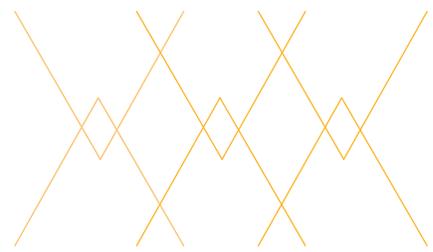


EARLY YEARS CONFERENCE 2022



PROGRAM AT A GLANCE : VIRTUAL EVENT | MARCH 1 & 2, 2022

TIME	DAY ONE: MARCH 1 DISRUPTION
9:00 AM	CONFERENCE WELCOME Welcome from Conference Co-Chairs Diana Elliott and Stacey Walsh
	Traditional Welcome and Acknowledgement from Shane Pointe
9:15 AM	KEYNOTE Lessons from a Pandemic: The Early Years and Lifting our Children up through Precarious Times Jennifer Charlesworth
10:15 AM	TRANSITION BREAK
10:25 AM	PARENT PANEL AND Q&A How Families Experienced Disruption and Transformation: Perspectives from Parents of Children Who Received Services During the Pandemic
11:25 AM	TRANSITION BREAK
11:35 AM	SESSION A
	<input type="checkbox"/> A1: An Indigenous Perspective to Supporting Children & Families with Autism and other Challenges Rona Sterling-Collins
OR	<input type="checkbox"/> A2: Children and Family Support Andrea Gonzalez
12:35 PM	LUNCH
	<input type="checkbox"/> Lunch
OR	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy Shift Lunch and Learn
1:05 PM	SESSION B
	<input type="checkbox"/> B1: Neuroscience of Trauma and Attachment Jan Ference
OR	<input type="checkbox"/> B2: Creativity and Innovation on the Front Line : Panel and Q & A
2:15 PM	WELL-BEING SESSION As I Am, Is Enough Madelaine McCallum
3:00 PM	CLOSE DAY ONE

TIME	DAY TWO: MARCH 2 TRANSFORMATION
9:00 AM	MORNING WELCOME Traditional Welcome and Acknowledgement from Shane Pointe
9:15 AM	KEYNOTE Resilience and Transformation Michael Ungar
10:15 AM	TRANSITION BREAK
10:25 AM	PANEL AND Q&A Organizational Transformation in the Early Years: Embracing change to center staff wellness
11:25 AM	TRANSITION BREAK
11:35 AM	SESSION C
	<input type="checkbox"/> C1: Why outdoor risk play is critical in the early years - now more than ever Mariana Brussoni
OR	<input type="checkbox"/> C2: 'Tapping into Tech' in the Early Years during COVID-19: Lessons Shared & Next Steps Alison Gerlach, Symbia Barnaby, Crystal Kalas, Diana Elliott
12:35 PM	LUNCH
	<input type="checkbox"/> Lunch
OR	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy Shift Lunch and Learn
1:05 PM	SESSION D
	<input type="checkbox"/> D1: Land-Based Outdoor Play Chloe Dragon Smith and Wendy Lahey
OR	<input type="checkbox"/> D2: SmartParent - Teaching Parents by Text Patricia Janssen
2:15 PM	WELL-BEING SESSION Guided Meditation Elder Doris Fox
3:00 PM	AWARD CEREMONY AND CONFERENCE CLOSE

EARLY YEARS CONFERENCE 2022



DAY ONE : DISRUPTION | MARCH 1, 2022

9:00AM | CONFERENCE WELCOME

Welcome

Conference Co-Chairs **Diana Elliott** and **Stacey Walsh**

Traditional Welcome and Acknowledgement

Shane Pointe, Musqueam Nation

9:15AM | KEYNOTE

Lessons from a Pandemic: The Early Years and Lifting our Children up through Precarious Times

Dr. Jennifer Charlesworth, British Columbia's Representative for Children and Youth

The early years are a sacred and critical period in a child's life in which their immediate caregivers and the context in which they live have a profound influence on their development, health and well-being. For the past year, B.C.'s Office of the Representative for Children and Youth has been exploring and mapping the Early Years with partners from across child and family serving systems. An emerging RCY Early Years initiative envisions a transformed system that gives families access to the social, emotional, cultural and health supports they need to thrive.

This work has confirmed the work of so many others to-date - multiple systems fail to adequately support families with young children. This was true before the pandemic and is even more true now. Since the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen disruption to children's lives on a massive scale. This has been especially pronounced for families that experience increased challenges and have been consistently under-resourced and underfunded: specifically, First Nations, Métis and Inuit families, and families whose children have additional support needs. The upheaval created by COVID has added urgency to the need to reconstruct early years systems and services and it has also revealed a potential for creative thinking and systemic change. RCY's intention is to "back up the bus" to focus on prevention, partnering with leaders and organizations across BC to focus on transformed ways to support families with little ones.

In this presentation, Dr. Jennifer Charlesworth will discuss the disruptions, obstacles and roadblocks families are facing as they try to raise happy, healthy children during a pandemic, with a special focus on Indigenous children and those with additional support needs. She will also explore what the RCY is learning from many wise advisors – including families, elders, knowledge keepers, practitioners and researchers – about what it will take to lift our little ones up to thrive.

10:15PM | TRANSITION BREAK

10:25AM | PARENT PANEL & Q&A

How Families Experienced Disruption and Transformation: Perspectives from Parents of Children Who Received Services During the Pandemic

Moderated by Mandy Young, Family Support and Projects Manager with Family Support Institute of BC, and President, BC Prader-Willi Syndrome Association, this panel will include parents and family members sharing their experiences of navigating and receiving services during the pandemic.

11:25PM | TRANSITION BREAK

EARLY YEARS CONFERENCE 2022



DAY ONE : DISRUPTION | MARCH 1, 2022

11:35AM | SESSION A

A1 An Indigenous Perspective to Supporting Children & Families with Autism and other Challenges

Rona Sterling-Collins, MSW, Aboriginal Early Childhood Development Professional, Rona Sterling Consulting

The Facilitator will share her family's journey with autism from a wholistic perspective. She will also discuss the realities of many Indigenous children and families with autism and other challenges particularly from a rural perspective. Rona will also share some of the research findings in her Nation around Indigenous children with autism and other challenges. Based on her experience and research, she will share ideas and strategies that would be helpful in supporting Indigenous children and families.

OR

A2 Children and Family Support: Is the COVID-19 pandemic an adverse experience? Perspectives from the Ontario Parent Study and Possibilities for Programs and Services Moving Forward

Dr. Andrea Gonzalez, Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioural Neurosciences, Offord Centre for Child Studies, McMaster University

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in unprecedented disruption in people's lives worldwide. School closures, working remotely, physical distancing measures which disrupted the ability to engage with social networks and family support systems, and the absence of childcare and extra-curricular activities has been particularly challenging for parents and children. This presentation will highlight findings from the Ontario Parent Survey - two waves of online questionnaires conducted with caregivers of children in May 2020 and May 2021. The impact of the pandemic on both parents and children will be discussed, as well as the role of family/work conflict and the impact of accessing services. While the pandemic has been a major stressor, it has also been an opportunity for growth and innovation in how services may be provided to parents. The presentation will end with an overview of some of the recent innovations and a discussion of what we need to work towards post-pandemic to support families.

12:35PM | LUNCH BREAK

A Lunch

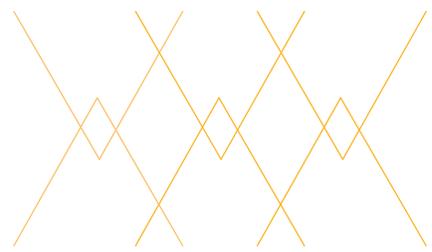
Free time to unplug and recharge

OR

B Policy Shift Lunch and Learn

Grab your lunch and listen to the most up to date information related to the Child Care, Inclusion, and Supported Child Development policy changes recently announced by the Government of British Columbia.

EARLY YEARS CONFERENCE 2022



1:05PM | SESSION B

B1 The Neuroscience of Trauma and Attachment: How the relationships you have built during the pandemic offer hope and healing

Jan Ference Executive Director, Haven Society

When a child is exposed to chronic stress, trauma, violence and/or neglect, brain development is impacted in a significant way. This in turn influences daily function, and the ability to develop in a typical manner. This interferes with a child's ability to learn and attach in a consistent way, and in turn often impacts their ability to stay focussed and regulated. This is often seen and then labelled as hyperactivity, non-compliance, daydreaming, aggression, and/or anxiety. Gaining a better understanding of the underlying neurological mechanism of what drives these behavioural challenges, assists educators and caregivers in finding successful solutions.

Science is teaching us that adversity has a direct correlation to both emotional and physical health that can be passed onto future generations. We are also learning that the quality and nature of the early attachment relationship is more imperative than we ever understood. This information allows us to see the child from both their chronological age as well as their developmental age. Many children with significant adversity in their early development, can present as immature, and therefore age appropriate interventions often are not effective.

How has the disruption of life and the additional stress of Covid-19 impacted our kids and their parents? How does this information relate to your work? How can it assist children in the healing and learning process using a neurobiological perspective? How does our society and culture ignore our greatest biological gifts, that are the potential key to lasting change? Lastly, but most importantly, how can we find hope in our work?

OR

B2 Creativity and Innovation on the Front Line | Panel Presentation and Q&A

Moderated by Jason Gordon

Since March 2020, the crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted young children and families, as well as all the systems of care and support for them. It has not been easy but some have found power in the possibility, leading to creative ideas and innovations in the field. Learn about some of these innovative programs and practices that continue to be used to better support children and families at this difficult time.

2:15PM | WELL-BEING SESSION

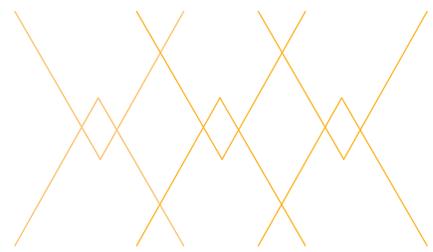
As I Am, Is Enough

Madelaine McCallum

Through sharing her most fragile moments with audiences across Canada in her Fire Within presentation, Madelaine discovered the most crucial lesson there is to learn: 'As I am, is Enough.' Taking you through an emotional roller coaster, Madelaine will leave you speechless with her realness and vulnerability as she helps you to discover the importance of finding self-worth and acceptance.

3:00PM | CLOSE DAY ONE

EARLY YEARS CONFERENCE 2022



DAY TWO : TRANSFORMATION | MARCH 2, 2022

9:00AM | MORNING WELCOME

Traditional Welcome and Acknowledgement

Shane Pointe, Musqueam Nation

9:15AM | KEYNOTE

Resilience and Transformation

Dr. Michael Ungar, Ph.D., Canada Research Chair in Child, Family and Community Resilience, Director, Resilience Research Centre, Professor of Social Work, Dalhousie University, AAMFT Clinical Supervisor, Registered Social Worker

Though the COVID-19 pandemic has the potential to have long-lasting effects on children's mental health, children also have the potential to use this crisis to develop greater resilience. This personal and social transformation, however, requires both a child's individual ruggedness and access to the many resources which support positive child development. Building on his research from around the world and clinical work with populations that have experienced the stress of social isolation, poverty, stigma and violence, Dr. Ungar will share strategies children's caregivers can use to sustain young people's wellbeing and even thrive during and after this pandemic.

10:15PM | TRANSITION BREAK

10:25AM | PANEL AND Q&A

Organizational Transformation in the Early Years: Embracing change to center staff wellness

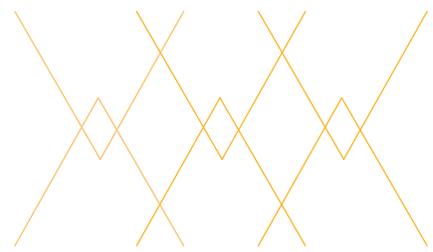
Moderated by Jason Gordon

Hear from leaders within the early childhood development, intervention and family support fields as they share their insight and approach to organizational change. Particular attention will be paid to resources and the work that needs to be done to ensure staff are better prepared to support both themselves and the families they serve.

11:25PM | TRANSITION BREAK

NOTES:

EARLY YEARS CONFERENCE 2022



DAY TWO : TRANSFORMATION | MARCH 2, 2022

11:35AM | SESSION C

C1 Why outdoor risk play is critical in the early years - now more than ever

Dr. Mariana Brussoni Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics and the School of Population and Public Health, UBC, Scientist with the BC Children's Hospital Research Institute and the BC Injury Research & Prevention Unit, Director, Human Early Learning Partnership

Research is clear on the importance of regular and repeated access to outdoor risky play. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of supporting children's play outdoors is even more urgent to support infection control and child health and well-being. With children spending more time indoors and on screens, engagement in outdoor play has never been lower and inequities of access are widening. This session will help you build the case about the need for outdoor risky play and get ideas to make positive change in your work with children. Myths will be dispelled, truths revealed, and incredible opportunities for children to have new experiences introduced. Learn the key concepts that support outdoor play and how you can begin to incorporate these into your programs and plans. Lastly, hear about tools and educational resources, and what different groups across Canada are doing to support risky play.

OR

C2 'Tapping into Tech' in the Early Years during COVID-19: Lessons Shared & Next Steps

Dr. Alison Gerlach, Assistant Professor and White-settler in the School of Child and Youth Care at the University of Victoria and co-lead of the Tapping into Tech project.

Symbia Barnaby, Community Researcher, Tapping into Tech project

Crystal Kalas, Special Services Supervisor, Fort St John Child Development Centre, and Community Researcher on the Tapping into Tech project.

Diana Elliott, Provincial Advisor, Aboriginal Infant Development Programs in BC and Tapping into Tech Community Council member.

Long before the COVID-19 pandemic, many families living in rural and northern parts of BC and raising young children with extra support needs, often faced multiple barriers to accessing a wide-range of information, supports and services for their children's early health, development and well-being. The pandemic has shone a light on the untapped potential for information and communication technologies (apps, cell phones, Facebook, teleconference platforms such as Zoom etc.) to be used as long-term, additional ways for parents to access early child health and development information and programs in BC.

This interactive session will be led by a panel of presenters/community researchers from a province-wide 'Tapping into Tech' project that aims to inform the use of technologies based on the experiences, views and preferences of rural and northern families, early childhood service providers and agencies: <https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/tappingintotech/>

To build on lessons learned during COVID19 and reflect on next steps, audience members are invited to take 10 mins to complete an anonymous brief survey about their experiences using technologies during the pandemic to provide early child development and health services and supports to families. Survey results will be shared with the audience and used to further inform the 'Tapping into Tech project' and future engagement with service providers in rural and northern communities in BC.

EARLY YEARS CONFERENCE 2022



12:35PM | LUNCH BREAK

A Lunch

Free time to unplug and recharge

OR

B Policy Shift Lunch and Learn

Grab your lunch and listen to the most up to date information related to the Child Care, Inclusion, and Supported Child Development policy changes recently announced by the Government of British Columbia.

1:05PM | SESSION D

D1 Culturally appropriate Land-based learning - Bushkids NWT

Chloe Dragon Smith, Wendy Lahey; Bushkids co-founders

Bushkids is an outdoor learning initiative in the Northwest Territories that operates in ethical space - balancing Indigenous and Euro-western approaches to learning and process. Bushkids co-founders Chloe Dragon Smith and Wendy Lahey will share some lessons learned through their collaboration alongside some practical ideas for others.

OR

D2 SmartParent - Teaching Parents by Text

Dr. Patricia Janssen, RN, BSN, MPH, PhD (epidemiology). Professor, UBC School of Population and Public Health and Senior Scholar, BC Children's Hospital Research Institute.

SmartParent is Canada's first parenting education program delivered by text messaging. Messages arrive on mobile devices three times weekly to guide parents through the first year of their baby's life. Each message has links to additional online resources to address growth and development, infant feeding, safety, immunization, social development and the health and well-being of new parents. SmartParent is a collaboration between UBC researchers, the Ministry of Health, BC regional Health Authorities, Child Health BC, First Nations Health Authority, and clinical experts. It has been endorsed by the Canadian Paediatric Society.

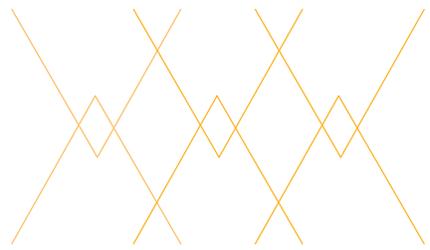
2:15PM | WELL-BEING SESSION

Guided Meditation

Musqueam Elder and Matriarch **Doris Fox**

3:00PM | AWARD CEREMONY AND CONFERENCE CLOSE

EARLY YEARS CONFERENCE 2022



NOTES: