



MAADAKAMIGAD AKI: IT STARTS WITH LAND

Implications of Indigenous Land Ontologies
for the Field of Early Childhood Education

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How can Indigenous land ontologies inform the ways in which we organize and participate in the care and education of children, youth, and communities in order to make our field more equitable and inclusive?



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AGENDA

- I. **Conceptualizing Indigenous land-based ethics of care**

- II. **Applications for the field of ECEC**

- III. **Entanglements and tensions in land-based relations**

ETHICS OF CARE

(Gilligan, 1995)



- Ideological frameworks of ‘care’ professions
- Moral decision making in the care and education of children and youth
- Moral values as cultural values
- Ethical responsibility and interdependent relationships
- Collective and individual rights and responsibilities

INDIGENOUS CONCEPTS OF ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Moving from the anthropocentric to biocentric models of care (Greenwood & Leeuw, 2007)
- Relational understandings and collective decision making processes (Alfred & Corntassel, 2005)
- Ongoing reflexivity, storywork, experience (Simpson, 2014)
- Orientation to land as sentient, holding agency, and as teacher (Styres, 2011)



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THE GLOBE AND MAIL



WHAT LAND TEACHES ABOUT CARE

- Storying (Simpson, 2014)
- Interdependent relationships (Kimmerer, 2013)
- Reciprocity and responsibility (Styres & Zinga, 2013)

ETHICS OF CARE: ANISHINAABE STORYWORK



- Kwezen's Finds Maple Syrup (Simpson, 2014)
- Three Sisters (Kimmerer, 2013)
- Nanaboozhoo and Miangun (Benton-Banai, 1979)

APPLICATIONS OF LAND-BASED PEDAGOGIES IN ECEC

Restorying Place/
Refiguring Presences
(Nxumalo, 2015)

Decolonizing/Indigenizing
pedagogies (McCoy, Tuck,
& McKenzie, 2017).

Land-based experiential
learning (Greenwood, 2014)



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TENSIONS, ENTANGLEMENTS, ASSEMBLAGES

- Personal and collective responsibilities towards reconciliation
- Honouring of Indigenous knowledge without appropriation (Simpson, 2001)
- Decolonization as action oriented (Tuck & Yang, 2012)
- New futurities for the structure of child focused systems -- Orienting land as co-caregiver





MIIGWETCH

Thank you

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