

West Kootenay Early Years Conference

Connecting... 2014

May 9 - 10, 2014
**Prestige Lakeside Resort &
Convention Centre**
Nelson, BC

early Years
Starting out Right.

Conference Welcome

Greetings from your 2014 Early Years Conference Planning Committee. This year we are pleased to offer you a conference with the theme of "Connecting....." Once the conference committee starting talking about connecting the words that came up were connecting to nature, parents, children, families, community and the list went on. We are confident that the selection of workshops will help to reignite your passion of connecting!

Our goal is to provide you with learning and networking opportunities that will help to strengthen your professional practices. With the important theme of connecting we know that it is the connections in our lives that matter the most. We hope when you come that you will connect with old and new friends.

The conference begins early Friday morning, May 9th with registration and the keynote speaker Rusty Keeler. In addition to workshops, there will be a trade resource fair to peruse both days where local vendors and organizations will be on hand displaying their

On Friday night, you won't want to miss the banquet, entertainment and awards ceremony.

Look for posts on facebook and if you tweet...we will have a twitter feed another way of connecting! See you in May!

The 2014 Conference/Awards Committee:

Aanyta Fahrenbruch, Taya Whitehead, Lorry Mann, Kris Taks, Michelle Pierce, Lynn Proulx, Colleen Pickerell, Samantha Zaytsoff, Kathy Morrish, Sherry Christensen, Sheila Issel and Sonia Tavares.

Keynote Speaker

We are very pleased to welcome Rusty Keeler as our Keynote Speaker

"ADVENTURE + NATURE + PLAY"

Do you believe young children should have wonderful experiences in nature? Yes! Do you believe children should have the opportunity to explore and challenge themselves in natural outdoor environments at their schools or childcare settings? Yes! This keynote will inspire you to think about your own outdoor spaces in new ways and empower you to take simple steps to start creating the outdoor play environment of your (and your children's) dreams. You'll see amazing spaces from around the world that bring all the good stuff to children: trees, grass, sand, water, mud, snow, hills, gardens, living willow huts, cooking fires and more. You've leave excited to "dream big, start small, and never stop" transforming your outdoor spaces into ever-changing, multi-seasonal, natural habitats for children. Yes!



earthplay



Conference Schedule At a Glance

Friday MAY 9

Registration	7:30 a.m. (Breakfast provided)
Opening Ceremonies and Keynote	8:30 - 11:00 a.m.
LUNCH	11:30 a.m - 1:00 p.m.
Workshop Sessions (A)	1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Banquet & Awards Ceremony Entertainment	6:00 p.m.

“It’s the connections in our lives that matter the most!”



Saturday MAY 10

Breakfast/Opening (Continental Breakfast provided) Aboriginal Circle	9:00 a.m.
LUNCH	11:30 a.m - 12:30 p.m
Workshop Sessions (B)	12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Bring your own refillable coffee mug and/or water bottle and receive an additional raffle ticket!

A1 Staying Alert

Cari Julien, Laura Munoz & Michelle Pierce

This workshop will teach early childhood educators, teachers, parents and children how to recognize arousal states as they relate to attention, learning and behaviour. The course is based on the How does your engine run curriculum. You will learn about your own engines and gain an understanding of why knowing your own engine is important in supporting learning and attention with the children in your life. You will learn about new strategies and activities for work and activities you can share with parents to use at home to support self-regulation in children.



A2 Making the Connection: Brain Science and Resiliency in Young Children

Tracey Kikals



This workshop will give participants an overview of the latest research in brain development in young children and strategies for fostering healthy brain development for calmer and happier children. Based on the work of Daniel J Siegel - The Whole Brain Child; parents and caregivers can help children integrate their everyday experiences into meaningful and connected life learning opportunities.



A3 Creating a Culturally Welcoming Environment for Aboriginal Children and Families

Kris Taks

This workshop will include using the medicine wheel to understand how to create a culturally welcoming environment for Aboriginal children and families accessing community service agencies. Participants will gain teachings about the medicine wheel and learn how they can integrate the teachings into their work environment. Participants will also have an opportunity to make a traditional dream catcher for their office/workplace.



A4 Effective Communications: How to manage difficult conversations

Dr Lesley Beatson

When communication is effective there is:

- Increased level of connection and mutual understanding
- Reduced frustration
- Increased quality of work
- Increased quantity of work
- Increased trust and safety
- Increased learning and innovation

In this workshop, participants will learn new skills in communication based on current best practice. These skills and techniques will serve in building the capacity to participate and model effective communication in a variety of situations. Some emphasis will be put on handling angry or aggressive adults. The workshop will involve an interactive presentation, along with interactive exercises in partners and small groups.



“Creativity is the power to connect the seemingly unconnected.” - William Plomer

B1 Moving Learning Outdoors: Nature Kindergarten

Erin Van Stone & Lisa Lockerbie

The Nature Kindergarten program is in its second year of the two year pilot phase and the second group of learners is heading into the forest every day with the kindergarten teacher and early childhood educator. Nature acts as a third teacher as it provides a rich learning environment filled with new and interesting discoveries that are constantly engaging children. It excites and puzzles children and drives them to expand their thinking and challenges their abilities.

This workshop is designed for educators who would like to:

- experience what a morning is like in Nature Kindergarten
- deepen their understanding of inquiry and interest-based learning
- learn ideas about how to spend more time outside with their students
- learn how pedagogical documentation is used in the Nature Kindergarten program and how it can be incorporated into Early Learning programs



“Learning from play and from hands-on experiences, children benefit from being outside. Research has shown that children learn when they are engaged and active!”

B2 Fairy hut and Gnome home building

Rusty Keeler

Using a mix of local natural materials we will make magical places and spaces for fairies, toads, and other little friends that will have you giggling and grinning. Sticks, stones, leaves, pine cones, flowers, seed pods and more will come together in a fun hands-on workshop that will inspire you to use natural materials with young children as a creative way to interact with the beauty of the natural world. Come play!"



*Rusty on
"International
Mud Day!"*

B3 Every Child has Rights

Mira Fahrenbruch & Laura Munoz

Did you know that in 1989, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This important initiative addresses the rights of all children, as indicated in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, "the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth". Come and learn about Children's rights and be apart of the West Kootenay Children's Charter of Rights project. You will leave with activities and many ideas of how to present this to the children in your program.



Remember to bring your own refillable coffee mug and/or water bottle and receive an additional raffle ticket!

Presenter Profiles

Rusty Keeler is an artist, designer, and author who works to inspire and collaborate with communities to create beautiful outdoor environments for children. He has designed and built natural play spaces around the world and is the author of the book *Natural Playscapes: Creating Outdoor Play Environments for the Soul* (Exchange Press: 2008). He is currently helping to lead the new "adventure play renaissance" with his hometown project, the Hands-on-Nature "Anarchy Zone" in Ithaca, NY - a place for free unstructured play with loose parts, natural materials, tools, dirt, climbing trees, and trained professional playworkers.

Tracey Kikals is an Early Learning consultant and has been working with young children and their families for over 20 years. She has been involved in a diverse range of programs focusing on early development, including childcare programs, programs for young parents, family resource programs and parenting education. Tracey is committed to empowering parents to be the best parents they possibly can be and to creating programs for families that are built on community partnerships and foster community connection.

Natalie Lucas is an ECE at Wee Ones and Valhalla Children's Center, participated in Investigating Quality Project and Leadership Institute. As a member of West Kootenay Diversity Group, co-authored a book: *Brilliant A New Place For A Way Of Life* (historical fiction about Doukhobour life in BC).

Dr Lesley Beatson has expertise in organizational behaviour, leadership development, the psychology of motivation and high performance culture. She is seeking to advance teamwork, leadership and organization development by building capacity in individuals and teams.

Mira Fahrenbruch is an ECE who has worked in the Early Childhood sector in New Zealand. Mira shares her experience of writing learning stories (pedagogical narrations) while working at Golden Kids Child Care centre. She brings experience of working with children ages one to five years, creating environments that call for children's investigations and planning Reggio inspired programs that engage the toddler as well as the four year old pre-schooler.

Cari Julien is a pediatric Occupational Therapist that works for Kootenay Kids Society since 2006, with a couple of breaks to have two rambunctious and adventurous boys. She likes to work with an underlying MacGyver philosophy of troubleshooting with one foot supported by education and research and the other using the tools and materials at her reach, with the aid of duct tape, of course. For the last couple of years Cari has been working with colleagues in the West Kootenays to bring to fruition education opportunities about Self-Regulation and Sensory Processing to care providers, parents and the community in general. She is excited that it has finally come to be, with the help of Kootenay Family Place and the West Kootenay Early Years Program.

Kris Taks and I have mixed ancestry that includes Italian, English, Irish, Dutch and Native ancestry from the Nle'kepmx First Nation in the Nicola Valley. In 2008 I completed my BSW Specializing in Indigenous Studies, and in 2012 my MSW Specializing in Leadership. I have been working in Aboriginal communities in the West Kootenay region for the past 7 years.

Laura Munoz graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy. Her professional development has focussed on enhancing her skills and knowledge in the areas of sensory processing, social thinking and autism spectrum disorder. She is also an Integrated Listening Systems practitioner. Prior to moving to the Kootenays, Laura worked in school health services at Thames Valley Children's Centre in London, Ontario. Laura lives in Nelson and provides occupational therapy services to children throughout the West Kootenay and Boundary regions. She is passionate about supporting the children and families that she works with and enjoys connecting with the community to provide education opportunities about Occupational Therapy.

Lisa Lockerbie is currently the teacher for the Nature Kindergarten in the Sooke School District. She has been an elementary classroom teacher for 8 years and has taught in Tache B.C., London England, and in Colwood, B.C. Her professional interests include: exploring nature as a co-teacher, learning through exploration and community building within the classroom. She is currently taking her Masters in Education (Early Learning through Exploration) through SFU. Lisa has a passion for nature and her experiences teaching in a variety of setting have always led her to the great outdoors!

Erin Van Stone is the Early Childhood Educator for the Nature Kindergarten program. She has worked in many early learning settings throughout Victoria, and is currently a fourth year student in the Child and Youth Care program at the University of Victoria. Beyond learning outdoors, Erin's professional interests include creating dynamic learning environments and inquiry based learning.

Michelle Pierce is an Early Childhood Educator who has worked in the Supported Child Development program for the last 7 years. She is currently the Program Manager for the West Kootenay/Boundary Region. She is passionate about supporting children and making changes in classroom environments to introduce strategies to support the whole group. As a Mom of 2 children Michelle has had some first hand experiences with using the Alert program. Michelle likes to offer a hands on workshop with lots of sharing and take home ideas.

Registration Form/Participant Information

Want to avoid paper; register online at

<https://www.regonline.com/2014WKEarlyyearsconference>

Please complete a separate registration for each person attending the conference.



Are you registering as an employee of a member agency of the Kootenay Boundary Community Services Co-operative?

Yes _____ No _____

Are you registering as a student? Yes _____ No _____

Program of study and where _____

Participant Name _____ Number of Years in the field _____

Email Address _____ Employer _____

Address _____ City _____ Postal Code _____

Home Phone number _____ Work Phone Number _____

Do you have any special dietary requirements? _____

Do you have any accessibility needs? _____

Workshop Registration

Space is limited in all workshops. We will do our best to give you your first choices for each session. The earlier you register with payment, the better your chances as we take paid registrations on a first come, first serve basis. You will be informed of which workshops you are assigned to in your confirmation email when payment is received.

Day & Session	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice
Session A, Friday p.m.			
Session B, Saturday p.m.			

Registration Fees

Full Conference Fee (Fri. and Sat.) \$ _____

One Day Conference Fee Friday \$ _____

One Day Conference Fee Saturday \$ _____

Extra Banquet Ticket(s) \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Send registration form and cheque to:

Early Years Office, KBCSC

304-625 Front Street

Nelson, BC V1L 4B6

Conference Registration Fees

20% DISCOUNT: for Kootenay Boundary Community Services Co-operative Member Agency employees (Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services, Boundary Family & Individual Services Society, Castlegar & District Community Services Society, Kootenay Family Place, Kootenay Kids, Kutenai Art Therapy Institute, Nelson CARES Society, Nelson Community Services, North Kootenay Lake Community Services, Salmo Community Resource Society, Trail FAIR Society,, West Kootenay Women's Association). Please enter discount code - *members*

CERTIFICATES FOR PRO-D HOURS: These will be available after the conference. A Sign-Up Sheet will be at the Conference Registration Desk.

STUDENT REGISTRATION: There is a discount for students with a full course load. Please see the chart below. Please enter student discount code - *students*

	Conference Price	(KBCSC member agency employees only)	Student (does not include banquet)
Full Conference (includes Friday, Saturday breakfasts and lunches and Friday night banquet)	\$160	\$128	\$50
Friday Only May 9 (includes breakfast, lunch and Friday night banquet)	\$100	\$80	\$25
Saturday Only May 10 (includes breakfast, lunch and Friday night banquet)	\$100	\$80	\$25
Extra Banquet Ticket	\$40	\$40 (no discount)	\$40

How to Register: Complete the registration form online at <https://www.regonline.com/2014WKEarlyyearsconference> or complete the attached form to this brochure. Cheques to be made payable to Kootenay Boundary Community Services Co-operative. To secure your workshop choices, mail your cheque and completed registration form to: Early Years Conference, KBCSC, 304-625 Front Street, Nelson, BC V1L 4B6 (NOTE: A PAID REGISTRATION IS A CONFIRMATION OF CONFERENCE)

Information: For more information, contact the West Kootenay Early Years Office at 250.352.6786 or 1.866.551.KIDS (5437) or email childrenfirst@thekoop.ca or info@thekoop.ca

Cancellation Policy: Registration fees, less a \$40 administration fee will be refunded up to April 25, 2014. After this date, fees are not refundable.

Where to Stay While at the Conference

Prestige Lakeside Resort & Convention Centre, 701 Lakeside 250.352.7222

Prestige Lakeview Inn, 1301 Front Street 250.352.3595

Best Western Baker Street Inn, 153 Baker Street 250.352.3525

Hume Hotel, 422 Vernon Street 250.352.5331

Mountain Hound Inn, 621 Baker Street 250.352.6490

New Grand Hotel, 616 Vernon Street 250.352.7211

For information on other hotels, motels or how to get to Nelson visit discovernelson.com



**We hope to see you and have you connect
with new friends and old friends!**