



**The Inspiring Early Learning
Conference is once again excited to
offer a combination of online and
in-person events!**

Your registration covers all!

*Join us for 2 online sessions in April.
Gather together at our in-person morning
on **Saturday, April 26, 2025** at Fleming
College.*

Full details inside this brochure!

Keynote Speaker: Linda Kash
In person on Saturday, April 26!
The Art of Staying in the Present

Online registration opens today and
closes Friday, **March 28, 2025**

Registration link on
page 12

- ◇ ***Please see page 11 of this brochure for payment/registration information.***
- ◇ ***Registration confirmation and updates will arrive via email. Please add this email address to your safe senders list:
emortlock@fivecounties.on.ca***
- ◇ ***All fees are non-refundable. \$45.00 registration fee. See student fee option on page 11.***
- ◇ ***A colleague may attend the in person in your place. Please email any attendance changes by April 11, 2025.***

Questions?

Please contact Ellen Mortlock
if you have any questions regarding the conference.

Email: emortlock@fivecounties.on.ca

Phone: 705 748 2337 ext 342

Fleming College
Location

Our in-person morning will begin at Fleming's main foyer (near lecture theatre, where we met pre-covid).

Parking for our event is free in any of the nearby lots.



Conference Calendar at a Glance

<p>Tuesday, April 8</p> <p>Online (also recorded) 6:30-8:00 pm</p>	<p>Dr. Beverlie Dietze</p> <p>A Visible Practice: Reflecting and Showcasing the Educator’s Learning Journey</p>
<p>Tuesday, April 15</p> <p>Online (also recorded) 6:30-8:00 pm</p>	<p>Dr. Beverlie Dietze</p> <p>Empowering Educators to be Advocates for Outdoor Play</p>
<p>Saturday, April 26, 2025</p> <p>In Person morning @ Fleming College 9 am-1 pm</p> <p><u>Registration begins at 8:15 am</u></p> <p>Keynote Address in Lecture Theatre 9:00-10:30</p> <p>Vendor Village/light refreshments 10:30-11:15</p> <p>Sessions *(choose 1 of 4) 11:15-1:00</p> <p><i>*there will be a 5 minute wellness walk to the new conference rooms (where last year’s sessions took place). Please let us know if you require assistance.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Keynote Address</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Linda Kash</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Art of Staying in the Present</i></p> <p><u>4 in-person sessions: Choose 1 session to attend of the following 4 choices</u></p> <p>#1: Linda Kash: Improv! Trust me and try it... I guarantee you’ll like it!</p> <p>#2: Shelley Elmhurst: Changing Challenging Behaviour: A Self-Reg conversation on making positive changes to your practice</p> <p>#3: Kate Jarrett: Sing in the Spring: Nurturing musical joy in you and the children</p> <p>#4: Nicole Bell: Wellness with the Medicine Wheel (outdoor session)</p>

2 Online Sessions *with Beverlie Dietze*

Tuesdays, April 8 & 15

Online & Recorded

6:30-8:00 pm

April 8- A Visible Practice: Reflecting and Showcasing the Educator's Learning Journey

We often discuss the importance of making children's learning visible, but wait... how are early learning professionals making their own learning visible? Educators engage in continuous learning through interactions, observations, and new practices, yet this valuable development often goes unacknowledged. With a focus on making educators' learning visible, we highlight the importance of reflective documentation, collaborative inquiry, and self-assessment in the journey of professional learning.

Participants will discuss potential strategies for educators capturing and sharing their growth through various forms of making learning visible, that goes beyond the traditional reflective journal. Examples of showcasing professional learning with colleagues, families, and the broader educational community will be highlighted. Come explore how educators connect their experiences and insights to broader pedagogical goals and how new learning can be made visible.

April 15- Empowering Educators to be Advocates for Outdoor Play

What 12 skills would you identify advocates of children's outdoor play require? Based on research-based strategies, participants will examine the types of advocacy skills that can empower all educators to be strong advocates for outdoor play. To effectively promote the importance of outdoor play with colleagues, community partners, and with families, educators benefit from using unique tools and strategies, with a confident voice.

Participants will examine principles and practices that advocates use in a variety of environments. This workshop is designed to deepen educators' knowledge, inspire action, strengthen advocacy skills and advance leadership skills in embedding play-based principles within outdoor environments.



Dr. Beverlie Dietze

Beverlie is an advocate for children and adults to engage in an array of outdoor play and exploration experiences. She is the publisher of the Canadian Play Outdoors magazine and author of several textbooks and articles related to early childhood education.

<https://playoutdoorsmagazine.ca/>



**NATURE LOVER
& OUTDOOR
PLAY EXPERT**

Join us at Fleming College on Saturday morning, April 26, 9:00 am-1:00 pm!

Coffee/tea will be available upon arrival, along with homemade breakfast cookies baked fresh by *The Food Shop* on Water Street.

Join us for an expanded mid-morning snack: coffee/tea, juice, yogourt & fruit parfaits, cheese & fruit trays, assorted muffins.



Enjoy your snack and visit the vendor village!

Scholar's Choice

We are excited to welcome back some vendor favourites as well as some new local businesses including:

Family Easy– wagons

Wild Child Woodcraft

And more!

In Person Keynote Speaker!



Choose **one** session to attend.

3 indoor and

1 outdoor option.



We are excited to welcome our Keynote Speaker

Linda Kash

Saturday, April 26

In Person only

9:00-10:30

The Art of Staying in the Present

As an Actor, Director, teacher, mother, friend, human being, I am at my best when I am actively listening; when I am truly present in the moment. Improvisation has given me the tools to practice this sometimes difficult way of being. I'd like to show you how I navigate through life and how its helped me through good times and tough times.



#1: Improv! Trust me and try it... I guarantee you'll like it with Linda Kash

If laughter is the best medicine, improvisation is the key to finding your funnybone.

Easy to learn, group exercises, we will practice the art of staying in the present, and taking some risks while feeling supported by the group.

"We improvise every day. At work, school and social situations, we need to think on our feet. Learning and refining improv skills builds confidence and brings more play into your days."



Linda Kash began her career at the Second City Theatre in Toronto, where she performed, directed and conducted workshops.

She has appeared in and directed a number of plays, films and television shows throughout Canada, the US, Europe, Russia and New Zealand. Linda has an extensive career of credits in television and film including Seinfeld, Everybody Loves Raymond, Waiting for Guffman, Best in Show and the Fargo series opposite Ewan MacGregor.

In 2008, Linda co-founded a local Performing Arts School called PAPA for kids and teens.

During Covid 19, Linda also co-created an adult online learning platform called klusterfork; offering unique access to the best in the entertainment industry.

Linda is best known as The Philadelphia Cream Cheese Angel (a successful campaign which ran over 26 years) but her proudest work to date, by far, is her fabulous blended family

lindakash.ca

klusterfork.com



#2: Changing Challenging Behaviour: A Self-Reg conversation on making positive changes to your practice with Shelley Elmhurst

Saturday, April 26

In Person only

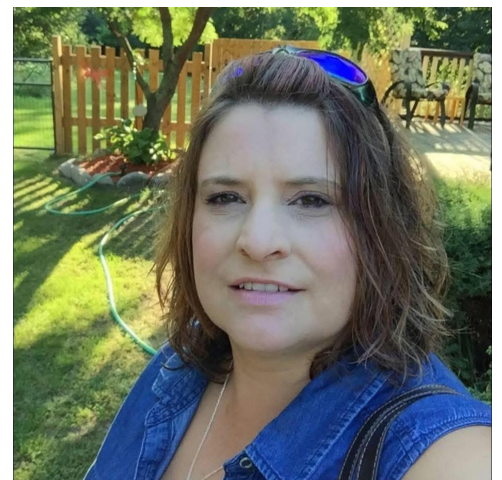
11:15-1:00

In this workshop, be prepared to reflect on your current practice and discover how adding the Shanker Self-Reg Framework to your skill set will deepen the relationships you have with the children in your care. Learn how overt and hidden stress in a child's life affects the brain and body causing those undesirable behaviours which get in the way of calm, focused learning and growth and how you, as an educator, can impact positive and lasting change. Shelley will give concrete examples of Self-Reg in action based on her 8 years of Self-Reg practice and implementation of the 5 processes of Self-Reg in her daily work with both children and educators.



Shelley has been an RECE for 27 years, working directly in childcare for 14 and the past 13 as a Resource Consultant supporting educators in early years environments. Shelley's passion for Self-Reg began with her first introduction to the framework during the MEHRIT Centre's annual summer symposium held at Trent University. She hasn't looked back and has since become a Self-Reg champion in her work community bringing several PD opportunities and learning to early years educators for the past 8 years. During that time Shelley has also continued to grow her own skills and knowledge by taking several of the MEHRIT centre courses including their Early Childhood Development, Foundations, and Facilitators courses followed by the master's program, Living, Learning & Linking.

When Shelley isn't learning all things Self-Reg, she likes to hang out at home recharging her energy by spending time outside in her gardens, reading or just relaxing with her 2 dogs and her husband.



#3: Sing in the Spring: Nurturing Musical Joy in You and the Children **with Kate Jarrett**

Saturday, April 26

In Person only

11:15-1:00

We all love *Wheels on the Bus* and *Roly, Poly!* Let's share some new songs... Come learn some new simple rhymes, songs and musical stories that are sure to enhance your group times, play times, transition times, nurturing care routines, and one on one times. Offered through a language lens, you and your littles will love these playful and rhythmic interactions. No musical experience required!



Kate's love of songs, rhymes and stories for young children knows no bounds, and is rooted deeply in her folk music and library background. She brought the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program to Peterborough (PPCMG) in 1998, a program that helps parents connect, cuddle and communicate with their young children from birth to 24 months through oral storytelling. Her professional library work in children's services includes Peterborough, Millbrook and Downeyville. She recently participated in the Pathways Project for Stewardship and Kinship providing nature based rhymes, songs and stories in daycares and JK/SK classes. Kate has acted as a resource for a wide range of the young and young at heart, at schools, festivals, workshops and conferences in the Peterborough area for many, many years. She is delighted to be part of the Inspiring Early Learning Conference this year.



#4: Wellness with the Medicine Wheel with Nicole Bell

Saturday, April 26

In Person only -Outdoor Session

11:15-1:00

Join Nicole in Fleming's beautiful outdoor surroundings for this opportunity for self-reflection and wellness.

Foundational teachings of the medicine wheel as they relate to personal wellbeing will be shared. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in personal reflection with the Medicine Wheel, engage with the land in their learning, and create a visual reminder for maintaining balance in their life.

Please dress for the weather.



Dr. Nicole Bell is Anishnaabe (Bear Clan) from Kitigan Zibi First Nation in Maniwaki, Quebec. She is the mother of five boys and a grandmother. Nicole is passionate about Indigenous education, motivated by her educational experiences personally, and as a mother.

Nicole has been learning about her Anishnaabe stories, teachings, ceremonies, and language for the past 35 years. Her cultural teachers were/are Elders Shirley Williams, Vera Martin, and Edna Manitowabi. Nicole has also secured a strong understanding of the land and traditional land practices from her Anishinaabe father.

Nicole is currently an Associate Professor in the School of Education at Trent University. Her research areas include: Indigenous culture-based education, infusion of Indigenous knowledge into public schooling and teacher education, decolonization and healing, and Indigenous research theory and methodology.



REGISTRATION FEES* for Full Conference Package

- | | |
|--|---------|
| • Conference Fee (includes both online and in person sessions) | \$45.00 |
| • ECE Students (<i>fulltime students only</i>) | \$20.00 |

Participants will be registered in the in-person session on a 1st come, 1st serve basis and will be placed according to availability at the time of registration.
(*Last year everyone was able to get their first pick!*)

Each person wishing to register for the full conference package must complete a [registration form](#).

Payment may be made through e-transfer, cheque or cash.

E-transfer:

Email address for payment by e-transfer: invoice@fivecounties.on.ca

Please identify in the **message line** that payment is for the **IELC Conference/ (your name)**

Please use the security question: **Kids are** Answer: **amazing** (all lower case)

If your centre is covering your fee, please advise your centre to email Ellen to let her know: emortlock@fivecounties.on.ca Please include the name(s) of all people that will be covered by the payment.

Payment in cash: Five Counties Children's Centre - 872 Dutton Road

Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Please email Ellen to let her know you are stopping by and bring correct amount as we can't make change)

Cheques : made payable to 'Five Counties Children's Centre– Attention IIQ'

Mailing address: Five Counties Children's Centre
c/o Conference: Investing In Quality
872 Dutton Road. Peterborough, ON K9H 7G1

Email: emortlock@fivecounties.on.ca

Phone: 705 748 2337 ext 342

Fax : (705) 748 3526 (attention Ellen Mortlock)

Important Information

Online session links and conference highlights/updates will arrive via email. The Teams links for Beverlie Dietze's online sessions will be shared with all conference participants.

Please double-check and ensure your email address is correct when you fill out the registration form.

Check your junk folder! Please let us know if you do not receive our emails.

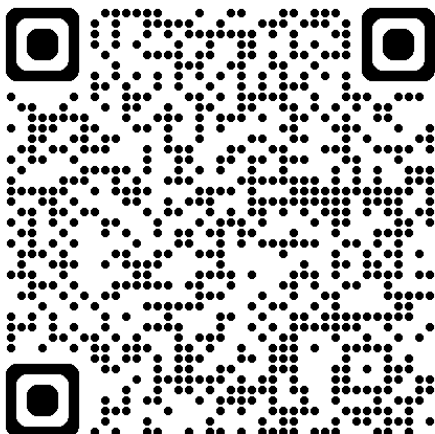
Please add this email address to your safe senders list:

emortlock@fivecounties.on.ca

Please contact Ellen Mortlock if you have any questions regarding registration/ the conference in general.

Email: emortlock@fivecounties.on.ca

Phone: 705 748 2337 ext 342



Online registration is open now and closes Friday, **March 28, 2025.**

Click this [link](#) or scan the QR code to register:

You will be asked for your **1st and 2nd** choice for the in person session.

we share the
air
go scent free

Please avoid use of perfumes, colognes, scented soaps, aftershaves, lotions etc. as we have some scent allergies to consider. Also please avoid bringing citrus based products, especially oranges.

Thank-you!



BRING
your own
BOTTLE



Many thanks to our team of dedicated conference committee members.

Lisa Miles, Lisa Potter, Susan Scoffin, Tara Cahorn, Stephanie Cook, Meghan Fife, Chrystal Kellett, Beckie Evans, Ellen Mortlock

Turn back one page to Page 12 for the link to register!

