

**Children are Learning Pillar Committee**  
**March 10, 2016 – Pathstone Mental Health (3340 Schmon Parkway)**

**Attendees:** Lizabeth Brant, Micki Horton, Laura Martin, Christina McNicoll, Laura Rasmussen, Susan Robbins, Amy Romagnoli, Kelly Wilcox, Karina Armstrong (recorder)  
**Regrets:** Lorrey Arial Bonilla, Kim Cole, Donna Dagleish, Debbie Hamilton, Michelle Knapman, Ashley Short, Jennifer Smith, Gina Spratt

Item	Discussion	Action
<b>Review of Minutes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- February 11, 2016 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved without change.</li> <li>- The Chairs stated that they chose not to mention creating a photo selection committee at the last NCPC Executive Committee meeting because they were already pleased with the ones the Children are Learning table were selecting.</li> </ul>	
<b>Calendar Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- K. Wilcox gave a history of the Learning Pillar, summary of progress leading to today with the calendar. She highlighted the issue of measureable outcomes with the calendar project. The intended goal of the Pillar in 2012 was to have common language in Niagara, which led to the focus of the table today. Children are Learning emphasizes that we are all educators, regardless of title or department. Although there has been so much growth in Niagara in the last 4 years, there is still some disconnect. Not every centre’s learning philosophy has the same structure with teacher-directed learning. The table will continue to discuss how to measure our impact with this calendar and to develop a strategy for feedback.</li> <li>- A. Romagnoli suggested a training kit with different tools inside. The table explored how to make a toolkit a pedagogical game or activity package. The kit could include the glossary of terms, include reflection questions and a survey for supervisors to have their staff complete as part of the training to fulfill the feedback requirement.</li> <li>- C. McNicoll suggested the table identify the barriers to this project being put into practice, and barriers to blending documents with the Children are Learning vision to keep the awareness of the Pillar going. Barriers identified by the table included the issue that some centres have no staff rooms or have shared spaces, some have no staff, and unless a centre leader is meeting with another group, they are not getting that interaction and collaboration to benefit from the toolkit. This resource could be an everyday tool if used well. The table wants to showcase what is going well in Niagara, coming from a place of strength through the photos, glossary, and vision. When the crossword puzzle was released last year, people brought them back to their centres and were using them. It was simple and low cost but it was used.</li> <li>- The table recalled the review of the website presented by L. Rasmussen that was similar to the Pillar’s plan for a calendar, using reflective questions with photos capturing emergent learning. It was suggested that Children are Learning could put the photos with reflective questions on USB sticks with the NCPC logo, attached to a keychain, and the product could be mobile this way, rather than a calendar. The USBs could set up the 4 foundations of How Does Learning Happen, putting materials in separate folders in an organized fashion as the calendar would have done with one thought each month to review. We could insert an option to provide feedback within the USB. The NCPC website could be incorporated.</li> <li>- This product would overcome the barriers identified earlier with a calendar product. The Ministry of Education had done something similar in the past, sending USBs containing its resources. Posters could still be an option for those who do not utilize USBs. We could provide a link to update their documents. A thank you page could be included to recognize people that supported us and list these partners.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The table discussed whether there would be a benefit to putting everything online as well as in the USBs or as an alternative approach. There may be more benefit by providing centres with a physical product with the NCPC logo.</li> <li>- Port Cares had a training program that followed a similar approach, C. McNicoll will look into it and share the process in the future.</li> <li>- The table will look at prices for USBs based on memory (Gigabytes) and types of USBs available (credit card style, pens, standard designs, etc.). 8-16 GB should be plenty to include photos and some videos. We need to look into the option of letting sites copy the documents onto other USBs themselves to save on costs. Fewer USBs would be produced compared to the number of calendars if centres can make their own additional copies. We should keep a contact list and update centres every so often to return to the product and use it. We could include staff meeting ideas and continue to update on Niagara-based themes.</li> <li>- The table discussed how many USBs would be needed for each centre to gauge an order amount. With 5 regional directors, each should receive a USB, and all managers of centres and library system (16), one for each of the 4 Native chapters, and there are 169 centres in Niagara Region, including independent centres. Every school board should have one to share with their kindergarten teachers. We could include a poster with a nice picture to show the Children are Learning vision.</li> <li>- The table brainstormed what should be included in the USB resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o How Does Learning Happen document</li> <li>o College of ECE Code of Ethics documents as full copies, or we can reference it so it is used</li> <li>o A page of links to external resources, including videos</li> <li>o Reflective questions</li> </ul> </li> <li>- This resource needs to be available in French and include imagery of the Indigenous learning community, as well as more pictures outside.</li> <li>- M. Horton stated that this process has to start with a roll out to supervisors. The table discussed offering an information session for the centre leaders before giving them the USB resource. Supervisors could do activities to plan how they will use it, and the sessions should include a pre- and post-survey to get feedback and determine how useful the tool will be. It will give them ownership.</li> <li>- The table discussed the issue of licensing and renewal misconceptions with child care centres. On March 31<sup>st</sup>, ACW will host a community sector forum for the College ECE Code of Ethics. Also, a member portal will be coming this summer for renewing licenses online with the College of ECEs, leaving new membership as the only thing that needs to be a paper copy.</li> <li>- C. McNicoll will look into whether the Child Care Matters Advocacy Through Artwork Workshop received photos and feedback, as an indicator for what Children are Learning can expect for feedback.</li> <li>- The table reviewed infant photos from Niagara Falls Public Library, and L. Martin mentioned that another session could be booked to focus more on face-to-face interaction between parents and children if needed. The discussion from the photos turned to the image of the breastfeeding mother and mothers who wear large wedding rings, creating stigma for young unmarried mothers. The table intends to be more aware of the image their photos portray. The table discussed stigma and misconceptions surrounding breastfeeding, and watched a video for a “Similac” commercial that touches on these issues. <a href="#">Watch Here.</a></li> </ul>	<p>C. McNicoll will look into Port Cares’ training program that followed a similar approach and share the process in the future.</p> <p>All members are asked to research prices for USB sticks based on memory size for next meeting.</p> <p>C. McNicoll will look into whether the Child Care Matters Advocacy Through Artwork Workshop received photos and feedback.</p>

Item	Discussion	Action
<b>Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- L. Martin shared posters for the “Storytime with Patty” event at the MacBain Community Centre. Niagara Falls Transit is offering free passes to get to the event, there will be activities and other features and it is free to families. <a href="#">See Flyer Here.</a></li> <li>- A. Romagnoli announced she will be getting the 2015 EDI data to analyze in future.</li> <li>- M. Horton stated that the new Strive Niagara centre in Welland will be opening soon. Infant mental health work continues.</li> <li>- C. McNicoll announced that the Crystal Beach OEYC centre added another satellite site that will be opened for one morning a week during May and June.</li> <li>- S. Robbins thanked Amy for her mapping work.</li> <li>- L. Rasmussen stated that Children’s Services is looking at after school care. Licensed Child Care Program statement meeting will be rescheduled for April 5.</li> <li>- March 21<sup>st</sup> is the date for the Reflective Emergent Practice Network through ECCDEC. There is no cost to join, and the event is open to all educators.</li> </ul>	
<b>Meeting Dates</b>	<p><b>Unless otherwise stated, all Children are Learning meetings will occur from 9:00am to 11:00am at Pathstone Mental Health.</b></p> <p>Thursday April 14, 2016  Thursday May 12, 2016  Thursday June 9, 2016</p>	



# Kids' CBC

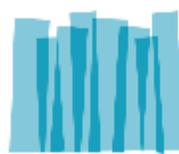
## hosts free event in Niagara Falls

**MacBain Community Centre Library**

**Saturday, March 19th 2016**

**10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

**Enjoy a day full of family fun including crafts, activities, digital zone, meet and greets with Super WHY, story time with Patty and fan-favourite Bookaboo at 10:30 a.m. & 1:15 p.m.**



NIAGARA FALLS  
PUBLIC LIBRARY



**Free transit passes for the event may be picked up at any library location. Compliments of Niagara Falls Transit.**



For more information please visit: [CBC.ca/Parents/events](http://CBC.ca/Parents/events)



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