



School of **Early
Childhood**



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
OISE | ONTARIO INSTITUTE
FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION

Children deserve
the best start in life

Wednesday, June 12th, 2013

Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, 252 Bloor Street West, Main Floor Library

TENTH ANNUAL

Summer Institute on Early Childhood Development

Putting Families First in
Early Childhood Education

PUTTING FAMILIES FIRST IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

About the Institute

Research pointing to the critical importance of parent engagement as central in early learning is often grounded in the notion that experts need to support parents who maybe struggling in their parenting role.

The 10th Annual Summer Institute on Early Child Development shifts the lens away from a deficit model of parenting to one that recognizes the strengths that parents bring to the experiences of their young children. In a policy context that will guide integration of key parenting support programs under the Ministry of Education's Early Learning Division, this year's Summer Institute explores lessons that parents as experts can share to inform the design of an effective early learning and family support system.

OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM

- 8:30 a.m. Registration & Refreshments
(OISE Main Floor Library)
- 9:15 a.m. **Welcome and Introduction**
Karen Mundy, Professor & Associate Dean, Research: OISE, University of Toronto
- 9:30 a.m. **Keynote: On the Importance of Being Engaging: Keeping Parents in the Centre of Parenting Research, Policy and Practice**
Brenda Smith Chant, Associate Professor & Psychology Department Chair: Trent University
One of the most difficult issues facing early years policy and program designers is parent engagement. Increasingly, professionally designed and staffed programs are experiencing difficulties with reaching and engaging families. This difficulty is extending beyond the 'hard to reach families' to difficulties engaging families who traditionally attend parent education and other programs. The presentation will provide a critical review and analysis of some of the factors that impact parent engagement as well as provide a challenge to current programming philosophy.
- 10:30 a.m. **Making Connections Between Research & Practice**
Trish Plant: President: Canadian Association of Family Resource Programs
Mehrunissa Ali: Professor and Director, Joint Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Settlement (CERIS); Director, Graduate Program in Early Childhood Studies, Ryerson University
Andrea Prifti: Site Supervisor: George Brown College, Rose Avenue Child Care Centre
Taunya Paquette: Associate Executive Director, Native Child and Family Services of Toronto
Moderator: Jenny Jenkins, Professor and Atkinson Chair, OISE/University of Toronto
- 11:00 a.m. **Break**
- 11:15 a.m. **Ontario's Early Years Policy Framework: Vision to Action**
Pam Musson, Director, Early Learning and Child Care Implementation Branch, Ministry of Education
Rupert Gordon, Director of Early Learning and Child Care Policy and Program, Ministry of Education
Ministry of Education staff will provide an overview of the Ontario Early Years Framework strategic direction. They will discuss its role and intended impact in framing stronger common vision, governance, language and pedagogical approach for early years programs, as well as a more comprehensive approach to supporting, engaging and involving parents in an early years system.
- 12:00 p.m. **Lessons from Others: Evidence Based Results for Effective Parent Engagement Practice**
Verna Bruce, Deputy Minister of Education (Retired) and Community Volunteer
- 12:30 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:30 p.m. **Workshops** (Please select a session from page 2)
- 3:15 p.m. **Keynote: Emerging Ideas on Effective Parent Engagement for the Early Years**
Annie Kidder, Executive Director: People for Education
People for Education have carved a central place for parents in Ontario education debates. Its founder suggests ways that parents of preschoolers can find a voice.
- 4:00 p.m. **Closing Remarks:**
Cory Ross, Dean: Community Services & Health Sciences, George Brown College
- 4:15 p.m. **Award Presentation:**
Patricia Chorney Rubin, Director, Community Services & Early Childhood, George Brown College
Judith Bernhard, ECE Award Recipient
Join us to recognize the exceptional contributions of Dr. Judith K. Bernhard for her lifelong research achievements in area of parent engagement and diversity. Her ground-breaking work has had a significant impact on pan-Canadian early learning policy and practice.

WORKSHOPS

(Please select one on your registration form)

1. **Super Dads Super Kids (SDSK), Native Child and Family Services Toronto**

This program takes a position that when dads and kids are put together, good things happen. In the spirit of modeling good communication, interaction, and trust, SDSK was developed with continuous input from dads and kids. Native Child and Family Services Toronto will share with participants how they are coming together with male caregivers from the youth sector through grandfathers to build strong and nurturing environments.

RANDY BUDD Family and Community Development Worker: Native Child and Family Services Toronto

TAUNYA PAQUETTE Associate Executive Director: Native Child and Family Services Toronto

2. **Looking Back and Looking Forward: Learning to Work with Immigrant Families**

A discussion of how our colonial legacies continue to shape relations between providers of public services (i.e. teachers, nurses, social workers) in Canada and the immigrant families they serve. Participants will be invited to create and consider various options to combat the effects of our historical pasts.

MEHRUNISSA ALI Professor: School of Early Childhood Studies, Ryerson University

3. **Evidence-Based Parenting Interventions for Early Learning and Positive Mental Health**

Parental behaviours have been shown to mediate a wide range of children's learning, social and mental health outcomes. A range of intervention programs have been developed to improve parenting and hence, children's outcomes. We review these interventions and relying on high-quality evidence we show which programs have been found to be most effective. Because of the importance of informing prevention policy, transportability and public dissemination of these interventions will also be discussed.

EMIS AKBARI Post Doctoral Fellow, Atkinson Centre: University of Toronto

4. **Beliefs About Working with Families**

Recent studies suggest that educators are attracted to early childhood education because of their love of children not necessarily their desire to support families. Until now, there has been little published research regarding the motivation of individuals who wish to become ECEs in Ontario. This workshop will explore the findings of an investigation into the motivations and beliefs of beginning and graduating students enrolled in a 2-year community college ECE diploma program

CONNIE WINDER PhD Candidate, OISE/University of Toronto

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8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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Education
Main Floor Library
252 Bloor Street West**

By TTC: Exit at
St. George subway station

Please complete and submit the form below by mail or fax. *Required fields.

*Name: _____ Title: _____

*Organization: _____

*Address: _____

*City: _____ Province: _____ *Postal Code: _____

*Phone: _____ Fax: _____ *Email: _____

*Workshop Choices (please circle your first and second choice)

First choice 1 2 3 4

Second Choice 1 2 3 4

Registration Fees Special Student Rate: \$55 Full Conference: \$150

Please make your cheque payable to George Brown College. The GST Registration Number is 108082868RR0001.

Notes: The fees do not include overnight accommodations or travel. Advance payment is required to register. **Space is limited.**

*Total Remittance: \$ _____

*Method of Payment (please check)

Please print clearly. Make cheques payable to George Brown College.

Visa Mastercard Cheque Money Order Please invoice me

Name of Cardholder: _____ Authorized Signature: _____

If you are paying by credit card we will call you for card details

Fax in your completed registration form to 416.415.2565, or mail to:

Kathleen Alexander, George Brown School of Early Childhood, Ryerson Campus, P.O. Box 1015, Station B, Toronto, ON M5T 2T9

Please identify any required disability-related accommodations. Every attempt will be made to fulfill your request.

- Sign Language Interpreter Braille
- Computerized Note taker Large Print
- Real-Time Captionist Assistive Listening Device
- Intervenor Captioned Media

Food Allergies:

Other (e.g. scribe, accessible parking):

General Inquiries:

For further information about this program, please contact:

**George Brown School of Early Childhood, George Brown College
Ryerson Campus**

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