

ENCOURAGING A CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT

SENECA OFFERING THE ROLE OF ECE IN FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN

Early childhood educator's are experts in assessing all areas of the individual child's development including cognitively, emotionally, socially and physically. As such, the ECE is an essential partner in developing and implementing the new Ministry of Education's full-day kindergarten programs in Ontario.

Seneca's School of Early Childhood Education now offers The Role of ECE in Full-Day Kindergarten, a series of six workshops designed to support early childhood educators in adapting the academic school kindergarten environment to a child development and play-based curriculum.

Georgette Bigelow is the part-time program co-ordinator at Seneca's Faculty of Continuing Education and Training.

"It's a very different mandate in the full-day kindergarten. ECEs are skilled in child development, so we look at



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each child individually; how they're developing in all aspects of their life, and then we encourage children to enhance that development through our programming on an individual basis," says Bigelow.

This is somewhat different to the more academic setting of the kindergarten in a public school. "The teacher tries to get all the children to

one point at the same time. In ECE, we kind of want all the children to develop at their own pace. It's just a little different philosophy."

According to Bigelow, there is a big difference from going to school for three hours a day than going for the whole day. "In the full-day kindergarten, I think the ministry's goal in hiring ECEs as part of the teaching

team is to bring that holistic approach to the kindergarten and support of the teacher in the academics, but as well as support the child in developing all those other areas as well."

Participants in the program are required to have an ECE diploma/degree or be in your last semester/module of the ECE diploma course or have a bachelor of education.