



## Caregiver E-Connection

Spring 2015

# EXPLORATIONS

## Early Learning

With Jeff A. Johnson

**Registration is now open!**  
**BCFCCA Conference and AGM!**  
**Saturday-June 13, 2015**  
**@ Victoria, BC**

**[Registration Package](#)**



[www.explorationsearlylearning.com](http://www.explorationsearlylearning.com)

## A Word from BCFCCA Chairs

Your Board of Directors have been very busy with Southern Vancouver Island Family Child Care Association planning our upcoming conference! We're all very excited!

The Conference will be presented in a full day format this year. It will include lunch, a fantastic and inspiring presenter from the USA, 4 fabulous workshops, and an opportunity to network with other Family Child Care Providers and Early Childhood Educators. These workshops have been designed to motivate us, learn more about ourselves, and how to provide inspired responsive early learning and care!

Jeff A. Johnson is the founder of "Explorations Early Learning" and the author of nine books. Jeff has more than 30 speaking engagements per year all over the world. Jeff will inspire us with his extensive knowledge of emergent learning in play-based environments!

The registration packages are available on the website [www.bcfcca.ca](http://www.bcfcca.ca) for printing. We do hope that everyone will be able to attend this exciting professional development event!

Some of the many items that your Board of Directors have been working on over the past months include getting a new rack card published for BC Family Child Care Association and the Good Beginnings program. These are to replace the outdated brochure and they are being distributed across the province in many locations.

The Professional Development Committee have been hard at work promoting the Good Beginnings program throughout the province. The Board have been promoting the educational bursary dollars which are being accessed from all parts of the province. There is a lot of interest from many organizations on how to access these funds for educational purposes and proposals for funding assistance for workshops have been coming in.

BC Family Child Care Association is always looking for more member groups from around the province. If you belong to a group with a vested interest in child care in the province of BC please contact us for more information on how your member group can join BCFCCA. Perhaps you would like to start a member group in your area. We can help you with that also. Please contact us at [chair@bcfcca.ca](mailto:chair@bcfcca.ca) or [office@bcfcca.ca](mailto:office@bcfcca.ca)

It has come to our attention that not all members are accessing the Members Only Facebook page. This has become a great tool for people from across the province to communicate and share ideas related to child care. Posts on business ideas, theme ideas, and upcoming events in different parts of the province, to questions on how others in the province are tackling challenges in their child care are being shared. The posts to this group come from members of BCFCCA and it is with the members help that it will make this page a wonderful resource for you. The invite to join this Facebook group came out by email - if you missed your invite and would like it sent to you again please email the office at [office@bcfcca.ca](mailto:office@bcfcca.ca)



Sincerely,  
Rena Laberge and Vicki Lepper  
BCFCCA Co-Chairs



### **"Joining the Conversation"**

Don't miss out on the opportunity for great conversations and interactions with other Child Care Providers on our

**Members only page**

**Remember to "Like Us" on Facebook**

## Seeking your Enthusiasm and Commitment



Being a Board member or volunteering with BC Family Child Care Association (“BCFCCA”) is the perfect way to feel connected to your Province and your community because BCFCCA’s mission serves virtually everyone—families, children and child care providers. The simple act of offering your skills and enthusiasm will positively impact the lives of children, families, and child care providers, as well as your own. Organizations like BCFCCA cannot function without energy and input from volunteers like you. Everyone has talent to offer, whether it is expertise in a particular field or simply offering your valuable time to help fulfill general volunteer opportunities. It doesn’t matter where you’re located in the Province as BCFCCA meets monthly by a conference call. We invite you to explore these opportunities by contacting our office or by contacting Rena Laberge or Vicki Lepper (Co-Chairs) at [chair@bcfcca.ca](mailto:chair@bcfcca.ca)

### Member Groups

**Would your community benefit from a network of family child care providers?**

**BCFCCA** would love to assist anyone who would like to start a member group in their community.

Call the office for more information or email, [chair@bcfcca.ca](mailto:chair@bcfcca.ca) to get started today.

#### North Fraser Child Care Association

Email: [kathy\\_mang@hotmail.ca](mailto:kathy_mang@hotmail.ca)

Website: [www.northfraser.weebly.com](http://www.northfraser.weebly.com)



#### Southern Vancouver Island Child Care Association

Email: [childcare@svifcca.com](mailto:childcare@svifcca.com)

Website: [www.svifcca.com](http://www.svifcca.com)



#### Vancouver Family Child Care Association

Email: [vancouverfcca@yahoo.ca](mailto:vancouverfcca@yahoo.ca)



#### Prince George Child Care Association

Email: [pgchildcareassociation@gmail.com](mailto:pgchildcareassociation@gmail.com)



**Upcoming workshops supported with funding through BC Family Child Care Association’s Workshop Bursary Program. For more information on funding, [click here](#)**

**Vancouver Family Child Care Assn.**  
[vancouverfcca@yahoo.ca](mailto:vancouverfcca@yahoo.ca)

**Literacy Learning with Young Children**  
[Workshop info](#)

**March 25th, 2015**

## Events

Two BCFCCA Board members were pleased to attend **CHILDREN: The Heart of the Matter** (“CHOM”), 2015 Conference on January 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. This was the 18<sup>th</sup> annual conference which featured Dr. Laura Markham as the Friday night Keynote speaker and Gary Anaka on Saturday. These annual conferences are very successful and attended by over 600 people who are involved in the care and education of young children. We were pleased to be able to introduce our new Rack Cards this year while we connected with caregivers, teachers, community health professionals, parents, grandparents and government officials during this conference.

Having the opportunity to have a booth at this conference and hold conversations with existing and new members and community members is valued by us at BCFCCA. We took the ideas, suggestions and comments presented to us at our booth back to the board table. With the input from our membership and community members, we are able to grow, expand and make necessary changes to continue to be a strong association in the support and advocacy for child care providers.

The planning and organizing committee who work hard all year long to present this annual conference are amazing and deserve a huge round of applause. We thank you for all that you do in providing such a fabulous and fun networking and educational venue.

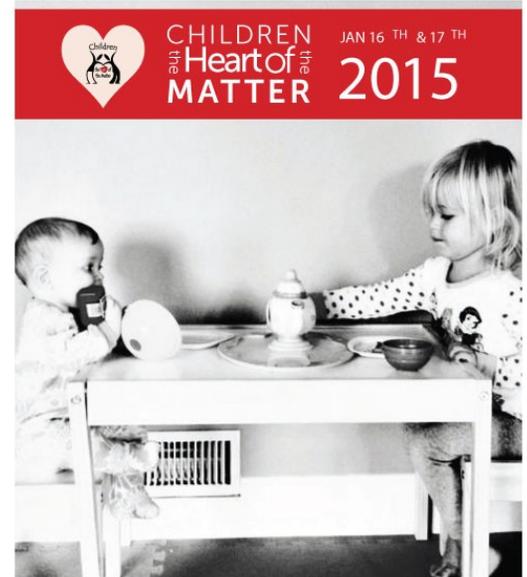
Look for us at the next CHOM conference and stop by to say hi and see what the board have been working on during the year.



Vicki Lepper  
BCFCCA Co-Chair

Joanne Cruickshank  
BCFCCA Director

options  Child Care Options  
Resource & Referral



You know that you're *supposed* to eat your vegetables, but do you know *why* they are so important?

- Green vegetables provide vital nutrients, minerals, and anti-cancer properties
- Greens have all the things that your body needs: vitamins A and C, fiber, and antioxidants that keep you from getting sick
- The best vegetables to eat are dark green, leafy vegetables

Can you think of some green leafy vegetables?

Here are some below. Connect the vegetable to the matching picture, and if you can think of others, add them to the list!

[www.integrativehm.com](http://www.integrativehm.com)

Carmen Barclay MA, CHC  
BCFCCA Director



Kale

spinach

chard

escarole

## Child Care Major Capital Funding & ECE Bursaries now available

Minister Stephanie Cadieux made the following announcements:

### Child Care Major Capital Funding Program:

Applications opened today and will close March 20, 2015 for the second round of funding available through the Child Care Major Capital Funding Program. Additional information including the application form and funding guidelines, is available for download at [http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/major\\_capital.htm](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/major_capital.htm).

Child Care Major Capital Funding is available to help with the costs associated with the creation of new licensed child care spaces. Under this program, non-profit organizations may receive up to a maximum of \$500,000 and private sector organizations may receive up to a maximum of \$250,000 for:

Building a new child care facility, including the cost of buying land or a building.

Purchasing and assembling a modular/portable building and site development.

Renovating a building.

Buying eligible equipment and furnishings to support new child care spaces in an existing facility or as part of the above activities to create new spaces.

The goal of the second application intake period is to support the creation of an additional 1,000 spaces. Applications must be submitted to the ministry no later than March 20, 2015, using one of the following three funding streams:

**Targeted:** creating new spaces in child care settings located on school grounds;

**Co-located:** creating new spaces that will be co-located with other family support programs in community based settings; or

**Regular:** creating new spaces in child care settings other than those listed in number 1 and 2 above.

Applications in all three funding streams will be awarded bonus points during the review process if they are proposing to create new spaces within an area underserved by child care and/or if their proposal demonstrates an innovative partnership with another organization(s).

Funding approval will be based on funding guidelines, selection criteria and availability of funds in the Child Care Major Capital Funding Program.

For more information, including funding guidelines, please refer to the ministry website:

[http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/major\\_capital.htm](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/major_capital.htm)

### Contact Information

In Greater Victoria call 250 356-6501 or call toll-free across BC 1-888-338-6622

### British Columbians Want a Real Investment in Child Care

<http://www.insightswest.com/news/british-columbians-want-a-real-investment-in-child-care/>

“The Manitoba government is establishing a commission to recommend ways to achieve its goal of making early learning and child care universally accessible.”

For more information, go to:

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/Provincial-commission-to-look-at-universal-early-child-care-290671061.html>

## “Choosing Family Child Care, a Parent’s Perspective”

By Sue Irwin

Choosing child care wouldn't be a problem for me...I had taught in child care programs, worked with the Child Care Resource & Referral (CCRR) programs, knew what quality aspects to look for, my family’s needs, the issues of wait lists and affordability, and so on. What I wasn't ready for was meeting my precious son and now having to drop him off to someone else! I now know firsthand the heart wrenching feeling that all those parents I worked with previously were feeling, and that the importance of a quality program is



Luca & Benjamin with an opportunity to explore

**“We wanted: our child to socialize but not necessarily in a large group, a quality regulated program, to feel the warmth of the qualified educator, and some flexibility...For us this path lead us to a licensed family child care (LFCC) program.”**

equal to the importance that my son would be loved. The next hurdle was to find this magic combination...and get in!

My husband and I toured programs during my

pregnancy and talked about the aspects that we were drawn to. In the end the choice became increasingly clear. We wanted: our child to socialize but not necessarily in a large group, a quality regulated program, to feel the warmth of the qualified educator, and some flexibility...For us this path lead us to a licensed family child care (LFCC) program. All child care programs look different (their program, fees, hours, educators, and physical appearance, etc.). All of these differences are wonderful because families need choice. Families need to find the right fit.

Some things to consider as a family child care provider include the professionalism that we experienced. Our provider’s phone message and email reflect her child care business, she set up a tour for us and was ready with a parent

package, explained her philosophy, qualifications posted, and shared specifics of her program as she walked us through her clean, organized setting.

It appealed to us that she had different play centers set up, a parent board near the cubbies/entrance, a daily report sheet, attractive displays on the walls, a

variety of materials for the children to play with, and a stimulating outdoor area. Her professionalism and passion were evident. Each space has its unique qualities and limitations to work with, but it can be done...and done well!

Our family is very happy with our LFCC program, and more importantly our son is thriving and has a wonderful bond with his provider. I would encourage families to decide what aspects they are looking for, tour programs, and talk to their local CCRR about how to choose quality child care. I encourage family child care providers to keep doing the incredibly important work that they do, never stop learning, assess their program regularly and don't be afraid to change things up, step out of your routine!



The Family Child Care Home

This is the perspective of a proud new mommy who has gained valuable knowledge from this experience. As an Early Childhood Educator the shoe is certainly now on the other foot! Caring for our precious little ones is an enormous responsibility, let’s do it with professionalism, pride and passion.

Sue Irwin by profession and passion is the Vancouver Coastal Regional Coordinator, CCRR Programs but obviously her role as a mommy is her most important title.



This article was originally published in **BC Family Child Care Association’s Caregiver E-Connection** ~ Spring Edition (vol.3, issue 7).

For more info about BCFCCA go to [www.bcfcca.ca](http://www.bcfcca.ca)

## News to Know.....just a click away



### Call for Nominations for The Canadian Child Care Federation's Award for Excellence in Child Care

The Canadian Child Care Federation's biennial Award for Excellence in Child Care honours individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the field of child care. Nominations must be received by **March 31st, 2015**. [More information](#)

*I have to share this with all of you, from the State of the Union Address by President Obama:*

***"It's time we stop treating child care as a side issue, or a women's issue, and treat it like the national economic priority that it is for all of us."***

***--President Obama, from the State of the Union Address, January 20, 2015***

*Dare to dream and aspire for the time when ALL politicians in Canada realize and say this—the reason why our collective work is so important.*

Don Giesbrecht  
CEO/PDG  
Canadian Child Care Federation

### New Early Years Centres coming to B.C. communities

VICTORIA - Families in 14 communities will soon benefit from new BC Early Years Centres, which provide one-stop early learning, health and family services to B.C. families with young children. For more information go to <http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/2015/03/new-early-years-centres-coming-to-bc-communities.html>

### The B.C. Early Childhood Tax Benefit

In 2015, the BC government is introducing the new BC Early Childhood Tax Benefit to improve the affordability of child care and assist families with the cost of raising young children. The BC Early Childhood Tax Benefit, which is part of the Province's [Early Years Strategy](#), is a tax-free monthly payment of up to a maximum of \$55 per month – or \$660 dollars per year – for each child under the age of six. More information [http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/tax\\_benefit.htm](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/tax_benefit.htm)

### IKEA crib mattress (VYSSA) recall

<http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2015/43355r-eng.php>



Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

# Nominate an exceptional educator today!



2015



Prime Minister's Awards  
for Excellence in Early  
Childhood Education

**Nomination  
Deadline:  
April 30, 2015**

**Awards  
worth  
up to  
\$5,000**

[www.pma.gc.ca](http://www.pma.gc.ca)

Canada



**ccrr**  
Child Care  
Resource & Referral

[www.ccr.bc.ca](http://www.ccr.bc.ca)

## Child Care Options



**Chilliwack  
Community  
Services**

[www.comserv.bc.ca](http://www.comserv.bc.ca)

SHARE • GROW • BELONG

[Click here for CCS workshop information](#)

## British Columbia Family Child Care Association



### Our Vision

To promote and create awareness of professionalism in family child care through education and advocacy.

### Our Mission

BC Family Child Care Association is dedicated to providing a vital link for Family Child Care providers on a provincial level to secure funding and support for education and training, as we strive to ensure the highest quality child care and early learning opportunities for children and families in the Province of British Columbia.

### Our Objectives

To develop and facilitate child care training programs that will promote the provision of quality care for young children and their families in British Columbia.

To engage in the training of family child care providers in the operation of home based child care facilities.

To cooperate with agencies involved in the delivery of education, support, resources, referrals, and information related to all quality child care options and programs.

Are you ready to join us and make a difference?

Membership details are available at [www.bcfcca.ca](http://www.bcfcca.ca)

## HELPING struggling children and teens just got easier...



ARE YOU a young person who is struggling with mental health or substance use issues or do you know someone who is?

A NEW ONLINE SERVICE map will help you find the supports and services needed to improve health and wellbeing.

### THE MAP ALLOWS YOU TO:

- ▶ SEARCH for services in your community.
- ▶ FIND an intake clinic.
- ▶ LOOK UP contact information for service providers.
- ▶ ENTER a keyword search to locate the service provider that offers a program to meet your specific needs.



THE MAP provides information on services that are provided directly through the Ministry of Children and Family Development, health authorities and ministry-funded community agencies across the province.

If you require immediate crisis assistance, please dial **310-6789** (no area code is required) to connect to the B.C. mental health crisis line, which operates 24 hours a day. For medical emergencies: **CALL 911**



FINDING CHILD AND YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH OR SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES IS NOW JUST A CLICK AWAY:  
<http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/healthy-minds/cymhsu-servicesmap.html>



## Successful Co-Parenting



Where  
Children's Program Room  
North Vancouver City Library  
120 West 14th Street,  
North Vancouver, BC

When  
Mondays Mar 23-May 4  
Time  
6:30-8:30 pm

+ FREE Program!

- + Learn about the impact of separation/divorce on children.
- + Prioritize what children need from both parents.
- + Choose better ways to communicate with your ex.
- + Manage your own stress and conflict through the transition.

+ There will not be a session on Easter Monday (April 6th).

+ To register, please email [j.waldbillig@westcoastfamily.org](mailto:j.waldbillig@westcoastfamily.org) or please call 604.254.5457 Ext. 241.



BUILDING BLOCKS FOR BETTER LIVES  
Westcoast  
Family Centres

