

PROMoting Early Childhood Outside (PRO-ECO): *A program to support outdoor play in child care centres*

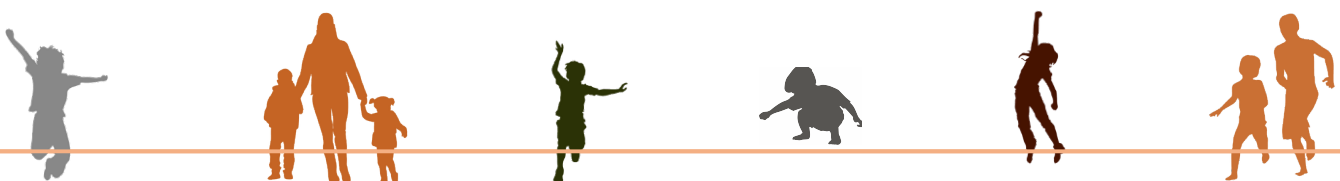
Find out more at
PROECO@bcchr.ca
<https://PlayOutsideUBC.ca/pro-eco-2/>

Spending time outside and at play is fundamental for children's physical, social, emotional and intellectual development, and for children to learn about their reciprocal relationship with nature, other creatures and natural elements.

The PROMoting Early Childhood Outside (PRO-ECO) program is seeking partnerships with child care centres offering full-time care for children aged 3-5 years. Together we hope to co-create locally guided and sustainable methods for supporting outdoor play. Research from this program will seek to understand how children's time and variety of outdoor play evolve throughout the program and follows [OCAP principles. \(https://fnigc.ca/ocap-training/\)](https://fnigc.ca/ocap-training/)

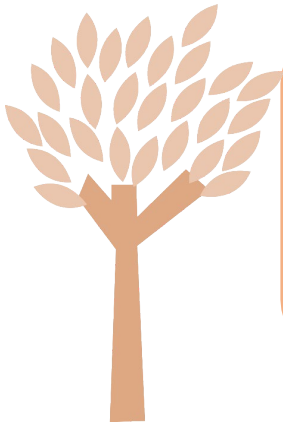
The PRO-ECO supportive program includes four branches:

1. Child care centre outdoor play policy: Developing or modifying policies and practices relevant to outdoor play (e.g., play declaration, supervision plans, family handbooks)
2. Early childhood educator training and mentorship: Providing ongoing training and mentorship through online modules and virtual meetings.
3. Family and elder engagement: Encouraging community connection and involvement with the child care centre and this program.
4. Outdoor space modification: Child-centred design with natural materials and plants, as well as opportunities for play, in partnership with the UBC School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture.



Project team members:
Mariana Brussoni (UBC), Susan Herrington (UBC), Rachel Ramsden (UBC),
Dawn Mount (UBC), Sheila Grieve (VIU)

Steering committee members:
Elder Jean Lloyd (Métis elder), Elder Stella Erasmus Johnson (VIU), Emily Gawlick (ECEBC),
Laranna Scott (MNBC), Trudy Hill (AHSABC), Kirsten Bevelander & Angela Wrede (BCACCS),
Enid Elliott (Camosun College), Kathleen Kummen (Early Childhood Pedagogy Network)



Child care centre checklist for participation

- Program operates year-round, full-day and includes 3 - 5 year olds
- The staff team is interested in supporting children's outdoor play
- The program has a stable workforce (ECE, substitutes,volunteers)

Participation Expectations

- Commitment to the project from April 2023 – December 2024
- Identified centre 'champion' to attend virtual meetings (~20 hours)
- Commitment for staff to participate in training program (~32 hours)
- Participation in data collection (~25 hours)
 - Complete surveys and circulate information
 - Support observations of outdoor play

Participation Benefits

- Co-creation of outdoor space modification with the UBC School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (up to \$8,000 per centre)
- All staff receive the training program
- Support with community engagement and knowledge mobilization
- Co-creation of child care outdoor play policy development

Please contact us for more information and/or to express your interest by Feb 28, 2023

Dawn Mount (UBC)
email: proeco@bcchr.ca phone: 604-723-0279

Scan here to learn more

