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A Practice of Relationships – The Role of an Early Learning and Child Care Educator

*“Your role as **co-learner, co-researcher, co-imaginer** of possibilities calls for a playful and seeking spirit, a willingness to participate, persist, and care, even when it is challenging. As well, your role is made more dynamic through imagining, creating, and inventing possibilities.”*
(Makovichuk, L., Hewes, J., Lirette, P., & Thomas, N. (2014))

Educators understand the importance of their role in a child’s learning experiences. The interactions with the Educator and other children create a relationship that supports each child’s individual learning dispositions.

The image of the family is equally important as the image of the child. Educators understand their relationship with families is vital to creating positive environment for the children. When we understand and include family traditions and cultural experiences, we have a deeper understanding of the child and family values. As we work alongside families, memories are created for the educator, the child and family.

“Families, children, and educators create places of vitality together—strong, active, and energetic communities, fostered by educators who engage in a practice of relationships.”
(Makovichuk, L., Hewes, J., Lirette, P., & Thomas, N. (2014))



Growing Together as Professionals



Flight challenges us to look at our role as an educator as that of a co-Learner, a co-Researcher, and a co-Imaginer of Possibilities. The “co” part of these roles acknowledges that we are in partnerships with children, team members, families, and the broader community and work alongside of them.

The Educator as Co-Learner

When we play and learn with children it sends the message that learning is valuable for all. We role model the dispositions to learn – seeking, playing, participating, persisting and caring – in order to strengthen children’s dispositions. As we guide, scaffold, facilitate, and nurture children’s play, we get to understand what they know about the world around them (Makovichuk, Hewes, Lirette, & Thomas, 2014, p. 53). When we are involved as co-learners in play, we are better able to understand what children are learning because we have been fully present.

We are co-learners with families, our teammates, and the wider community when we share knowledge, study, and explore together.

The Educator as Co-Researcher

We assume the role of co-researcher with children when we stimulate inquiry through our questions, provide opportunities to explore, and access resources together to find out more.

We work as co-researchers when we reflect with our teammates about what children are doing and why it is important.

When you document and write learning stories, you act as a co-researcher when you work with others

to articulate the meaning and importance of children’s play. Together you use the dispositions to learn and the holistic goals to make children’s learning and dispositions visible.

When we ask for a family’s response to a learning story or an observation, we are inviting them to act as co-researchers with us to help us more deeply understand what the child knows and how the child learns, plays, and acts at home.

The Educator as Co-Imaginer of Possibilities

In this role, we seek out diverse perspectives to help us solve problems, address issues, and be more creative. We assume this role with children when we seek their input and with teammates when we look at playroom observations and invite multiple ideas for supporting play further. With families, we invite their ideas and perspectives and within our wider communities, we imagine possibilities for practice as we brainstorm together.

Moving Away From a Traditional Teacher Role

A traditional view of the role of the educator is that of a custodial caregiver who looks after a child’s physical needs or a teacher who transmits knowledge to children. Flight encourages us to look at our role as more “...multi-faceted, complex, and dynamic”. (Makovichuk et al., 2014. P. 50)

Reference

Makovichuk, L., Hewes, J., Lirette, P., & Thomas, N. (2014). Flight: Alberta’s early learning and care framework. Retrieved from flightframework.ca

Educator's Birthdays

Ritu G. Saba T.
Adelina C., Dyan E.



March 2021

Educator's Anniversaries

Elzbieta J.- 17 yrs.
Nicole C.-5 yrs.
Radhika P.-5 yrs.



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Parents Fees Due	2	3 Parents: Late fee applies to unpaid childcare fees World Wildlife Day	4	5	6
7	8 International Woman's Day	9	10 Educator payment email sent	11	12	13
14 Daylight Savings Time	15 Educator payment email due BY 9:00a.m.	16	17 St Patrick's Day	18 Educator Workshop See details below	19	20 First Day of Spring
21 International Day of Forests	22	23	24	25	26	27 Earth Hour
28 Palm Sunday Holi	29	30	31	Educator Workshop: A Practice of Relationships – The Role of an Early Learning and Child Care Educator Time: 6:30p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Zoom - Educator Attendance is required.		

Dates to Remember

March 3rd - World Wildlife Day - UN World Wildlife Day celebrates and raises awareness of the world's wild animals and plants.

March 8th - International Woman's Day - Annually on March 8th, thousands of events are held throughout the world to inspire women and celebrate achievements. Ensure that the future for girls is bright, equal, safe and rewarding.

March 14th - Daylight Savings Time - Move clocks forward 1 hour

March 17th - St Patrick's Day - It remembers Saint Patrick, the patron Saint of Ireland. Celebrate by wearing green!

March 18th – Northalta Workshop – Flight Framework – *A Practice of Relationships – The Role of an Early Learning and Child Care Educator*

March 20th – First Day of Spring

March 21st - International Day of Forests- The United Nations' (UN) International Day of Forests promotes the importance of forests and trees in our lives.

March 27th - Earth Hour - WWF's Earth Hour is a simple way to be a part of the climate change solution and show together we can make a difference. Celebrate by turning off your lights from 8:30p.m. to 9:30p.m.

March 28th – Palm Sunday – The Sunday before Easter Sunday and the start of Holy Week for Christians is a feast day commemorating Jesus's entry into Jerusalem on a Donkey (symbolizing peace versus a horse which symbolized war).

March 28th – Holi - A traditional Hindu festival which celebrates the beginning of spring as well as the triumph of good over evil. This spring Hindu festival is also known as the festival of colors or the festival of love



COVID – 19 Update and Reminder - As noted last week, there are updated Covid-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklists (Feb.18, 2021)

- For Adults 18 years and Older
- For Children under 18.

The COVID-19 Guidance for Approved Family Day Homes / Group Family Child Care Programs (November 2020) is still the prevailing guidance document.

While this has been challenging, please ensure you are following the Guidance document which includes:

- Discontinue shared use of items that cannot be cleaned and disinfected.
 - * Individual sensory bins or activities that are not shared between children may be used (play dough labelled for individual child use, small individual water bowl with sensory activities).
- Close all shared sensory tables including water tables, sand tables, shared play dough.
- Ensure mouthed toys are immediately put into a designated bucket to be cleaned and disinfected.

Please visit the Government of Alberta website for more details <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/covid-19-information-guidance-for-approved-family-day-homes-group-family-child-care-programs>

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation.

Holi is a Spring Hindu festival also known as the festival of colors or the festival of love. If you are not familiar with Holi, we encourage you to introduce the children to the festival of colors. For a great variety of activities and crafts to enjoy visit

<https://www.pinterest.ca/pin/462956036676492908/>



Educator Training - There is a variety of on line webinars and workshops for educators to participate in for their professional development.

- Flight Framework MacEwan offers the ECDV 0100 - Exploring Early Childhood Curriculum: Play, Participation and Possibilities course. This free online course is for educators wanting to learn how to use Flight: Alberta's Early Learning and Care Framework to guide their daily practices. Contact MacEwan at pppinfo@macewan.ca
- ARCQE is offering the **Possibilities for Practice (PFP) Learning Series**. The FREE sessions are an overview of the guiding principles of practice pertaining to the Flight Framework. Click here to learn more and register in upcoming sessions <https://arcqe.ca/projects/pp/pfp-learning-series/>
- CCCF (Canadian Child Care Federation) Webinars: <https://cccf-fcsqe.ca/ece-resources/professional-development/online-learning/webinars/>
- Early Childhood Investigations Webinars <https://www.earlychildhoodwebinars.com/>
- Brain Story Certification- The Brain Story is a story about how experiences shape our brains. <https://www.albertafamilywellness.org/what-we-know/the-brain-story>