



early childhood community development centre

### Niagara Nature Alliance - Minutes

Thursday May 30, 2019 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Fort Erie Regional Child Care Centre

1. Welcome and Introductions – guest speaker Kerry Royer from Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority [kroyer@npca.ca](mailto:kroyer@npca.ca)
2. Review of previous minutes and acceptance of agenda - accepted
3. Tour of Fort Erie Regional Child Care Centre Naturalized Playground
  - Brenda Steele and educators from Fort Erie Regional took network members on a tour of their outdoor play space
  - The space had been enlarged and naturalized through the Naturalized Play Space Initiative in partnership with Niagara Region, ECCDC and Bienenstock Playgrounds
  - The centre had the toddler and preschool areas completed along with an increase in size to the preschool area.
  - The centre had set up different invitations and provocations for educators to explore while moving through the space.
  - Network members had an opportunity to ask questions about the space and how they went about the process along with maintenance.
4. Presentation by Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
  - Highlights from the presentation
    - NPCA has 41 conservation areas and covers all of Niagara, 25 per cent of Haldimand and 22 per cent of Hamilton, they support areas that are for camping as well as passive parks with trails and parking, support Bruce Trail, creating a free play area in Balls Falls, support the Yellow Fish Road Program and have over 1000 volunteers
5. Roundtable Conversation
  - Rosalind Blauer hosting training session for ECCDC's 25th Anniversary
6. Resources
  - Ideas for kits for ECCDC to consider
    - Muddy Buddies for centres to try
    - A tether line for outdoor gross motor
    - Go pros/outdoor cameras
  - Reviewed the ECCDC website and highlighted the changes that have been made to the webpages to support suggestions from network (network participants encouraged to send articles for posting)
  - Investigating suggestion of Forest School First Aid
7. Ideas for Next Meeting
  - Guest speakers on Forest Bathing, Indigenous traditions, Nature Club
  - Jill Burton – Instagram – natural wood artist with life cycle creations
8. Location next meeting – looking for suggestions
  - Vineland Station Research Centre
9. Network Evaluation

