



EARLY LEARNING *Quality Initiative*

#DiscoverandInspire

Communities of Practice

You may have noticed we have shifted from using the word *network* to using *community of practice* and you might be wondering why.

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the definition of a network is “a usually informally interconnected group or association of persons (such as friends or professional colleagues)”.

[Network Definition & Meaning - Merriam-Webster](#)

The College of Early Childhood Educators defines a community practice for a RECE as “a group of professionals who share a concern or passion about a practice topic and who wish to learn how to improve this area of practice by communicating and collaborating with each other regularly over time.¹ Communities of practice are examples of reflective practice and collaborative inquiry.”

[CPL Resource-Communities-Of-Practice.pdf \(college-ece.ca\)](#) (referenced the work by Etienne Wegner, Richard A. McDermott and William Snyder)

You can see by these definitions how we could use either term to describe the work we do together through many of our ELQI opportunities. As we do more reading and conversing with other professionals in our sector (locally, provincially and even globally), the shift has taken place to use the term *community of practice* to describe what we used to call our networks. As we move forward, you will see we will also be referring to these PD opportunities as a community of practice to align with terminology being used across the early learning sector.

Throughout 2023, you will find there are 3 different Communities of Practice (CoP) you can participate in. You will need to register for each individual monthly session if you are interested in attending; you are welcome to attend all if you wish, but please know you do not have to commit to attending all.

As we continue to move forward with PD opportunities, we will look at offering these Communities of Practice in ways that are accessible to as many of you as possible. This means we are looking at offering a mix of virtual and in-person; this will include some hybrid options when we are in an in-person location that allows us to access the technology to also offer the option to join us virtually.

Keep an eye on our blog (www.elqi.ca) for more information and registration links to be shared for these monthly communities of practice. If you are interested in facilitating/co-facilitating or have a specific topic of interest you would like to see offered, please reach out (rkellet@clth.ca).



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Wellness Community of Practice

This CoP will offer the opportunity for educators and staff to explore topics, materials, resources and practices to support their own wellness.

- January 30-February 3 (Wellness Week #1)
- February 27-March 3 (Wellness Week #2)
- Wednesday, March 22, 2023
- Thursday, April 13, 2023
- Thursday, May 4, 2023
- Tuesday, June 20, 2023
- Tuesday, July 11, 2023
- Wednesday, August 30, 2023
- Tuesday, September 19, 2023
- Thursday, October 26, 2023
- Tuesday, November 14, 2023
- Monday, December 4, 2023

Diversity, Inclusion, Equity, Justice and Accessibility Community of Practice

This CoP will offer monthly opportunities for educators and staff to continue their own learning and understanding of topics related to diversity, inclusion, equity, justice, and accessibility.

- Tuesday, January 24, 2023
- Tuesday, February 21, 2023
- Monday, March 6, 2023
- Tuesday, April 25, 2023
- Monday, May 15, 2023
- Thursday, June 8, 2023
- Wednesday, July 19, 2023
- Monday, August 14, 2023
- Thursday, September 28, 2023
- Tuesday, October 24, 2023
- Wednesday, November 8, 2023
- Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Bridges Out of Poverty Community of Practice

Dawn Barnes will facilitate this monthly gathering to allow educators and staff to learn more about Bridges Out of Poverty. Each month will highlight different information. If you're interested in attending the full Bridges Out of Poverty training, stay tuned for more details to come later in 2023.

- Monday, February 13, 2023 – Overview
- Tuesday, March 14, 2023 – Resources
- Wednesday, April 19, 2023 – Causes of Poverty
- Thursday, May 25, 2023 – Mental Models
- Tuesday, June 6, 2023 – Hidden Rules
- Monday, July 24, 2023 – Language Registers, Voice & Story Structure
- Thursday, August 10, 2023 – Family Structure
- Monday, September 11, 2023 – Relationships
- Tuesday, October 10, 2023 Cognitive & Language Development in Poverty
- Thursday, November 16, 2023 – “Pull yourself up by your bootstraps”
- Wednesday, December 6, 2023 – “Moving Forward”