



## *Fostering Brant's Growth*

*Professional Learning Hub  
For Early Learning Professionals in Brant  
30 Bell Lane, Brantford ON N3T 6K5  
519-759-3833  
[info@professionallearninghub.ca](mailto:info@professionallearninghub.ca)*



## **Fostering Brant's Growth 2026**

Fostering Brant's Growth in Early Learning builds on a foundation in Brant of quality programs in early learning and childcare. This tool is used to encourage reflection and pedagogical documentation as a way of practicing and learning in the early years. The intent is to build upon the philosophy of supporting the whole child, and the child as a part of a family and community. It encourages self-reflection, critical study and analysis through discussion, as well as ongoing collaboration and learning among educators by engaging with families, use of pedagogical documentation and continued professional learning.

*How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years* is a resource about learning through relationships for all who work with young children and their families. The four foundations belonging, well-being, engagement and expression is not only for the children but for the families and educators as well. FBG will examine each of the four foundations to ensure all are involved in the process and implementation of quality care.

As we continue our journey in 2026, we offer you and your team an invitation to explore, share, and learn from your own stories of practice and then share them with other educators.

We have an ethical gift, and it is to be hopeful and optimistic. Questions drive our work... the facts and answers move us along this journey. Peer to Peer Review will be an opportunity to share your teams' stories with the rest of the group.

***“Educators are like swans seemingly to glide effortlessly over the water while their legs paddle furiously underneath.” – Lorrie McGee Baird***



## Fostering Brants Growth Network

A place where supervisors connect and receive:

- Peer support
- Mentorship opportunities
- Shared resources
- A sense of community

This reduces isolation and strengthens leadership.

Supervisors join us on the dates below to share information, discuss best practices and improve program quality. This allows us to create a stronger, more knowledgeable childcare community.

### Peer to Peer Dates

|                                    |                                       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Wednesday April 15, 10:00-11:00    | Responding To Child's Needs Questions |
| Wednesday June 17, 10:00-11:00     | ALL Families Welcome Questions        |
| Wednesday October 21, 10:00-11:00  | How Do You Support Children Questions |
| Wednesday November 18, 10:00-11:00 | Documentation Questions               |

### Showcase Your Center on a Virtual Tour

Please send us your virtual tour by Thursday November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026. All programs will be posted on November 15<sup>th</sup> for your teams to view. (see page 6 for more information)



Thoughtful, reflective questions help Early Learning Professionals deepen their practice and stay aligned with high-quality care.

Taking time to reflect encourages self-awareness, intentionality, and continuous growth within the Early Learning profession.

**Over the next several months your team are invited to reflect and discuss questions that will help you in your Early Learning Environments.**

*Before you answer ...*

- Take your time. These questions are meant to be explored and thought through before answering.
- Be honest, not perfect. There are no right answers – only real experiences.
- Sit with silence. A quiet moment to think is part of the work, not a problem to fix.
- Go one layer deeper. After your first thought, ask yourself. “What else is here for me?”
- Be respectful to others on your team, we all can learn from each other.

*As you respond, think with your...*

**Head:** What stands out to you?

**Heart:** How do I feel about this?

**Hands:** What do I want to do with this information?



Let's get started...



We know as Early Learning Professionals that our responses shape a child's developing brain and are connected to how a child will build relationships in the future.

*With this in mind...*

How do you respond when a child is upset, frustrated, or dysregulated. What strategies do you use to promote self-regulation for the children and yourself?

How do you role model this for parents and other educators?

Families are children's first and most teachers, and when they feel respected, communication flows easily and children thrive.

Children notice differences early, and they test social boundaries through their words and play. An educator's response is critical and helps children understand we all belong.



*With this in mind...*

Do **ALL** families feel welcome and respected in your space and how do you ensure this is happening? How do you respond when children express bias or exclusion?

How do you use your observations to plan next steps and ensure you are following through?





Children develop self-regulation, sensory processing, and emotional resilience at different rates. A thoughtful educator recognizes this and adapts their approach rather than expecting every child to fit the same mold.

*With this in mind...*

How do you support children who need extra time, reassurance, or sensory adjustments? Which moments are you proud of, and which moments would you handle differently next time?

---





Documentation is a core part of early childhood education, but it can easily become a routine task rather than a tool for understanding children and yourself. It reveals whether the educator is intentional, reflective, and committed to authentic assessment — not just compliance.

---

*With this in mind...*

How do you ensure documentation is meaningful rather than just “checking the box”? What did you learn about yourself as an educator, and the children this week?





## Showcase Your Center on a Virtual Tour

Environments are often referred to as the third teacher. Your environment, if set up based on children's interest and needs, will allow you to spend more time connecting with children and families.

*With this in mind...*

---

During the next few months, you will be taking pictures of your classrooms and activities that your children have enjoyed. This work will be displayed on the Professional Learning Hub website. Early Learning Professionals will have the opportunity to take virtual tours to view other programs and share the important work they do.

**“A team grows stronger every time it pauses to listen—to itself, to each other, and to what the work is trying to teach.”**

**-Unknown**