

We are very excited to be hosting our third annual **“It Takes a Village”** conference on **April 25, 2020!**

Thanks to the feedback from you and many of your colleagues over the past two years, we are pleased to offer a new format, new presenters, and a merchandise booth. This year, there will be various courses to choose from, but **one cost** for attending the full day of courses (9:00 – 4:30pm). Lunch is included for those who choose the full day option and time has been provided during the lunch hour for mingling with your colleagues. Of course, the option to attend only one or two courses is still available, if you are unable to attend the full day.

To make the selection process as simple as possible, we have suggested “streams” for all the ECEs this year. You will notice on the schedule a list of “Infant/Todder,” “Preschool,” and “All ECEs” options. Please note these are only suggestions, and you are able to attend any courses you feel would be relevant to you.

We are confident we have something to offer **every staff member** in your centre and are excited to be bringing you another great conference with exceptional presenters.

Our goal is to provide a collaborative conference for all childcare staff because, to raise happy, healthy children...

*It Takes a Village*

# It Takes a Village

## A Collaborative Conference for Childcare Educators

- What:** A full day conference with various learning options for Early Childcare Educators
- When:** Saturday, April 25 from 9:00am – 4:30pm
- Where:** Room 4337, NSCC Ivany Campus, 80 Mawioni Place, Dartmouth
- PD Options:** 1 to 5 ½ hours of professional development training available
- Cost:** \$175 for full day (snacks and lunch included) OR  
Prices per individual courses listed below, if not attending full day conference

### **2020 Presenters:**

**Dana Hodgins, M.S., SLP(C)** has been working as a speech-language pathologist since 2004. As a clinician and owner of Words by the Sea Speech & Language Services, Dana's current focus is working with pediatric clients and their families to encourage and enhance overall communication skills. In addition to direct assessment and intervention, Dana has enjoyed presenting on various early intervention topics to ECEs in HRM over the past 8 years.

**Anna Plaskett, BMus, MTA** is the owner of Heartsparks Music Therapy. Anna currently provides music therapy services at Wee Care Developmental Centre, where she has helped to develop a music-assisted physiotherapy program as well as an adapted tai chi and music relaxation program. In her practice, Anna places a special focus on developing each individual's unique potential through creative self-expression, integrating music and movement. Anna released her debut children's album "To the Moon and Back" in 2017.

Nova Scotia authors **Carol McDougall & Shanda LaRamee-Jones** bring together their background in education, literacy and early reading promotion in the creation of Baby Steps, a series of board books specifically developed for baby's first years. Shanda is the Provincial Coordinator for *Read to Me*, Nova Scotia's early literacy program and combines her teaching background and Master's of Literacy to support early reading. She has created early reading resources for parents that are used in early literacy programs across Canada. Carol McDougall is a writer and editor who has worked in the field of children's literature for over 40 years as children's librarian with the Toronto Public Library, librarian for the Canadian Children's Book Centre and founding Director of *Read to Me*.

**Michael Silvester** is a Professional Chef with over 25 years of experience. He has worked in 5-star hotels, award winning restaurants, universities, food banks and many other food service operations. He holds his Red Seal Certification as well as Advanced Food Safety Trainer Certification. Mike spent several years teaching cooking to many different levels of culinary students and he ran Feed Nova Scotia's Learning Kitchen program. He is an active volunteer and has a huge passion for encouraging children to eat well and try new foods.

# It Takes a Village

## **2020 Presenters Continued:**

**Jane Caudle** has over 17 years of experience in the Human Resources field and is currently responsible for the strategic development of the Cherubini Group of Companies. Prior to working in her current role, Jane was a General Manager at a Home Health Care Company in Florida which primarily took care of children with catastrophic health care ailments. Her time with this organization was a driving factor in Jane's deep interest for early education and the care of our young children.

## **Schedule:**

	<b>Stream 1: Infant &amp; Toddler ECEs</b>	<b>Stream 2: Preschool ECEs</b>	<b>Stream 3: All ECEs</b>
<b>8:45 to 9:00am</b>	Registration	Registration	Registration
<b>9:00 to 10:00am</b>	Baby Steps to Reading: Selecting books for every age and stage from birth to 36 months (Carol MacDougall & Shanda LaRamee-Jones)	Music in Early Childhood Settings: Using Music to Promote Positive and Meaningful Interactions with Preschoolers (Anna Plaskett)	Morning with Chef Mike: Learn the Basics of Food Safety and Cooking for Young Kids (Michael Silvester)
<b>10:00 – 11:00am</b>	Bilingualism & Language Development: How to Encourage a Language Rich Environment in the Early Childhood Classroom (Dana Hodgins)	Music in Early Childhood Settings (CONTINUED)	Morning with Chef Mike (CONTINUED)
<b>11:30 - 12:30</b>	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
<b>12:45 to 2:45pm</b>	Music in Early Childhood Settings: Using Music to Promote Positive and Meaningful Interactions with Infants & Toddlers (Anna Plaskett)	Once Upon a Time: Encouraging Language through Pretend Play with Preschoolers (Dana Hodgins)	Respectful Workplaces: How to Create a Respectful Workplace Culture & Foster Positive Working Relationships (Jane Caudle)
<b>3:00 – 4:30pm</b>	Music, Play & Books: Putting it all together to foster language development in infants, toddlers and preschoolers (Dana Hodgins)	Music, Play & Books: Putting it all together to foster language development in infants, toddlers and preschoolers (Dana Hodgins)	Difficult Conversations: Improving Communication (Jane Caudle)

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE: Streams are suggestions only. ECEs can choose to attend any of the courses.\*\***

# It Takes a Village

## Course Description & Costs

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE: Costs listed below are only if you are NOT attending the full day conference. Full day cost is \$175 (snacks & lunch included). \*\***

### **Baby Steps to Reading: Selecting books for every age and stage from birth to 36 months 9:00 – 10:00 am**

Reading begins at birth, and from day one babies are building a foundation of pre-reading skills that will nurture talking, reading and writing in later years. The early years are a time of constant change and development where new skills are measured in months not years. Guiding early childhood educators to books that align with babies key learning stages will help support that developmental growth. Using books from the Baby Steps series, Carol and Shanda will explain how books support key developmental milestones in the early years.

**Cost: \$37.50/participant**

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### **Bilingualism & Language Development: How to Encourage a Language Rich Environment in the Early Childhood Classroom 10:00 – 11:00am**

Children who are being raised bilingual are fortunate to be learning two languages at the same time. One of the questions often raised by ECEs is how can we support these children and their families in the early years? Taught by Dana Hodgins, this course is designed for ECEs working with infants and toddlers. Information regarding typical bilingual development, everyday tips for families, and suggestions for classroom activities to encourage a language rich environment will be provided in this one-hour session.

**Cost: \$37.50/participant**

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### **Music in Early Childhood Settings: Using Music to Promote Positive and Meaningful Interactions with Preschoolers 9:00 – 11:00am**

This course will explore ways to use music to promote positive and meaningful social interaction, self-expression, movement, and relaxation in the Early Childhood Education setting in the preschool classrooms. Taught by Anna Plaskett, Music Therapist, this course will include practical tips for adapting musical activities to support children with disabilities. No previous musical training required.

**Cost: \$75/participant**

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# *It Takes a Village*

## **Morning with Chef Mike: Learn the Basics of Food Safety and Cooking for Young Kids 9:00 – 11:00am**

Are you interested in learning more about food safety from an experienced chef and advanced food safety instructor in a hands-on, interactive format? Do you want to know the best way to minimize food cost and labour while preparing meals that are healthy, wholesome and fun for kids? Chef Mike has a plan to reduce your anxiety in the kitchen and help build confidence in developing daily menus and food safety practices. This is your opportunity to learn and ask questions that will help you run your kitchens. There will be food preparation demos, delicious samples and recipes and helpful resources for you to take with you.

**Cost: \$75/participant**

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## **Music in Early Childhood Settings: Using Music to Promote Positive and Meaningful Interactions with Infants & Toddlers 12:45 – 2:45pm**

This course will explore ways to use music to promote positive and meaningful social interaction, self-expression, movement, and relaxation in the Early Childhood Education setting in the infant and toddlers classrooms. Taught by Anna Plaskett, Music Therapist, this course will include practical tips for adapting musical activities to support children with disabilities. No previous musical training required.

**Cost: \$75/participant**

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## **Once Upon a Time: Encouraging Language through Pretend Play with Preschoolers 12:45 – 2:45pm**

Typically developing children begin engaging in pretend play around 18 months of age and by the preschool years, they are well versed in the land of make believe. When children engage in pretend play, they are learning and developing very important language and cognitive skills. Taught by Dana Hodgins, this course is developed for ECEs working with children ages 3 – 5 years. By the end of the course, participants will gain a better understanding of the significance of play in the preschool years, how they can facilitate pretend play in the classroom, and how they can encourage parents to engage in play at home with their children.

**Cost: \$75/participant**

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# *It Takes a Village*

## **Respectful Workplaces: How to Create a Respectful Workplace Culture & Foster Positive Working Relationships**

**12:45 – 2:45pm**

Respectful Workplaces is a current hot topic in the People Services/Human Resources world. Whatever your role in your organization, you have the ability to affect positive change to improve respect in your workplace. Taught by Jane Caudle, this course is designed to help you understand how to assist in creating a respectful workplace culture and how to navigate situations where others are not so respectful. A respectful workplace is a workplace free of harassment and discrimination, a place where differences are valued, expectations are clear, employees are treated fairly and ideas are shared openly.

**Cost: \$75/participant**

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## **Music, Play & Books: Putting it all together to foster language development in infants, toddlers and preschoolers**

**3:00 – 4:30pm**

Incorporating music, play and books into everyday activities is a fun way to encourage language development with all children. Taught by Dana Hodgins, this hands-on session will get ECEs moving and practicing various strategies which can be used in the classroom.

**Cost: \$75/participant**

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## **Difficult Conversations: Improving Communication**

**3:00 – 4:30pm**

Taught by Jane Caudle, this course will help guide you through your daily difficult conversations with all of the individuals you are involved with in your centre. Between colleagues, directors, owners, and parents, the children are probably the easiest part of your day. We will discuss positive ways to communicate that will get you the results you are hoping for, which benefits your most important clients: the children.

**Cost: \$75/participant**

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# It Takes a Village

## Registration

Enrollment is limited! Registration deadline is **Friday, April 10, 2020**. Registrations are processed on a first come, first-served basis and are not guaranteed until full payment has been received.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Childcare Centre: \_\_\_\_\_

I will be attending the following sessions (please check each session you plan to attend):

- ☐ 9:00 – 10:00 **Baby Steps to Reading: Selecting books for every stage and age from Birth to 36 months**
- ☐ 10:00 – 11:00 **Bilingualism & Language Development: How to Encourage a Language Rich Environment in the Early Childhood Classroom**
- ☐ 9:00 – 11:00 **Music in Early Childhood Settings: Using Music to Promote Positive and Meaningful Interactions with Preschoolers**
- ☐ 9:00 – 11:00 **Morning with Chef Mike: Learn the Basics of Food Safety and Cooking for Young Kids**
- ☐ 12:45 – 2:45 **Music in Early Childhood Settings: Using Music to Promote Positive and Meaningful Interactions with Infants & Toddlers**
- ☐ 12:45 – 2:45 **Once Upon a Time: Encouraging Language through Pretend Play with Preschoolers**
- ☐ 12:45 – 2:45 **Respectful Workplaces: How to Create a Respectful Workplace Culture & Foster Positive Working Relationships**
- ☐ 3:00 – 4:30 **Music, Play & Books: Putting it all together to foster language development in infants, toddlers and preschoolers**
- ☐ 3:00 – 4:30 **Difficult Conversations: Improving Communication**

**TOTAL COST:** \$175 for full day registration (snacks & lunch included).  
If not registering for full day, registration total for courses: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# It Takes a Village

**Cancellation Policy:** 75% of registration fee will be refunded if written notification of cancellation is received and a substitute can be found. No refund or credit will be issued if a substitute cannot be found. A refund will be issued after the course is completed.

**Questions?** Please contact Words by the Sea Speech & Language Services at (902) 465-3230 or [wordsbythesea@outlook.com](mailto:wordsbythesea@outlook.com).

**\*Please complete and return this form, along with cheque to:**

Words by the Sea Speech & Language Services  
245 Pleasant St., Dartmouth, NS B2Y 3R9

**\*\*Prefer to pay by e-transfer?** Please complete and return this form,  
along with payment to: [wordsbythesea@outlook.com](mailto:wordsbythesea@outlook.com)

**\*\*\*Prefer to pay by credit card?** Please complete and return this form and  
contact (902) 465-3230 with payment information

