

**DATE:** October 17, 2024

**TO:** Elementary Principals and Vice-Principals

**FROM:** Jason Alexander, Executive Officer, Human Resource Services and Staff Well-Being

**RE:** **UPDATE: DECEs and Professional Learning**

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*Please share with your School DECEs*

## **Background**

As part of central bargaining, the Designated Early Childhood Educator (DECE) employee group is eligible to access funding to support professional learning through to August 2026. The professional learning, or resources to engage in learning, are directed by the DECE.

## **Professional Learning**

These funds are intended for self-directed, professional learning with examples below, and other options can be proposed for approval by Lisa Kiriakopoulos, Manager Early Years.

- Registration fees for conferences, workshops, courses;
- Pre-approved release time for professional development/learning (e.g., classroom visits, group study/collaboration, conferences, workshops, courses);
- Membership at Affiliated Services for Children and Youth (ASCY); and
- Purchase of books or media for the purpose of professional development/learning.

The Program team has been helpful in putting together some suggested resources for DECE to consider for their professional learning.

- Sound Bites – updated through an equity lens
- Book lists for Literacy, Math, Indigenous Education, Self-Regulation, Play, Inquiry, Documentation, Classroom Management, and Outdoor Education

Request for reimbursement may be up to \$250.00 per person. This amount will be reviewed in the new year with any changes to the amounts communicated at that time.

## **Process**

The process to access funds includes the completion of the Microsoft Forms document, <https://forms.office.com/r/t0FQBpc2pz>. The form is to be completed by the DECE. Details of the funding requests process are included on the form. **Approval is required prior to the expense being incurred.**

## **Questions**

Designate Early Childhood Educators can contact Tamara DuFour, DECE Local President, or Lisa Kiriakopoulos, Manager Early Years, with any questions.

### Professional Resources for Kindergarten Educators

Topic Area	Title of Resource	Author
Indigenous Education	<a href="#">Natural Curiosity</a> : A Resource for Educators	Doug Anderson, Julie Comay & Lorraine Chiarotto
Self-Regulation	<a href="#">Calm, Alert, and Learning</a> Classroom Strategies for Self-Regulation	Stuart Shanker
	<a href="#">Self-Reg</a> : How to Help Your Child (and You) Break the Stress Cycle	Stuart Shanker
Literacy	<a href="#">Strive for Five Conversations</a> : A Framework for Comprehension & Literacy	Tricia Zucker & Sonia Cabell
	<a href="#">Big Words for Young Readers</a> : Teaching Kids in Grades K to 5 to Decode and Understand Words with Multiple Syllables and Morphemes	Heidi Anne Mesmer
	<a href="#">Shifting the Balance K-2</a> : 6 Ways to Bring the Science of Reading into the Balanced Literacy Classroom	Jan Burkins & Kari Yates
	<a href="#">The Literacy 50</a> : Handbook for Teachers	Melissa Loftus & Lori Sappington
	<a href="#">Choosing and Using Decodable Texts</a> Practical Tips and Strategies for Enhancing Phonics Instruction	Wiley Blevins
	<a href="#">The Writing Revolution</a> : A Guide to Advancing Thinking Through Writing in All Subjects and Grades	Judith Hockman & Natalie Wexler
	<a href="#">Reading Above the Fray</a> : Reliable, Research-Based Routines for Developing Decoding Skills	Julia Lindsey
	<a href="#">7 Mighty Moves</a> : Research-Backed, Classroom-Tested Strategies	Lindsay Kemeny

Math	<a href="#">Messy Maths</a> : A playful, outdoor approach for early years	Juliet Robertson
	<a href="#">Beyond 1,2,3</a> : Strengthening Early Mathematics Education	Alexandra Youmans & Lynda Colgan
	<a href="#">Embracing Math</a> : Cultivating a Mindset for Exploring & Learning	Deanna Pecaski McLennan
	<a href="#">Joyful Math</a> : Invitations to Play and Explore in the Early Childhood Classroom	Deanna Pecaski McLennan
Play	<a href="#">The Gift of Playful Learning</a> : A Guide for Educators	Nadia Kenisha Bynoe & Angelique Thompson
	<a href="#">Loose Parts 4</a> : Inspiring 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Learning	Miriam Beloglovsky
	<a href="#">Purposeful Play</a> : A Teacher's Guide to Igniting Deep and Joyful Learning Across the Day	Alison Porcelli, Cheryl Tyler, & Kristine Mraz
Inquiry	<a href="#">From Children's Interests to Children's Thinking</a> : Using a Cycle of Inquiry to Plan Curriculum	Jane Tingle Broderick & Seong Bock Hong
	<a href="#">THINQ Inquiry-based learning</a> in Kindergarten Classrooms	Jill Colyer, Joan Reimer, Deborah Watters & Jennifer Watt
	<a href="#">Inquiry-Based Early Learning Environments</a> : Creating Supporting and Collaborating	Susan Stacey
Partnerships	<a href="#">Building &amp; Enriching Partnerships in Kindergarten</a>	ETFO
Documentation	<a href="#">Pedagogical Documentation</a> in Early Childhood	Susan Stacey
Classroom Management	<a href="#">Beyond Behaviour Management</a> : The Six Life Skills Children Need	Jenna Bilmes

Outdoor Education	<a href="#">The Walking Curriculum</a> for the Early Years	Michelle McKay & Klara Redford
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