

Stories from the Forest: Early Childhood Educators as Leaders for Outdoor Play

Marlene Power, Executive Director, Child and Nature Alliance

Wednesday, February 6, 2019, in Seventh Semester

Keynote: 1:45 – 2:45 pm

Roundtable Discussion: 3:00 – 4:00 pm



Where does one begin? What magic can be captured outdoors, and how do we keep tapping into this magic with children? How does one define play, and if we support child-directed, unstructured play, what is my role? What does this look like, sound like, and feel like in practice?

This keynote will explore my own learning journey as a practitioner, where I started over ten years ago in starting the ‘first’ Forest Preschool in Canada - what I learned, the mistakes I made, finding my purpose, and where I’ve taken this in the last decade. I will highlight how early childhood educators have been struggling with, and embracing, outdoor play in their practice through a Forest School lens. I will address the challenges that have emerged for others, and how people have been overcoming these challenges with and for children. Lastly, we will look at policy frameworks and national initiatives underway to support this expanding field, such as the Risk Benefit Assessment Toolkit for Outdoor Play that will be published in Fall 2019.

Marlene Power founded Carp Ridge Forest Preschool, Canada’s first outdoor nature-based Forest Preschool, and created Forest School Canada, a national initiative to promote nature-based education through Forest School professional learning, policy, and research.

Sponsored by Humber’s Early Childhood Education Department
To reserve a seat, contact **Lucy Koncan** at lucy.koncan@humber.ca