

**Canadian Association  
For Young Children  
Alberta/Northwest Territories  
JUNE 2009  
Newsletter**



### **Director's Welcome**

Summer in the Early Learning and young Elementary field can mean many things to many people depending on where you practice your chosen profession. For some of us it means exams are graded and for others its, "WOW, I finally graduated...now what?". Many of you stock up sunscreen since you will be outside for hike and at parks all summer long while others are combing sites for new fall positions due to changes in programs. I enjoyed seeing six classes of pre-schoolers graduate and have just had a chance to start reflecting on the year that was.....

No matter what your role I would encourage you to take a few minutes to pause and look back on the seasons we all have journeyed through. What did you REALLY enjoy or remind you why you are proud of your role with young children or those that you interact with in our field? What would you never do again, both professionally or personally? What might the fall look like? The questions will be as diverse as the days that flew by but important for us all to grow and make changes where necessary.

As I re-read my thank you notes from grateful Playschool families I smiled at a quote by Albert Einstein that was on one card:

*"If you want your children to be brilliant, read them fairy tales.  
If you want them to be geniuses, read them more fairy tales"*

I am sure we would all agree that our role is not to support the development of geniuses! It is our role however to foster that close relationship with young children as they spend priceless time with us reading books that will be the springboards for their imagination and curiosity to name just a few positive outcomes.....genuine childhood!

Enjoy reading at least one good book this summer on your way to work (public transit) or on your deck or patio or wherever the summer has you.

Don't forget to look for the latest on our 2010 National CAYC Conference, "New Frontiers: Our journey together" May 29th to June 1st in Calgary. The "Call for Presenters" will be in your inbox this month so be thinking of what you might like to share with our sure-to-be diverse group of attendees.

Rosanne Perrin,  
Director CAYC Alberta and Northwest Territories

## Canadian Early Childhood and Elementary Education Delegation to China

Dear CAYC Colleague:

As past president of the Canadian Association for Young Children, I am honoured to have been selected as leader of the Canadian Early Childhood and Elementary Education Delegation to China this November. I invite you to join me and other early childhood and elementary educators to participate in this important international exchange. In conjunction with People to People Citizen Ambassador Programs, this delegation has been developed to foster one-on-one dialogue with our overseas counterparts and to continue the tradition of professional diplomacy first set forth by President Eisenhower in 1956. I believe you would contribute valued expertise to the team while gaining both personally and professionally from the experience.

The Canadian Association for Young Children, as well as other like-minded organizations, continues to investigate ways to provide a voice on critical issues related to the quality of life of all young children and families around the world. Canada is one of the most culturally diverse countries in the world; immigrants from China play an important role in our multicultural milieu. Hence the sharing of viewpoints pertaining to the education of young children and their families will promote a greater understanding across both cultures.

This delegation will provide an invaluable platform and opportunity for sharing ideas, research, and best practices germane to China's early childhood and elementary education programs. We will also have an opportunity to visit various educational settings and witness the early learning curriculum in action. Our goal is to provide a greater appreciation of how the curriculum impacts the world of the child and his or her family. Finally by entering into a dialogue on education, we hope the quality of early years learning can be improved in both countries.

In addition to the topics mentioned above, I have suggested the following initial topics of discussion, which will be further refined as the team is formed to incorporate delegates' specialized interests and expertise.

- To view developmentally appropriate practices in early childhood education settings in China.
- To gather an understanding of the meaning of inclusive child care in China.
- To view how the Chinese early childhood education model(s) operates.
- Successes and deficiencies in Chinese early childhood education.
- Parent involvement in early childhood settings.
- Educational patterns for the training of teachers.
- Rural and urban factors affecting early childhood education.
- The influences of other philosophies of child development on early childhood education programming in China.

Our delegation will depart for China from the domestic gateway city on November 2, 2009. We will meet with our counterparts and experience the rich culture of Beijing, Xi'an, and Shanghai. We will arrive back in Canada on November 14.

I encourage you to invite a travel companion to share this unique experience with you. A parallel program focused on the culture of China will be arranged for your accompanying guest while you attend the professional sessions. Activities for guests will include visits to historical and cultural sites for an opportunity to explore many aspects of Chinese life, culture and customs.

As People to People Citizen Ambassador Programs is a private-citizen effort, delegates are responsible for their own program costs. The estimated cost per delegate or guest is \$6295 USD (departing from and returning to the domestic gateway city). This includes round-trip international airfare from the departure city, group transportation, meetings and cultural activities, accommodations, most meals, and essentially all other costs associated with participation.

Due to the extensive planning and communication involved in coordinating a program of this nature, *I ask that you respond with your intentions to the People to People program office regarding this invitation as soon as possible.* In the event that

you are unable to accept this invitation, an alternate delegate candidate will be invited. You may also recommend a colleague as your alternate for the program. I hope to hear from you whether you are able to join our delegation or not. You may enrol now for the delegation via phone or online at [www.peopletopeople.com/citizenapply](http://www.peopletopeople.com/citizenapply). Once you have enrolled, you will receive a confirmation letter from Yvonne Trudeau, director of professional programs at People to People Citizen Ambassador Programs.

*If you have questions regarding the delegation or would like to apply by phone, I encourage you to contact your program representative at People to People Citizen Ambassador Programs, Gina Schumacher, at 877.787.2000 ext. 7920, or 001.509.568.7920. The email address is [china@peopletopeople.com](mailto:china@peopletopeople.com) and the fax number is 877.676.5844 or 001.509.568.7130.*

*I am pleased to be involved in this exciting opportunity and hope you will strongly consider participating in the delegation. In the meantime, please feel free to contact People to People Citizen Ambassador Programs or me with any questions.*

Sincerely,  
Wayne Eastman, Ed.D.  
Past President, Canadian Association for Young Children

## **BOOK REVIEW**

Book review of *Born on a Blue Day: A Memoir of Asperger's and an Extraordinary Mind*

By Daniel Tammet, 2006, published by Hodder, London, England, ISBN 978-0-340-89975-5

Reviewed by Jodi Nickel

Many books are written about people with special abilities but this book is distinctive because it is written *by* the individual, giving readers a unique view into this extraordinary mind. Daniel Tammet has savant syndrome, famously portrayed by Dustin Hoffman in the movie *Rainman*, which includes an obsessive need for order and routine and an incredible facility with numbers. He also has Asperger's syndrome which is a relatively mild and high functioning form of autism and synaesthesia, a condition where numbers are seen as shapes, colours, and textures.

For those of us working with children, Tammet's description of his own childhood may remind us of children we have known and puzzled over. As an infant he cried constantly, often for hours at a time. When he began nursery school as a 3 year old, he recalls being fascinated by sand, picking at individual grains. He often walked with his head down as he experienced the different textures of the floor under his feet: "In hot weather my feet became sweaty and stuck to the mats and I would lift my (bare) foot up and put it down again to recreate over and over the sticking sensation on the soles of my feet" (p. 26). If his father took a different route to the nursery, Tammet would have a tantrum until they embarked on their usual path. His mother asked for small change when she went to stores because she knew how much her son enjoyed stacking coins into towers. He writes, "Sometimes I would build several piles of equal height around me in the shape of a circle and sit in the middle, surrounded on all sides by them, feeling calm and secure inside" (p. 78). He describes an incident in his school age years when he spent many hours collecting ladybugs in a plastic bin only to have them released by the teacher who feared them escaping in the classroom. However, this same teacher was often attuned to Tammet's needs, taking him to the music room when he was distressed because he found peace in toying with the piano keys.

As an adult, Tammet has become the subject of documentaries in which he has demonstrated his incredible proficiency with language, learning to speak fluent Icelandic in only one week, and his proficiency with numbers, reciting over 22000 digits of the number pi over the course of several hours. Today, Tammet, age 30,

lives with his partner and works from his home as a software designer. He still has an obsessive need for routine and feels anxious when his routine is disrupted.

As I read Tammet's story, I was fascinated by the pleasure he found in sensory experience, routine, and solitary play. Children with special needs like Tammet's require especially perceptive adults who can "read" their behaviours and respond by sensitively offering experiences that build on their interests and abilities but also gently address their needs. Tammet thanks his parents for their patience, especially in those early years when "they must have got so little back at the time....In spite of all my many problems, all the tears and tantrums and other difficulties, they loved me unconditionally and devoted themselves to helping me -- little by little, day by day" (p. 35). How wonderful it would be if the Daniel Tammet's in our lives could say the same of their teachers and caregivers!

## **Early Learning and Child Care Program Bow Valley College, Calgary**

### **Want to Work with Children?**

Upgrade your skills and take your career to the next level! The Early Learning and Child Care program at Bow Valley College provides learners with the practical skills and theoretical knowledge needed to provide high quality developmentally appropriate care to young children.

The certificate program focuses on providing students with a concrete blending of theory and practice to enable students to be prepared to plan developmentally appropriate activities and programs based on the ages, abilities and interests of the children in their care. Certificate graduates are eligible for Child Development Worker Certification with Alberta Children's Services.

The diploma program focuses on the continued development of research and writing skills relevant to early learning and child care providers who are able to supervise a program. Diploma graduates are eligible for Child Development Supervisor Certification with Alberta Children's Services. It is important to recognize that the set of skills required to manage a program or move into a third year post secondary degree program are more complex than those required for the certificate program.

These programs are offered in collaboration with the Chinook Educational Consortium and available on a part time basis. Our flexible modes of delivery let you stay in your home community joining with your instructor and classmates by audio conferencing and other modes of delivery including some face-to-face sessions. Audio conferencing sites include Claresholm, Pincher Creek, and Crowsnest Pass. Other centres may be added.

The program is now available online with monthly intakes. Register one week prior to the end of the month you wish to start! The new online format breaks each 45 credit course into 3 modules of 15 credits each.

Find more information on our [Diploma and Certificate programs](#).

### **Certificate Admission Requirements:**

Credit in either English 30-1 or 30-2 or equivalent **or**

Successful completion of the General Equivalency Development test (GED) with a standard score of 520 in Language Arts: Reading and Writing **or**

Satisfactory Results on the BVC Admissions Test

*Students who successfully complete the 9, 1 credit Support Strategy Courses in addition to 6 credits in Early Learning and Child Care courses will then be accepted into the Certificate program.*

**Please Note:** A current Criminal Record Check with a Vulnerable Sector Search is required prior to beginning the first Practicum.

### **Diploma Admission Requirements:**

Bow Valley College Early Learning and Child Care Certificate **or**  
Equivalent course work **or**

Applicants who have successfully completed a one-year Early Childhood Education certificate program from a recognized college are able to enter the Early Childhood Education Diploma program **or**

Permission of the department

**Times:** Audio conferencing sessions are generally scheduled from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m, with independent study scheduled from 8:00-9:30 p.m.

*Please contact Brenda Gallagher at 403.410.1537 for audio enquiries. For information about online and face-to-face programming, please contact Nadine Cesaire 403.410.4660. To use BVC's toll free number to reach Nadine or Brenda, Dial 1-866-428-2669 and use the last four digits of the phone number.*

## **Website Resources**

### **International Play Association (Canada) "Promoting the Child's Right to Play"**

Play is fundamental to all aspects of child development and is a key component in preserving community and culture, in the broadest sense.

IPA is an international organization founded in Denmark in 1961 and has members in over 50 countries. It is an interdisciplinary organization, bringing together people from all professions working for and with children, including playworkers, planners, psychologists, educators, academics, architects, artists, researchers, childcare workers, trainers, health workers, and landscape designers. The purpose of IPA is to protect, preserve and promote the child's right to play as a fundamental human right. [Learn more here.](#)

### **Meet Dr. Bruce Perry**

An introduction of Dr. Perry for those of you who are unfamiliar with his dedication to children and families, specifically those who have been affected by childhood maltreatment. His articles included on the [Scholastic website](#) are written in a manner that helps one feel at ease, and offers Teacher Tips as well. Dr. Perry provides a comfortable read for anyone to understand and apply his suggestions. As a parent or an educator, his knowledge will encourage you to read more and [learn more.](#)

### **High/Scope**

Launches a new addition to their extensive library of research-based ECE resources [Numbers Plus Preschool Mathematics Curriculum](#). You can [view samples](#).

After recently doing a research project on High/Scope I was moved with the amount of research and practice put into developing this active learning approach to early childhood education. I didn't hesitate to purchase their publication *Essentials of Active Learning in Preschool: Getting to Know the High/Scope Curriculum*. This book has become a valuable part of my preschool resource library. I found the substance, thought and knowledge behind the development of the activities and teacher/child interactions to be rich and meaningful: just the kind of program I would like to see come to Calgary. I believe if you study the High/Scope approach you would agree, it is definitely one to make note of and take to practice.

*"Dr. David Weikart (founder of High/Scope) was one of the foremost preschool pioneers, laying the foundations for much of the policy research and analysis that underlies the preschool education movement today."* (W. Steven Barnett, 2003)

If you wish to purchase High/Scope publications you can do so online direct at High/Scope or contact the Canadian distributor of High/Scope products: [Wintergreen](#)

Deborah Evans, Calgary, AB

Epstein, Ann Ph.D. (2007). **Essentials of active learning in preschool: Getting to know the High/Scope curriculum**. High/Scope Press, Ypsilanti, USA.

Barnett, W. S. (2003, December). **Paying tribute to a preschool pioneer**. *Preschool Matters*, 1(3), 2.

Retrieved May 29, 2009 from: <http://nieer.org/psm/index.php?article=27>

## Events

There are several events throughout Alberta and Northwest Territories, and all across Canada.

As professionals, we are always on the lookout to be inspired and educated, and to apply new learning to our work with children and families. Please send us your event listing or one that you are aware of and would like to share.

Update: Child Care Connections Fair

Mount Royal College - May 30, 2009

CAYC AB/NWT participated in this event hosting their information booth. The fair attracted up to 150 early learning professionals, students, and like minded individuals. This is the third year for CAYC AB/NWT to be involved in this valuable event. A big thank you to all the volunteers for our booth to proudly represent CAYC!

### THE ALBERTA ASSOCIATION OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

#### Children in Crisis Workshop

*One Day workshop presentation by Healthy Minds/ Healthy Children, Alberta Health Services - Calgary*

Ramada Inn Airdrie, AB

191 East Lake Crescent

East Side Highway 2

June 23, 2009

9:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Presentation by Karen Erickson, Program Manager – Community Solutions to Gang Violence

#### For anyone working with recently traumatized children

This workshop will focus on:

- *What is Post – Traumatic Stress, how to recognize it and what you can do*
  - o How Is PTS Different From Other Anxiety?
  - o Signs and Symptoms
  - o What Professionals Can Do
  - o How Parents Can Help
- *How to help children in crisis: What to do when you are first to respond*
  - o Providing Information and What to Say/Not Say
  - o Assuring Children of Their Safety
  - o Responsibility and Guilt
  - o Parents, Trauma and the Impact on Children
  - o Counselling
  - o Children and Grief
- *Looking after yourself in tough situations*
  - o Vicarious Traumatization

Please contact Dawn at [dpapineau@aascf.com](mailto:dpapineau@aascf.com) or call (780) 428-3660 for your registration form.

Members: \$50.00 + GST = \$52.50

Non Members: \$65.00 + GST = \$68.25

## **CALGARY REGGIO NETWORK ASSOCIATION**

Rediscovering the Wonder in Learning:  
Through Materials and Documentation

This year's focus for the Summer Institute will be to revisit curriculum topics common to early childhood and elementary settings to uncover the potential of these to serve as foundations for long-term projects and studies sustained through the use of materials, documentation, and co-construction of learning between children and adults.

Bow Valley College, Calgary, Alberta

One Day Session: Thursday July 2

OR

Three Day Session: Thursday July 2 – Saturday July 4

9:00 am - 3:30 pm

One Day Session: \$100 includes catering

Three Day Session: \$275 includes catering

Due to space constraints, registration is limited to 50 participants.  
Registration deadline is June 21, 2009. [Click here](#) or more information and to register.

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