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*Step into new beginnings.....*

## *What is happening with Continuous Professional Learning?*

As many Registered Early Childhood Educators are aware, the next step in the Continuous Professional Learning Program (CPL) will be starting soon with those who renew membership in September 2017. On October 10th, IIQ will be hosting an evening with Melanie Dixon of the [College of ECE](#) to provide information on the CPL Program.

**Overview of the CPL program:** CPL involves **two** steps:

- 1) In the first year of participating in mandatory CPL, members will complete the online [Expectations for Practice Module 2016](#).
- 2) Upon renewal the following year, members begin the two-year Portfolio Cycle by completing a Self-Assessment, creating a Professional Learning Plan and tracking their learning and applications to practice in their Record of Professional Learning. Members will start a new Portfolio Cycle after two years.

"The College's CPL program complements and formalizes the ongoing professional learning many RECEs do every day. The program will support you in meeting your ethical and professional responsibilities to engage in ongoing learning and provide a high standard of care and education to the children and families in your community. The CPL program encourages your professional growth and leadership development regardless of your work environment and employment roles. Participating in the CPL program communicates to employers, families and the public that you are current in your knowledge, skills and practice and that you are a member of a distinct profession that values ongoing professional learning.

Participation in the CPL program is mandatory for all members of the College."



***"I think continuous professional learning allows me to be in a constant state of becoming, meaning that ... the early childhood educator that I am today is different from the one I am going to be tomorrow." - Silvia Souto RECE***



***"First you listen, then you talk."***

***- A Portuguese saying***

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**Investing In Quality**   
 Early Learning and Child Care Peterborough

## *Growing and Learning Together.....*

*Susan Scoffin RECE*

**T**his story began to emerge from a Raising the Bar submission in the fall of 2016. What stood out were the rich connections between professional learning, engaging families and the community. These connections were making a difference for children, families and educators, not through a checklist but in an authentic and organic way.



Kelly Lewis, Program Supervisor at Trent Child Care St. Luke's, describes some of the exciting changes happening in the program's outdoor space:

*"Well, I guess it's kind of like the perfect storm. I have always had a passion for gardening and I brought this from our previous site. Then we moved here, got to know the new space and our dreams began to form. I remember being encouraged to think about the outdoor space (through a mentor visit). The large muddy hill was pretty much the feature... the children loved it, but the parents...not so much!*

*Some of our educators attended the Bienenstock nature play workshops that IIQ offered. They returned absolutely inspired to move ahead with the outdoor space. We began sharing our vision and asking children and families to share theirs.*

*At one of our spaghetti dinners (see note) we placed pieces of paper on the tables where children and families could draw or write down their ideas. One child wanted dinosaurs in the garden! Some people thought about how children could contribute to the legacy of the program when they leave. (What about painting rocks for the garden? What about nurturing trees and plants that will be enjoyed by others?)*

*In our annual parent survey we asked for more feedback and ideas. Moira, our Executive Director, went to the Board of Directors and requested funds to help turn ideas into realities. As the word spread, great things began to happen. Families with abundant gardens brought in food to eat and plants to grow. One of my neighbours built a wooden bridge for the play area which the children love!"*

As Kelly toured me around the playground, she pointed out some of the changes that have happened... the new sand play area, a music wall and stepping stones. She explains that for the past 3 years ECE students from the Fleming College course on outdoor environments have also contributed to the vision.



## Growing and Learning Together..... Cont'd



"So here's where it gets really exciting." (Kelly points to a space on the upper level of the playground.) "We attended the Nourish dinner in April (see note) and a presenter spoke about growing a spaghetti garden. I had this huge 'Aha' moment! We already have spaghetti dinners so why not grow the ingredients for them! I still get goose bumps thinking about it!"

On June 3, families will gather to plant the spaghetti garden and paint rocks for the garden. We hope children will visit their rock whenever they are missing their families and remember painting them together. The church where we are located is so excited about the changes we are making. June 3 is the day of their annual yard sale and they are donating a table for us to participate. It is just incredible to see all the connections that are happening.

Our cook wants to make extra sauce and staff are already thinking about next summer...what about growing strawberries? The possibilities are endless!"



\* **Trent Child Care** has a tradition of hosting spaghetti dinners for families for families to network and have a break from cooking!

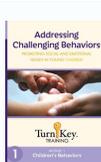
\*\* **Nourish** is a local program dedicated to eating, cooking, growing, and advocating for good food through community work. <http://nourishproject.ca>



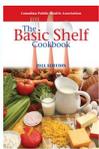
## New resources in the library.....



**Supporting the Settlement of Young Children** - A guide to helping newcomer children thrive suitable for anyone working with immigrant and refugee children.



**DVD series:** 1) Child Development and Risk Factors, 2) Finding Children's Strengths, 3) Teachers Making a Difference, 4) Developing a Behaviour Plan and Intervention Strategies.



From the Canadian Public Health Association: all the recipes can be made from one list of low-cost, nutritious ingredients that make up what we call "The Basic Shelf".



**Videatives:** Playspaces that Support Learning. 10 short video clips that reveal how we can modify the environment to provoke high-level thinking.

## Receive updates.....

**W**ould you like to receive **future newsletters** or information about **upcoming events**? To be added to the email distribution list, contact Katherine Orgill :

- \* [katherine@investingquality.ca](mailto:katherine@investingquality.ca)
- \* For full details and registration, visit [www.investingquality.ca](http://www.investingquality.ca)
- \* Check periodically to see new additions.



## *Investing In Quality.....then and now*



**The purpose:** The Investing In Quality (IIQ) initiative began in 2007 to support quality in local early learning environments. The IIQ committee (made up of supervisors from child care programs, PFRC, Five Counties Children's Center and with representation from the municipality) had been meeting for several years already.

**How:** With support and funding from the municipality, the IIQ committee adopted Raising the Bar (RTB) from Hamilton's Affiliated Services for Young Children (ASCY). This was a community quality framework. It was intended to bring the community together to grow quality practices. It has provided a strong foundation for our community.

**Changes since 2007:** It is perhaps an understatement to say that in the last decade there have been many changes in early learning and care! We have seen the regulation of the ECE profession through the College of ECE, a move to the Ministry of Education, the release of How Does Learning Happen? (HDLH?) and the Child Care and Early Years Act (CCEYA).

**Today:** With the introduction of HDLH?, the government made it clear that we were moving away from older style checklists. Largely because of that, ASCY put aside RTB and encouraged communities to consider their own approaches for aligning with the Ministry's vision.

**Moving forward :** The IIQ committee revisited its strategic priorities (professional learning, mentorship, meaningful measurement that influences quality).

A new package has been designed for programs to document how they engage with the Initiative. The key pieces are family surveys, staff surveys and environmental assessments. In early November there will be a day for programs will come together to share practices and experiences.

**Note:** Part of being professionals involves ongoing learning. IIQ has been supporting this for several years and will continue to do so. *Educators are no longer required to track and submit their professional learning hours for IIQ.*

Programs will be asked to support educators with developing work plans and submitting a summary of learning goals within their program.



## *The IIQ committee*

**The** Investing In Quality committee meets monthly to plan and review how the initiative is serving the community as well as planning for the future.

Alex Cranfield: Five Counties Children's Centre  
(Chair)

Dannielle Blondin: Sunshine Day Care

Lorrie Baird: Compass Early Learning & Care

Moira Vance: Trent Child Care

Mary-Ann Meagher: PFRC

Karly Jessup: Peterborough Public Health

Sandra Robinson: City of Peterborough

Jen Lockington: Kinderschool (St. Barnabas)

Janice Smith: Hucklebug Child Care

Shelley Davis: Wee Watch

Susan Gilchrist: Early Learning Community  
member

