

From the Field: Introduction to Papers Written by Early Childhood Educators

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In the summer of 2009, the Master in Education program (MEd) at UPEI offered a course entitled Review of the Research, Trends, and Issues in Early Childhood. A group of graduate and undergraduate students enrolled in this course and, as part of their completed coursework, wrote a series of papers related to different areas of interest in the early childhood field. Five of the papers were written by students who were also experienced early childhood educators.

The Research in Early Childhood Development (RECD) team values the significance of these papers, considering it crucial that they are shared with a wider community. The well-being of Prince Edward Island's (PEI) youngest generation is the focus of the educators' writing. Their topics, which are quite diverse, are rooted in the specific areas of interest and experiences within this group of educators. Their concerns, histories, and expectations are presented with the aim of improving and challenging current early childhood practices, frameworks, and beliefs.

These five papers are:

- 1) Doing it Right!. The Changing Landscape of Kindergarten in PEI by Carolyn Simpson
- 2) Healthy Eating in Early Childhood Settings by Lynn Hogan
- 3) Moving Beyond the Chaos in the Prince Edward Island Early Childhood Structure by Sonya M. Corrigan
- 4) The Folding and Unfolding of Play by Brenda Goodine
- 5) The Use of Worksheets in Early Childhood Mathematics Education by Gabriela Arias de Sanchez

Each of these papers recognizes and claims the value of early childhood for our society, and acknowledges the crucial role early childhood education plays in the development of young children and their families across PEI. These papers can also be read individually through PEI Child (<http://www.peichild.ca>). The RECD team appreciates and thanks the authors of these papers for allowing them to be shared with a wider audience and the PEI community.