



ELSA Child Care Connections Bulletin

Learning about Canada for Newcomer Children in the ECE Classroom

Summer Issue, July 2011

Welcome to ELSA Child Care Connections.

ELSA Child Care Connections is a communication bulletin recognizing Early Childhood Educators and welcoming Newcomer Children and their Families to Canada.

Please check out our website www.elsanet.org for current updates and ECE resources.

Upcoming Conference:

ELSA Conference on October 17, 2011 at the Vancouver Convention Centre



Email Naznin Dhanani ECE Resource Coordinator at ece@elsanet.org for information on early childhood resources.

Quote

“Cultural differences should not separate us from each other, but rather cultural diversity brings a collective strength that can benefit all humanity”.

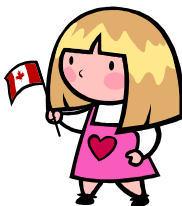
—Robert Alan

How to introduce “Learning about Canada” to newcomer children in the ECE Classroom:



Here are some simple activities:

- Posting a Canada Map
- Have a Parade
- Sing “O Canada”
- Make Book Marks, Flags or Banners
- Make Canada Flag Cookies
- Help children make art drawings for a senior
- Create a parent poster board representing each family with materials and objects from their country



These above activities will support newcomer children learn about their new country and create a sense of belonging. These activities will also provide an introduction to learning about Canada.

Children’s Books on Canada available from your local library:

- ABC Canada
- Canada 123
- Canada in Colors



Written by Kim Bellefontaine & Per-Henrik Gurth

New Resource:

“New in Canada” printable CD parenting support series on safety by CMAS:

- Dressing for Winter
- Fire Safety
- Home Safety
- Street Safety
- Swimming Safety
- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome



To order your CD email info@cmascanada.ca



Activities to Embrace Canada

One way to embrace Canada is through encouraging diversity and multiculturalism.

Create a Canada Passport:

Materials:

Paper (white/color)
Camera
Markers
Stapler
Multicultural props

Activity:

1. Take photos of children with props from their own country.
2. Take sheets of white or color paper (let the child choose) and fold it in half and staple to make a passport book.
3. With the child you can design the main page of the passport book with the Canada Flag and the child's name.
4. Inside the passport book you can place the child's photo and a description as to what country the child is from.



5. Involve the child in use of the passport by discussing the child's country of origin.

Example: Pointing on the map where they were born.

6. Discuss with the child where they live presently. Example: Showing the flag and where Canada is on the map.

This project can be extended through activities in early learning centres. Example: In the dramatic centre you could add props of transportation where children could pretend to go on a trip and has to show their passport. This will be a small step towards introducing 'the world as a community'.



Song:

The Provinces of Canada Are Fun to Remember

(Sung to the tune of Mary had a Little Lamb)

The provinces of Canada are
fun to remember,
fun to remember, fun to remember,
The provinces of Canada are
fun to remember and this
is how they go...

Newfoundland and PEI, Nova Scotia
and New Brunswick,
Quebec, Ontario, from there you'll
see Manitoba, Saskatchewan,
Alberta and BC.

By Mama Lisa's World

www.mamalisa.com

Songs in different languages

Building Trust through Routines & Transitions

Children need to feel safe and secure in order to be able to learn. One way we can support newcomer children is by continuously communicating with them what will happen next in the program. Example: Having the daily routine displayed with photographs that indicate circle time, snack time, play time, home time. Why? This helps children learn and identify what is happening next.

Harvard Research

"New scientific research shows that environmental influences can actually affect whether and how genes are expressed." Thus, the old ideas that genes are "set in stone" or that they alone determine development have been disproven. In fact, scientists have discovered that early experiences can determine how genes are

turned on and off and even whether some are expressed at all"

www.developingchild.harvard.edu

New Resource:

Families all Matter: Early Childhood Anti-Bias Curriculum to teach caring communities in preschool programs.

www.amazeworks.org