



**Lyla Brown**  
Licensed Family Child  
Care Centre Operator  
Yoet-Yoes Orca Child Care

*"Families want someone from the community."*

I chose to open my own child care centre because I was pregnant with my son and did not know how to stay home with my child while generating some income. There was no service for infant child care (0 to 4 years) in lower Squamish that is licensed and family based. I am now a certified Early Childhood Educator, have my Bachelor's degree in Social Work and am currently working on my Master's of Social Work.



**Leona Antoine**  
Acting Program Co-ordinator,  
Senior Early Childhood Educator  
Singing Frog Aboriginal Head Start

*"This is the only job you can let your child inside wreak havoc."*

I wear many hats at our facility. I am the acting program coordinator, senior Early Childhood Educator and I am helping to fill-in as our cook. I have worked at on-reserve, off reserve and at home centres, but all Aboriginal child care centres are a good introduction into a sense of culture. The centre offers exposure and awareness to culture that cannot always be taught at home. Being Aboriginal and an educator allows me to have a better sense of family ties because family is most important to me.



**Nadine Gagné**  
Aboriginal Infant  
Development Consultant  
Kla-How-Eya Aboriginal  
Centre

*"Strength and Pride of our Nation begins with our children!"*

My job is to identify developmental delay and recognize if a child is not attached to its culture. I consult with social workers and foster parents to develop methods to ensure children are exposed to their culture. I make sure a child is involved in some cultural activity consistently so a child recognizes and identifies with its community. My mom suggested I get involved with ECE so I could make an impression at an early age.



**Al Lawrence**  
Manager Le'lum'uy'lh  
Child Development Centre

**ECE, SNE, Under Three Educator**  
*"Every day has a different reward."*

Our centre is a family grouping rather than an institutional grouping; we are united in the same beliefs and are an extension of the family. Being an Aboriginal educator means giving back to the community. We recognize that parents are the foremost teachers and we are here to support, guide and go through the childhood development process together.

*Photo taken by Laraine Chelle*



**Rosalind Williams**  
Language and Culture Teacher  
Splats'in Child Care Society

*"Incorporating language and culture into daily life."*

I am a historian for my tribe. I spent my life learning from the Elders in the community who are teachers and put that knowledge into a format that is applicable for the age group that we're working with. I believe that child care centres in First Nations communities offer the foundation of history, language and culture that is not available in public institutions. I encourage our young people to go into Early Childhood Education to instill in the next generation that they have a lot to be proud of and a whole world of opportunities in front of them.

*Photo taken by Deanna Leon Cook*

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Supported Child Development Coordinator

Early Childhood Educator

Special Needs Educator

Infant-Toddler Educator

Teacher's Assistant

Early Intervention Therapist

Cook

Family Outreach Worker

Bus Driver

Instructor, Basic/Post-Basic Training

Bachelor's/Master's Degree

Pre-natal Support Worker



**Candace Robotham**  
Early Childhood Program Administrator  
Seabird Island Head Start

*"Every First Nation child has the right to programs provided by people who are First Nations."*

I moved back to my reserve when my daughter was 3 and we started attending the new Head Start Parent and Tot Program. Within 3 months, I was the Coordinator. I now oversee all the Early Childhood Programs for Seabird Island. It was identified that there was not enough Aboriginal Early Childhood Educators. I submitted proposals and was successful in receiving funding to offer three basic Early Childhood training Programs within our community. We are currently offering the Special Needs Diploma Program. Our Early Childhood Programs are successful because they are community driven, family focused and delivered locally with a strong First Nation's foundation.

# Nation Building Careers in Early Childhood Education

## What are the entrance requirements for Early Childhood Education?

The minimum entrance requirements for most public college Basic ECE programs in British Columbia are Grade 12 graduation, a Language Proficiency Index (score 3) or English 12 (C+), and a negative result TB (Tuberculosis) test. Additional requirements vary upon institutions, which may or may not include; criminal record check, work experience, reference letters or an assessment interview.

## What is the tuition cost for ECE?

The average tuition for Basic ECE training at a public college in British Columbia is \$4500 plus an additional \$2500 for Post-Basic training in Infant-Toddler or Special Needs Education. Supplies and additional fees vary by institution. Talk to the student advisor for your program, who can tell you about scholarships and other ways to fund your education.

## What is the time commitment?

The average time commitment for Basic ECE training at a public college in British Columbia is one year plus an additional year for Post-Basic training if desired.

## Is my training transferable?

Basic and Post-Basic training is certified at a provincial level. Recognition of your training may vary by post-secondary program and guidelines in other provinces.

## Where can I obtain information about career or training opportunities?

Please refer to *The Early Childhood Educator in British Columbia: A Guide to Registration and Renewal Procedures* published by the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development.  
[www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/educators/htm](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/educators/htm)

## For further information please contact:

**BC Aboriginal Child Care Society**  
604-913-9128  
[www.acc-society.bc.ca](http://www.acc-society.bc.ca)

**Human Resources & Skills Development Canada:**  
**Aboriginal Affairs Unit**  
604-666-1201



BC Aboriginal  
Child Care Society