

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 11, 2024

CELEBRATING PLAY IN THE EARLY YEARS

Free Event for Early Educators

North Bay, ON: Children's Services with the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board is hosting a full day professional learning session for early years and child care professionals titled *Celebrating Play in the Early Years*, Saturday April 27th. Facilitators Lois Mahon and Pierre Harrison will offer insights and engaging activities on the positive effects of play on both children and early educators.

Playful learning in early childhood education has been shown to improve cognitive, social, emotional, and physical well-being in children. Playful learning can support educators as inspiration for their own well-being which ultimately support the health of the early years and child care system.

"It's important to support individuals working in our early years and child care system, and to recognize the rewarding yet sometimes difficult work they do and the pressures they face day to day," says DNSSAB Chair Mark King. "I'm pleased to see the great support Children's Services is providing to those who play such pivotal roles in our children's formative years."

Early years and child care professionals are encouraged to [register](#) for this free full day event (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) taking place at the Best Western, North Bay.

Explore the rewards of becoming an early childhood educator by visiting:
<https://www.dnssab.ca/en/childrens-services/shaping-nipissings-future/>

About the facilitators:

Lois Mahon, RECE has worked for decades as an early childhood education consultant and, as the Founding President of the College of Early Childhood Educators, understands the importance of forming a solid framework for excellence in leadership in order to build and run an effective and sustainable organization and systems. Lois is also a certified Lego Serious Play© Facilitator.

Pierre Harrison is an Ontario certified teacher, a learning through play and inquiry specialist, and a children's right to play advocate. He has been involved in non-formal learning since 1985. In 2003, Pierre launched PLAYLearnThink, a social enterprise focused on promoting child directed play as a fundamental necessity for a healthy and fulfilling life.

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