development Bursary Fund, travel bursaries are available for out of region attendees.

Kootenay Kids Society will administer the BC Professional Development Bursary, following registration online.



Delegates wishing to apply for the travel bursary **MUST** complete an additional Bursary specific Form at:
<https://forms.office.com/r/t1biEx1Wvb>



Sessions

Session 1a BRIXX ROOM

MORNING 10:00 - 12:00

Stories to Heal Anxiety, Aggression, and Heartache

Kate Guthrie

Story: our first language, our ancestral home, a powerful avenue for connection and positive guidance. Story can heal separation anxiety, clutter and chaos, the loss of a loved one, confusion about the day's rhythm, and more. In this hands-on, experiential workshop, participants will discuss the value of story for young children, how to craft an effective tale, and ways of sharing stories that will touch the hearts of the children and their families. Enjoy one healing story and begin crafting your own. Includes a resource list for diving deeper.

Kate Guthrie, ECE, BA is the founding director of Earth House, a preschool/kindergarten in the Slocan Valley. She is also a published writer with a degree in English Literature and Creative Writing.



Session 1b ROBSON ROOM

MORNING 10:00 - 12:00

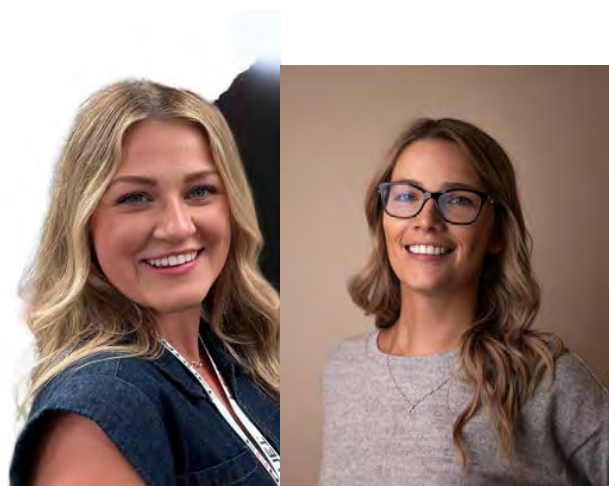
A Children's Rights Based Approach to Practise in Early Childhood

Jewel May & Emmie Henderson Dekort

This interactive workshop will introduce or familiarize participants with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Participants will also engage in an interactive and reflective check list to discuss how they may be applying a Children's Rights Based Approach (CRBA) to practice in their Early Learning approach currently, or how they may implement it. Through a blend of speaking, collaborative working sessions, and group discussions, participants will gain practical strategies for applying children's rights in their everyday practice. The workshop will conclude with a Q&A session, offering personalized feedback and clarification. Participants will leave with a deeper understanding of children's rights and actionable tools to integrate into their work.

Emmie Henderson-Dekort is an Assistant Professor at Mount Royal University, Alberta, in the Child Studies program.

Jewel May is a recent graduate of Mount Royal University Child Studies, with a focus on Early Childhood Education





Kootenay Boundary 2025 Early Years Conference

Sessions

Session 1c & 2c MONASHEE ROOM
MORNING 10:00 - 12:00 & AFTERNOON 1:00
Rethinking the Early Learning Framework
Ana Valle Riviera

The BC Early Learning Framework was published in 2019. In 2020 the world experienced a global pandemic and the rise of racial tensions and discourses. In November 2022, Chat GPT was released and the public use of Artificial Intelligence began. How can we respond to these events using the BC Early Learning Framework? In this workshop, we explore the BC Early Learning Framework with a post-2020 lens. Educators will critically reflect on past educational pedagogies and engage in collaborative dialogue about play, the living inquiries and pedagogical narration.

This is a two part workshop where participants are required to attend both the morning and afternoon sessions.

Ana Valle Rivera is a workshop facilitator, public speaker, consultant and the founder of Early Years Thriving. Ana has a background in Early Childhood Education, a Bachelors in Child and Youth Care and she is completing a Master of Professional Education in ECE. Ana's workshops are underpinned by attachment theory, play pedagogies and inquiry based curriculum which align with the BC Early Learning Framework.



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Sessions

Session 1d SELKIRK ROOM

MORNING 10:00 - 12:00

Growing Leaders with Katelyn Moon

Growing Leaders: Planting Seeds for Connection, Bravery and Leadership

What do children need to be successful in life? Research has found that emotional intelligence (EQ) is four times more likely to predict a person's success than IQ. I believe the best way to prepare children to have successful lives as adults is to foster leadership skills from a young age. This workshop will explore what leadership is and how leadership skills can be learned at an early age through connection, emotional intelligence, creativity and opportunities for bravery.



Katelyn Moon is an early childhood educator and holds a Masters in Leadership with a health focus. Her career has been at the intersection of health, education, and equity and she has over fifteen years of experience working with children, families, and communities. Her educational practice is grounded in experiential and relational learning and a passion for play.

Session 2d SELKIRK ROOM

AFTERNOON 1:00 - 3:00

Got Grit? with Katelyn Moon

Got Grit? Fostering growth, determination and perseverance in young children.

Grit is defined as “passion and perseverance for long-term goals”. 90% of children's social, emotional and cognitive development happens in the first five years of their life. What about the development of grit? This workshop will examine the factors that support the development of grit, motivation and resilience, which are key to helping children thrive and become successful adults. The Got Grit workshop will look at research and practices to encourage participants to make an impact and get “gritty” when teaching kids.



Sessions

Session 1e KOOTENAY ROOM

MORNING 10:00 - 12:00

Infinite Possibilities in Care Routes with Debbie Laurin

In this conference session participants are invited to explore what it means to have respect for the dignity of the child. Care routines, especially diapering experiences, powerfully influence how young children begin to feel about their bodies and bodily functions. Embedded in the care routines are critical opportunities for important trust building opportunities, relationship-supporting interactions, responsive, sensitive, tactile experiences between the caregiver and child.

How does the child feel in the adult's hands? What is the adult's attitude during care routines and young children's exploration and self-initiated activities to support their wellbeing, inclusion, sense of belonging, and involvement? How does consent begin?

Debbie's warm presentation style weaves her diaper study research published in Infant Mental Health Journal, interactive experiences to elevate participant insights and self-awareness to the child in their care.



Dr. Debbie Laurin is an Early Childhood Specialist and international presenter, writer, and researcher about care routines with young children. She advocates for collaborative care where respect for the dignity of the child is valued. Her studies at the Pikler institute in Budapest Hungary since 2012, and in Waldorf early childhood inform her approach to the care relationship. She draws on current research for supporting her workshops.

Sessions

Session 2a BRIXX ROOM

AFTERNOON 1:00 - 3:00

Delving Deeper with Inquiry with Deidre Price

Through an example of a year-long engagement with charcoal, presenter Deidre Price will engage participants in open discussions and hands on interactives on how to break down the barriers of sustained inquiry learning. Participants will think about how they too can live with the questions and research alongside children.



Deidre Price ECE/IT/Owner Exploration Station Child Care, an ECE for 13 years Deidre is the owner/operator of a Group Multi-Age Program in Castlegar. As a lifelong learner Deidre completed the Infant Toddler Post Basic Certificate in 2023 and is currently enrolled in Inclusive Practices Post Basic through Selkirk College. Community, place and environment are leading commitments that are woven throughout her program.

Session 2b ROBSON ROOM

AFTERNOON 1:00 - 3:00

Storying with Waste with Feier Chen

UBC Childcare Heron's Landing Program

In this workshop, participants will reimagine the journey of wastes and learn how to co-create meaningful narratives of sustainability with young children in early childhood settings. Presenter Feier Chen will pose questions that challenge our taken-for-granted assumptions about wastes and inspire us to embark on our journey to find the stories of waste. This inquiry into the Story of Waste is inspired by the Common World Approach. We are always telling children to take care of nature, however our relationship with waste becomes then a contradiction and confuses our children about how we can protect our environment and how we build relationships with nature. This session will provide an inquiry that aims to decentre humans (both children and adults) in this relationship with waste; and instead, seek the stories and lessons we can learn from waste.



Feier Chen is an Infant/Toddler Educator with the UBC Childcare Heron's Landing Program. This program has a team of educators that work with young children aged 0-5 in the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam People. Their mission centers on creating a safe and unbiased foundation for relationships that embrace all life and the environment, rooted in care and compassion for young citizens.

Sessions

Session 2e KOOTENAY ROOM

AFTERNOON 1:00 - 3:00

Place Based Pedagogies with Veronica Maclean

Participants will be invited to rethink place-based pedagogies in this conference session and move beyond romanticized narratives of children and nature.

What becomes possible if our ways of 'doing nature' are questioned in early childhood? What if we saw the human as nature, as entangled with, in relationships that are messy and complex as opposed to innocent and pure. How can we rethink place or nature-based pedagogies as situated practices in the here and now of children's lives rather than separate, far away and removed from the impacts and concerns of our times? How can we engage these complexities thoughtfully, care-fully, and with hope?



Veronica Maclean is an Early Childhood Educator and a sessional ECE Instructor at Selkirk College and UBC. Veronica's pedagogical commitment is to rethinking the image of the educator. Her pedagogical projects include the co-creation of UBC's first early childhood education student journal, Potentia: Creating Change in Early Childhood Education, and academic writings, her first manuscript, Image of the Educator: (re)Thinking Identity was published in the Journal of Childhood Studies, with a second article, Unravelling Early Childhood Education: Witnessing the tensions, threads and knots, in publication.

EXHIBITION: MOSELY ROOM

Presented by the Early Childhood Pedagogy Network

A Material Encounter

Join ECPN pedagogist Tracy Barkman and School House educator Tracy Henry for an immersive exploration of clay as a lively pedagogical partner. Throughout the conference, visit a multisensory environment where clay is experienced beyond conventional engagements and invites dialogue through touch, sound, and image. We will collectively experiment with clay to open up new possibilities, challenge traditional ideas, and transform the way we think about classroom materials.

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CLOSING SESSION: MAY 31st

AFTERNOON 3:30 - 4:30 PM

The land, the truth, and our languages; our greatest teachers

Join Shelly Boyd and LaRae Wiley, citizens and educators of the s̓n̓s̓ay̓ckstx (Arrow Lakes) community, for a discussion on the guiding principles of education. Grounded in the wisdom of our language, our deep connection to the land, and the foundational truth that "the land does not lie," this conversation will explore learning paradigms that empower children to connect with both themselves and the natural world, as well as our responsibility as educators to "follow the truth" as a guiding principle amid increasing political pressures in education.

Shelly Boyd is the former Territorial Land Advisor Coordinator for the Sinixt Confederacy/Colville Confederated Tribes. Growing up in a family with a fluent speaker and as a language teacher, Shelly presents a strong spiritual and cultural presence in her work. Shelly is a founding member of the Inchelium Language and Culture Association (ILCA), a non-profit with the mission of revitalizing Sinixt's language and culture within traditional Sinixt territory. Currently, she is a Language and Cultural Arts teacher at Inchelium Public School. Shelly holds a master's degree in education from Gonzaga University and a bachelor's degree from Eastern Washington University.



LaRae Wiley is Sinixt. She is the co-founder and Executive Director of Salish School of Spokane. LaRae earned her Bachelor degrees from Eastern Washington University in 1988 and 1990 and is a certified teacher. She has previously worked as an instructor for Colville Tribal Head Start, Spokane Tribal Head Start, Chewelah School District, Wenatchee School District, Spokane Tribal College, Spokane Falls Community College, and Eastern Washington University. In her late 30s, she made the commitment to bring the language back to her family and community. LaRae's passion for learning and teaching her highly endangered Indigenous language culminated in the foundation of SSOS in 2009. In 2023, LaRae was awarded a Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellowship by the Henry Luce Foundation and the First Nations Development Institute in recognition of her visionary leadership in the revitalization of ḥsəl̓x̓ciḥ.



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Our Sponsors



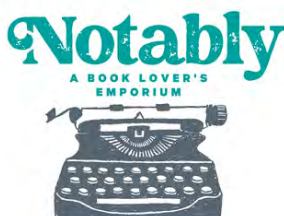
Our thanks to Columbia Basin Trust for their generous support. Delegates are encouraged to visit the Trust's information table at the Trade Fair to learn about additional resources and supports available through CBT.



With great thanks to the Provincial ECE Professional Development Bursary Fund, travel bursaries are available for those traveling from +50km to attend the conference. This support has had a huge impact on reducing our conference fee.



We are grateful for Supported Child Development and their sponsorship of this conference.



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