



# PROFESSIONAL LEARNING BROCHURE

January - May 2025

**Hamilton**

CELEBRATING

**ASCY**

Affiliated Services for  
Children & Youth

30 YEARS

# PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE LIBRARY

Monday

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Tuesday

8:30 AM - 8:00 PM

Wednesday

8:30 AM - 8:00 PM

Thursday

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Friday

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Closed all stat holidays



**526 Upper Paradise Road  
Hamilton, ON L9C 5E3**

**Phone:** 905-574-6017

**Email:** [library@ascy.ca](mailto:library@ascy.ca)



Like and follow us on social media to stay up to date with professional learning opportunities, new resources, podcasts, etc.



**ASCY** | Affiliated Services  
for Children & Youth



### OUR VALUES

**Trust and Respect:**  
Building a foundation based on appreciation, understanding and acceptance.

**Relationships:**  
Creating communities by strengthening collaborations.

**Continuous Learning:**  
Embracing ongoing exploration, growth and adaptability.

**Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging:**  
Cultivating an environment where all voices are listened to and valued.

## Join Us for Our 30th Anniversary Open House Celebration!

We're thrilled to invite you to a special event marking 30 years of making a difference in our community! Come celebrate this milestone with us at our **30th Anniversary Open House**.

 Date: June 19, 2025

 Time: 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

 Location: 526 Upper Paradise Road, Unit A, Hamilton, ON

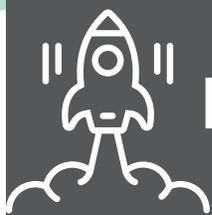
This is a wonderful opportunity to:

- Explore our history and impact over three decades.
- Connect with staff and community members.
- Enjoy light refreshments and activities.
- Learn about our future plans and how you can get involved.

We wouldn't have reached this milestone without your support. Let's celebrate the past, present, and future together!

We can't wait to see you there!





# Launching Into Literacy

Join us during the month of January as we “Launch Into Literacy” in the Professional Resource Library. How can you participate?

Each week in January, visit the ASCY Resource Library during regular hours for interactive literacy activities, displays, and giveaways promoting the importance of literacy for our youngest learners. Check out our ASCY social media posts for more literacy related information in the month of January. Participate in the Story Stretcher Challenge by submitting photos of your favourite classroom book and the props you are using to extend the story, for a chance to win a prize.

**January 6-10:** Dramatic Play and Puppets

**January 13-17:** Making Your Mark

**January 20-24:** Many Ways to Tell a Story

**January 22:** Literacy Open House  
2:00PM - 7:30PM

**January 27-31:** Family Literacy Week

**January 27:** Family Literacy Day



# The 16th NAREA Winter Conference

March 20–22, 2025 | Hamilton, Ontario



## Registration:

Register online at [www.reggioalliance.org/winter-conference](http://www.reggioalliance.org/winter-conference)

### Cost – Early Bird Rate by February 6

CA Residents: \$425 US Funds (member) or \$525 US Funds (non-member)

### Cost – Regular Rate after February 6

CA Residents: \$525 US Funds (member) or \$625 US Funds (non-member)

## Featured Speakers:

Educators from Reggio Emilia, Italy

## Location:

Carmen's Event Centre, 1520 Stone Church Road E., Hamilton

## Hosted By:

Affiliated Services for Children and Youth and the City of Hamilton



## NORTH AMERICAN REGGIO EMILIA ALLIANCE (NAREA) EXHIBIT AND ATELIER 2025

### “Bordercrossings: Encounters with Living Things and Digital Landscapes”

ASCY together with the City of Hamilton Early Years Division, is thrilled to be hosting the NAREA and Reggio Children exhibit entitled: “Bordercrossings: Encounters with Living Things and Digital Landscapes”. The exhibit will be housed in Hamilton at the Hamilton Italian Centre from February to July 2025. The exhibition is a collection of works by the children and adults of the municipal infant-toddler centers and preschools of Reggio Emilia. The exhibition is accompanied by an atelier for investigation and experimentation, appointed with technological tools, instruments and organic materials. Combining the exhibition with an atelier is an interactive strategy that expresses theory and practice of the educational experience. More details to follow on the hours of the exhibit and the exciting professional learning opportunities that will be offered throughout the duration of the exhibition while in Hamilton. Looking forward to seeing you all at the exhibit!

# PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



## Learning Community

Learning Communities are designed to support educators in various areas, with participants playing an active role in shaping the topics and ideas discussed. These communities provide colleagues with opportunities to share and exchange practices, resources, and insights.

## Community of Practice

A Community of Practice brings educators together to collaborate, learn, and develop strategies to deepen their understanding or advance a shared passion, both as a group and in their individual daily practices. The work of a community of practice reflects the voices and perspectives of all its members.

## General Professional Learning

General professional learning is offered in a variety of ways such as one-day events, symposiums, workshops, or multi-session trainings.



## COMMUNAUTÉ D'APPRENTISSAGE PROFESSIONNEL FRANCOPHONE

**Date:** le 9 Janvier, 6 Février, 3 Avril, 8 Mai, 2025

**Location:** Virtuelle

**Time:** 18h30 - 20h00

**Description:** Dans cette communauté de pratique, les éducateurs francophones se réunissent pour discuter, apprendre et élaborer des stratégies pour mieux comprendre notre pratique quotidienne.

**Facilitator:** Nancy Baverstock

## SUPERVISORS PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY

**Dates:** January 15, February 12, April 9, May 14, 2025

**Location:** Hamilton Child and Family Support, 26 Arrowsmith Road, Hamilton

**Date:** March 5, 2025

**Location:** Hamilton Italian Centre, 420 Crerar Drive, Hamilton

**Time:** 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM

**Description:** An email will go out a week prior with the agenda. SPLC will continue to respond to our members' needs and interests on a monthly basis. This learning community is for supervisors in the City of Hamilton.

**Facilitators:** Nancy Baverstock, Leslie Busija

## SCHOOL AGE WINTER SYMPOSIUM - SPACES STILL AVAILABLE

**Date:** Friday January 17, 2025

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Location:** Hamilton Family & Child Supports Auditorium, 26 Arrowsmith Rd., Hamilton

**Description:** Participants will take part in a two hour interactive learning experience, packed with practical ideas for winter camp activities. We're excited for hands-on exploration, creativity, and a collection of winter themed resources to enrich your seasonal programs.



## LICENSED HOME CHILD CARE CONNECTION CORNER

**Dates:** January 20, February 24, April 14, May 26, 2025

**Location:** Virtual

**Time:** 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**Description:** This professional learning community is the opportunity for licensed home childcare providers to gather virtually and connect with their peers to discuss topics relevant to their day to day work in their homes.

**Facilitator:** Nancy Baverstock

## TODDLER INFANT PRESCHOOL LEARNING COMMUNITY

**Dates:** January 21, April 22, 2025

**Location:** ASCY PRL, 526 Upper Paradise Rd., Hamilton

**Time:** 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

**Description:** This learning community is intended for infant, toddler, and preschool educators who are interested in discussion about their practice. Conversations can include relevant trends like environments, relationships, pedagogical documentation, equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging (EDIB), etc.

**Facilitators:** Shari Bell, Charlotte Edwards

## Site Visit BGC Bernie Morelli EarlyON

**Date:** January 28, 2025

**Time:** 6:30PM - 8:00 PM

**Location:** Bernie Morelli Recreation Centre, 876 Cannon St E Room 213, Hamilton

**Description:** Join us for a tour of the EarlyON program, where you'll have the opportunity to speak with educators about how they plan and facilitate programs that foster meaningful parent-child interactions.

## LEADERSHIP FOUNDATIONS

**Dates:** January 29, March 26, 2025

**Location:** Virtual

**Time:** 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

**Description:** This virtual learning community is for current or aspiring Program Leads, Designates, Supervisors, Assistants, or leaders in training for succession planning. This is an opportunity to network with others engaged in the on-going journey of leadership. A Learning Community is a safe environment of critical inquiry where leaders can share successes and challenges, co-construct knowledge, and reflect on assumptions and beliefs. The dialogue will be guided by a professional learning and mentoring process as set out in Stepping Side by Side; a resource developed by ASCY to support on-boarding and mentoring. Through this process we aim to support leaders in making clear connections for educators to our guiding documents including "How Does Learning Happen?: Ontario's pedagogy for learning through relationships", and the CECE Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice.

**Facilitators:** Tracey Webster, Shari Bell



## RIRO

**Dates:** Begins January 29 and runs every Wednesday until March 5, 2025

**Time:** 6:15 PM - 8:45 PM

**Location:** Virtual

**Description:** Designed to reach young children under the age of eight years, Reaching IN...Reaching OUT<sup>™</sup> (RIRO) Resiliency Skills Training Programme works by laying a strong foundation of thinking and coping skills that support resilience in the adults who care for and work with them. RIRO teaches "3Rs of Resilience"– skills to help Relax, Reflect, and Respond effectively to life's challenges. RIRO Resiliency Skills Training Programme gives childcare and early learning staff and service providers skills and theory to support a relationship based reflective practice and provides a framework for creating a "culture of resilience" in programs serving young children.

**Facilitators:** Amanda Karr, Negin Zarifian

## PEDAGOGICAL LEADERSHIP LEARNING COMMUNITY

**Dates:** January 30, February 20, April 10, May 15, 2025

**Location:** ASCY PRL, 526 Upper Paradise Rd., Hamilton

**Time:** 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

**Description:** This PLC is supportive to educators, leaders, and mentors who aspire to dig deeper into the pedagogical practices in early childhood education programs.

*"As pedagogical leaders we keep company with educators as they find their way into new understandings of their work-not teaching them what they ought to do or directing their journey, but standing at their side, with provocative questions and generous listening." (Pelo, 2018, p.75)*

**Facilitators:** Nancy Baverstock, Camila Casas Hernandez

## REGGIO INSPIRED LEARNING COMMUNITY

**Dates:** February 11, March 4, April 8, May 6, 2025

**Location:** Hamilton Italian Centre, 420 Crerar Drive

**Time:** 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

**Description:** The educators of Reggio Emilia, Italy have inspired early childhood educators world-wide with their philosophy and approach to education. Please join us as we explore the Reggio approach and how it aligns with our own early learning context.

**Facilitators:** Kim Burns, Leslie Busija

## COOKS COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

**Date:** February 19, 2025

**Location:** Virtual

**Time:** 2:30PM - 3:30PM

**Description:** Come and join us virtually for our winter session of the Cook's Community of Practice. We will be joined by City of Hamilton Registered Dietician Lindsay Zalot who will be sharing and reviewing the "Paint Your Plate" resource that is available through the Ontario Dietitians and Public Health web page. This resource is intended to support children in eating vegetables and fruit and includes: information on responsive feeding practices, activities, menu planning and recipes, and support and engagement with families.

**Facilitator:** Charlotte Edwards, Elyse Codispodi



## MR. ECE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

**Dates:** February 19, April 16, 2025

**Location:** Virtual

**Date:** June 18, 2025

**Location:** TBD

**Time:** 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

**Description:** The men who have been meeting have enjoyed their time together and came up with a new name to represent their group. Please join us for a community of practice for those who identify as male to come together and share their experience in the field. It will be a safe space to share ideas, challenges, and barriers, as well as work together to come up with possible strategies to help support gender diversity in the field.

**Facilitators:** Jeff Bushell, Nicole Colterman

## SCHOOL AGE LEARNING COMMUNITY

**Dates:** February 25, April 22, May 27, 2025

**Location:** Virtual

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

**Description:** This opportunity is suited for those educators working in before and after school programs or with school aged children. This learning community provides a safe environment for critical inquiry where educators can share their successes and challenges, co-construct knowledge, and reflect on their role as an educator and their engagement with children and families in the program. The dialogue will be guided by the experiences and interests of the group. Discussions will be relevant to the trends in school age programs such as self-regulation, relationships, shared spaces, programming, environments, etc.

**Facilitators:** Nicole Colterman, Diane Medeiros

## NATURE INSPIRED NETWORK

**Date:** March 26, April 23, May 21, 2025

**Location:** TBD

**Time:** 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

**Description:** This community of practice will explore the possibilities of embracing outdoor environments while inviting nature into our indoor spaces. Engage in this new and dynamic CoP which will provide opportunities to network with our community by offering some of our sessions at locations that will inspire and ignite our passions for the outdoors. This learning opportunity has been created with educators in mind who want to further explore and invite these concepts into their environments and teaching practices. We will also investigate the benefits of using Horticultural Therapy with young children.

**Facilitators:** Negin Zarifian, Kayla Davies



## INTRODUCTION TO SIGNED ENGLISH

**Dates:** Begins March 26 and runs every Wednesday until May 7, 2025

**Time:** 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

**Location:** ASCY PRL, 526 Upper Paradise Rd, Hamilton

**Description:** Space is limited and will be allocated on a first-come/first-served basis. This six-week introductory course introduces a basic 250-word sign-vocabulary geared to the preschool population. **Book: Signing: Signed English: A Basic Guide**

**Facilitator:** Juliana Ellement

HAMILTON ECE COMMUNITY WILL ONLY BE CHARGED THE COST OF THE BOOK (IF NEEDED) \$30

## STANDARD FIRST AID

**Date: Saturday April 5, 2025**

Registration Deadline: March 20, 2025

**Date: Saturday June 14, 2025**

Registration Deadline: May 29, 2025

**Time:** 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

**Location:** ASCY PRL, 526 Upper Paradise Rd., Hamilton

**Cost:** \$125 per participant

ASCY has again arranged for a training partner, **SOS First Aid and Safety Training**, to provide the blended model of SFA. This training model is done partially online and partially onsite at ASCY on the dates and times listed. It is open to Child Care and Early Years educators and staff and Licensed Home Child Care providers/staff who work in Hamilton only.

## MONTESSORI INSPIRED COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

**Date:** April 9, 2025

**Location:** Hamilton Italian Centre, 420 Crerar Drive

**Time:** 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

**Description:** Join us as we examine Montessori and its connections to the Reggio Emilia approach. Together, we'll examine how these philosophies overlap in their emphasis on the child as a capable, curious, and active participant in their learning journey. Through collaborative discussions and practical examples, we'll unpack how both approaches align with Ontario's "How Does Learning Happen?" supporting well-being, engagement, expression, and belonging in early education. This session is open to all interested in learning more about Montessori or those already working in Montessori schools.

**Facilitator:** Charlotte Edwards

## EXPLORING ALLYSHIP LEARNING COMMUNITY

**Dates:** April 24, May 29, June 26, 2025

**Location:** ASCY PRL, 526 Upper Paradise Rd., Hamilton

**Time:** 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

**Description:** This interactive learning community seeks to explore allyship through the lens of Truth and Reconciliation, brave conversations about Canada's true history, and the implications this history has left behind.

**Facilitators:** Kim Burns, Amanda Karr



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## Episode 45: A Conversation with Janet Nezon About Finding Joy in Food

In this episode, part of our series highlighting presenters from the May 2024 Embracing The Early Years Professional Learning Day, ASCY's Nancy Baverstock and Leslie Busija engage in a conversation with Janet Nezon, the founder of Rainbow Plate. Janet shares her expertise on understanding children's eating habits and how mealtimes can create a sense of belonging. She offers valuable tips for addressing food preferences and discusses the importance of balancing nutrition with fun and enjoyment during mealtimes in early childhood settings.

[Listen Now](#)

# ASCY Resources Online

To continue your current membership or activate a new one, please sign up for your online account.



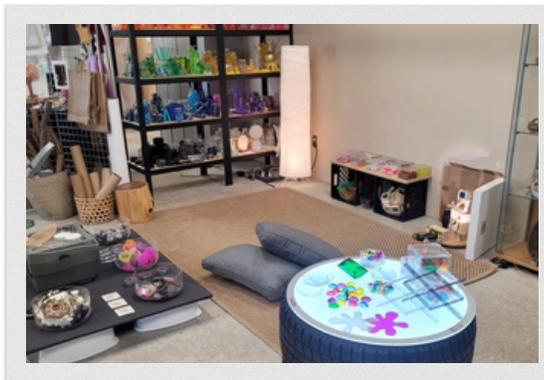
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## The ASCY Materials Collaborative Studio

26 Arrowsmith Rd., Hamilton



If your team would like to visit or re-visit the Studio, please contact your ASCY Professional Learning Consultant.