



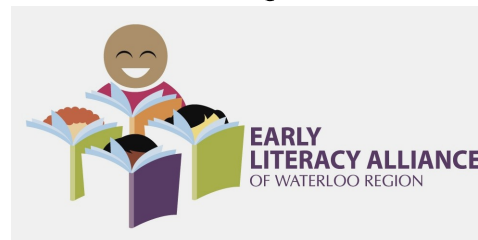
Getting Connected for Early Literacy Learning

Full Day Conference Saturday October 16, 2010
Conestoga College
299 Doon Valley Drive, Kitchener, Ontario

This conference is designed for all professionals with an interest in enhancing children's literacy skills. The focus will be from birth to age 6.

Calling all Early Childhood Educators, Teachers, Speech Language Pathologists, Librarians, Special Educators, Early Learning Professionals and Practitioners working with young children... join us for an exciting day full of fun, learning and sharing!

Presented in Partnership by:



Conference Schedule and Format

Welcome to the first Early Literacy Conference brought to you in partnership by the Early Literacy Alliance of Waterloo Region and Conestoga College.

Getting Connected for Early Literacy Learning

8:00-8:45am	Registration, coffee, morning snacks
8:45-9:45am	Keynote Presenter: Donna Messer, Connect Us Canada " <i>Getting Connected Effectively for Early Literacy Learning</i> "
9:45-10:10am	Coffee Break – Networking , shop among the vendors
10:10-12:10pm	Morning Presentations
12:10 – 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00-2:00pm	Round Table and Panel Discussion <i>"Where do we all fit in?"</i>
2:00-2:20pm	Break
2:20-3:25pm	Afternoon Presentations
3:30pm	<i>Please trade in your evaluation form for a free children's book</i>

Register early and enjoy some refreshments with a morning snack before the keynote address. Registration for this conference includes a morning snack, coffee and light refreshments as well as lunch. You may wish to bring along an additional snack for the afternoon.

Participants will have opportunities to shop among our vendors and visit our poster presenters during breaks and before workshops. Current information, research, and innovative resources will be shared during this time.

The cost for this full day workshop is \$60 CDN.

Workshops count as professional development hours towards participation in the *Raising the Bar Program*.

A1: The Early Learning – Kindergarten Program: “Working Together to Make it Work!”

Presented by: Beth Ecclestone, BA, BEd Specialist Certificate in Reading & Primary Education, Wendy Goulden, BA, BEd, Specialist Certificate in Reading & Primary Education, Waterloo Region District School Board Learning Services Consultants

This session will provide participants with an overview of the Early Learning-Kindergarten Program. Roles of the EL-K team (ECE and Kindergarten Teacher) will be explored through concrete examples from the first few weeks of implementation. Participants will leave with a clear understanding of the program goals, implementation plan and an “inside look” at the first few weeks of implementation.

A2: Children’s Programming from an Early Literacy Perspective

Presented by: Laura Reed, MLIS, Coordinator of Children’s and Teen Services & Laura Dick, MLIS, Literacy Librarian, Kitchener Public Library

This presentation is focusing on the six early literacy skills (print motivation, phonological awareness, vocabulary, narrative skills, print awareness and letter knowledge) that are the building blocks of reading. Each skill will be defined and appropriate books and activities to support the six areas will be shared. The role of the public library as a support for children and as a resource for professionals will be discussed. You will leave this workshop with a toolbox of early literacy activities to share with colleagues, parents and children.

A3: Gender Differences and Literacy: Helping Boys and Girls Learn Based on their Differences

Presented by: Evette Sauriol, RECE, BEd, BA, Early Literacy Specialist, Affiliated Services for Children and Youth (ASCY)-Hamilton

This presentation offers an introspective look at teaching boys and girls. Participants will learn how girls and boys are wired differently, examine gender appropriate practices and will demonstrate how we can create a better learning and literacy environment to support the needs of children. Participants will examine their expectations, reflect on the play environment and personal interactions with boys vs. girls and identify personal areas of strength and weakness.

Morning Workshops 10:10 –12:10pm

A4: Supporting Literacy Development the Indigenous Way

Presented by: Jan Sherman, ECE, Literacy Practitioner, Action Read Community Literacy Centre-Guelph

Participants will take a journey around the traditional Teaching Wheel exploring Indigenous approaches to literacy development as a spirit, a heart, a body, and a mind. This will include experiences that are included in a preschool family literacy program that Jan offers to Indigenous children and their parents or caregivers.

A5: Creating & Adapting Books for Children with Disabilities

Presented by: Cindy Wass , Special Education Teacher & Kitty Stahle, Educational Assistant, KidsAbility School Authority-Waterloo

Literacy environments of children with disabilities differ from those of non-disabled children. Literacy opportunities are fewer and of shorter duration, expectations may be lower, and often the child's role is passive. The workshop will cover making physical alterations to existing books; creating object books, concept books, texture books, and social stories. Participants will leave with resource lists and sample materials. Although the focus in this workshop will be on emergent literacy for children with physical and cognitive challenges, the information and resources shared will be appropriate for children of *all* abilities.
Make 'n Take Workshop

A6: The Art of Storytelling

Presented by: Deborah Loyd, E.C.E., Conference Keynote Speaker, Dramantics-Waterloo

Participants will be inspired to “think outside the box” during story-time and will be shown new techniques that will excite and delight any age child! Creating vivid mental images through the use of drama is a wonderful way to improve reading skills for children. This interactive workshops, will share ideas on how to incorporate pantomime, props and character voices into any story. Circle time will never be the same again!

Morning Workshops 10:10—12:10pm

A7: Authors in the Classroom

*Presented by: Tricia Dumais, MA Early Childhood Studies, Associate Faculty
Conestoga College ECE*

The aim of this transformative, interactive presentation is to offer a step-by-step process for teachers, students and families to become empowered as authors. The presentation is evidence-based on the work of Alma Flor Ada and Isabel Campoy. Attendees will be invited to discover the power of authoring their own books for children using them in the classroom to inspire students' and families' own writing. Theoretical and practical opportunities will be provided, for learning about the Early Authors program. This train-the-trainer session will invite participants to make books of their own while learning step-by-step strategies to share the same transformative experience to families.

Afternoon Workshops 2:20—3:25pm

B1: Developing Mathematical Literacy with LittleCounters TM

*Presented by: Dr. Donna Kotsopoulos, Assistant Professor, Mathematics Education
and Dr. Joanne Lee, Assistant Professor, Developmental Psychology – Wilfrid Laurier
University*

This presentation will highlight research findings about what very young children are capable of knowing mathematically. Teaching strategies will be demonstrated for home and early learning environments based on the LittleCounters TM program. Research results related to the LittleCounters TM program will be presented.

B2: Feltboard and Fingerplay Fun

*Presented by: Barb Janicek, MLIS, Children's Librarian, Cambridge Libraries and
Galleries*

This fun and informative “make and take” workshop will discuss how props contribute to successful literacy activities such as felt board stories and fingerplay rhymes. Participants will learn some tips and tricks for making their own sets – on a budget! – and take home a finished product. Some background theory on the value of props for feltboard and fingerplay rhymes will be discussed. *Make 'n Take Workshop*

B3: Incorporating Literacy through Play

Presented by: Sue Dougherty, Resource ECE teacher and Children's Programmer at Oakville Public Library

This interactive workshop will enable participants to come away with ideas, activities and take home souvenirs on how to promote literacy through play and throughout the different centres in a classroom or home – e.g. gross motor, building area, dramatic play, art, science area, etc. Great books will be shared and tips provided on how to promote early literacy in a child's day, home, school or in the community. *Make 'n Take Workshop*

B4: Preschool Children's Story Comprehension, Production and Links with Other Forms of Complex Thinking

Presented by: Dr. Daniela O'Neill, Associate Professor, Dept. of Psychology, University of Waterloo

Research findings will be presented relating to: a) Early parent-child picture-book sharing and the influence of book genre on abstract talk; b) Early storytelling ability and links to later mathematical achievement; c) Abstraction in early storytelling and links to pattern abstraction; d) Stepping into the shoes and minds of story characters: preschool children's simulation of characters' thoughts and movements during story comprehension.

B5: Waterloo Region's Baby Literacy Project and Strong Start's Letters, Sounds and Words Program

Presented by: Waterloo Region's Baby Literacy Collaborative and Mieke Schroeder, Program Coordinator, Strong Start

Participants will learn about the development and delivery of a community baby literacy project, including the project's toolkit and key messages that support parents/caregivers in developing their baby's emergent literacy skills. Participants will also be introduced to Strong Starts' Letters, Sounds and Words program through a short video, a presentation and experiencing of some activities. Ideas for supporting volunteers will be shared.

B6: Environmental Print: I Can Read!

Presented by: Andrea McDermott, JK/SK teacher, Waterloo Region District School Board

The benefits of environmental print will be discussed, including its use with English language learners and its motivational impact. Participants will engage in games and activities that involve environmental print in a centre-based fashion and rotate through centres. Reflection and sharing among participants will be encouraged.

B7: Dads Make a Difference

Presented by: Sharon Campbell-Springstead, Early Literacy Specialist, Reach Out Centre for Kids, (ROCK) Ontario Early Years Centre (OEYC) Halton

This presentation will look at how fathers/husbands/partners help their young children with literacy development, barriers related to fathers' involvement in reading and other literacy activities, as well as benefits of father involvement in early literacy. Question addressed will include: What kinds of materials do fathers read? Why do fathers engage in literacy activities? How can we support and encourage fathers to assist with literacy development?

Round Table Discussion with Panel Informants

Where do we all fit in?

Our expert panel of Early Learning Specialists will lead the discussion of *where do we all fit in* with full day learning.

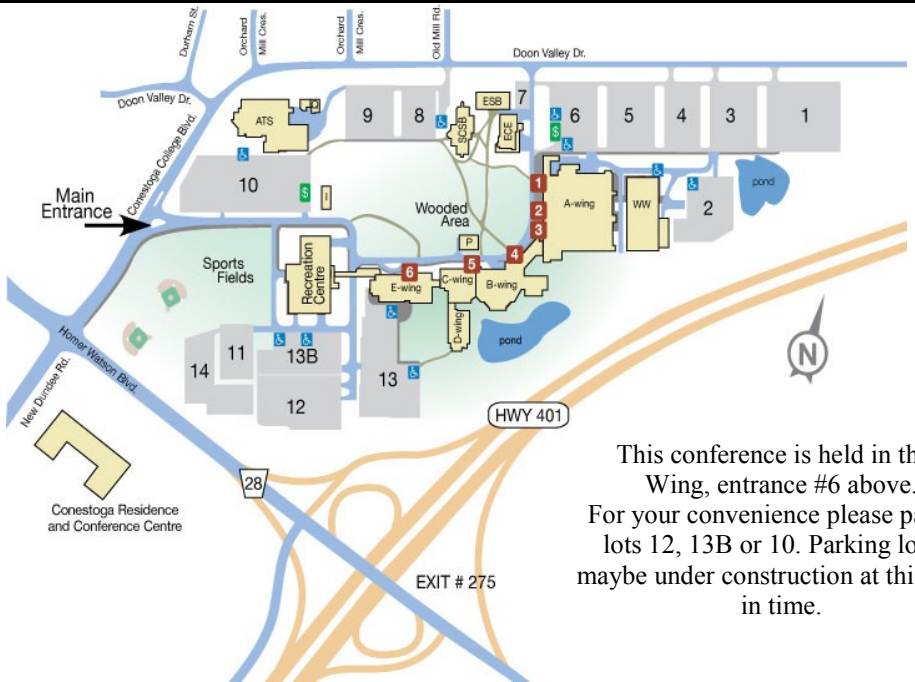


How can we work together to maximize our resources to support early learning and literacy?

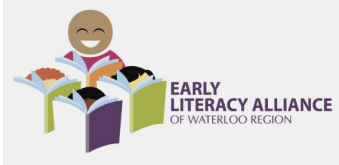
How do changes to Early Learning affect our programs and service delivery?

Take part in round table discussions to share strategies and best practices.

Conestoga College 299 Doon Valley Drive Kitchener



This conference is held in the E Wing, entrance #6 above.
 For your convenience please park in lots 12, 13B or 10. Parking lot 13 maybe under construction at this point in time.



“Our goal is to improve literacy skills for all children in our community by ensuring that programs that service young children include a literacy focus”