



## Early Childhood Education Council Alberta Teachers' Association

*A specialist council for ECEs and grades 1, 2 and 3 teachers*

### How to Become an ECEC Member!

As an ATA member you are entitled to one free membership to a specialist council each year. To sign up, go to [www.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.teachers.ab.ca) and log in using your user name (firstname.lastname@teachers.ab.ca) and your password.

Contact one of your executives if you need help!

### ***E.C.E.C. Philosophy***

***The ECEC philosophy is grounded in the belief that the child is capable, curious, and imaginative, and is an active co-constructor of meaning with peers and adults.***

## Early Childhood Education Council South East Alberta Regional

Grasslands Regional Division, Medicine Hat Public School Division, Prairie Rose School Division, Medicine Hat Catholic Division, Prairie Land Regional Division

### Winter Newsletter 2019

If you need information regarding E.C.E.C— visit  
[www.ecec-ata.com](http://www.ecec-ata.com)

### President's Message

Happy New Year! I hope you all had time to relax, reflect and enjoy the holidays and I'm sure, the much needed break. As we head back into our classrooms with only a little more than half the year left and new inspirations and goals in our minds, I thought I would share a few physical literacy activities I learned at our ECEC conference back in November. As most new year's resolutions are made to strive for more wellness in our own lives, what about that need for wellness in our students? Physical Literacy is an important part of a child's well being and did you know that children are supposed to have on average 16,000 steps per day? Below are a few games that can teach our students agility, balance, coordination and strength.

Best Wishes and All The Best with the remainder of your school year,  
Jennifer Deruyter

**Materials:** pool noodles

#### **Plank Tag:**

The student that is "it" will tag another student with the pool noodle and that student will go into a plank position. A different student will either crawl under or step over the student in the plank position before they can resume in the game.

#### **Knight, Knight, Troll:**

1 Troll who is it. 2 students are knights with pool noodles. When the troll tags a student, the student kneels on one knee. The knight will come by and "knight" the student with the pool noodle before returning to the game.

#### **Turn Up Tag:**

When a student gets tagged, they go into a "v sit" position. 1: Another student will hold their feet and spin them around one full turn before resuming in the game. Or 2: another student will "v sit" with them and have their soles "hug" for 5 seconds before returning to the game.

### Save the Date For Our Upcoming Workshop

Our upcoming spring workshop will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2019 from 9:00 to 11:30 am. It will be an art experience with a literacy focus. Annette ten Cate will be our presenter. She is an artist from Medicine Hat specializing in pottery. She has been creating art with young learners in a variety of schools for students in Early Learning Programs as well as kindergarten classrooms for over 5 years with Medicine Hat Public School Division. More information about the workshop will come out shortly. For more information about Annette ten Cate and her amazing art projects please visit <http://www.lifeonearthenware.com>



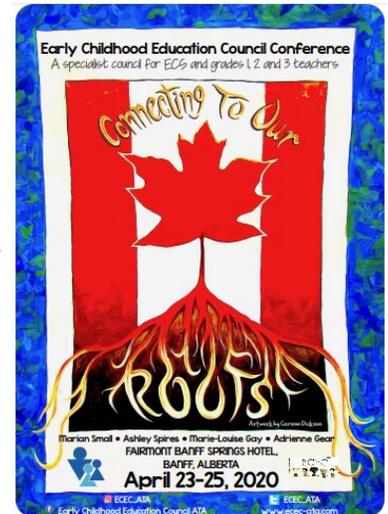


**Our Annual Conference is moving dates/ seasons. Our next conference will be held in April 2020 instead of November 2019.**

**Theme:** Connecting To Our Roots with Canadian Keynotes and Presenters

**When:** April 23—25, 2020

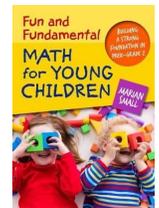
**Where:** Banff Fairmont Springs Hotel, Banff, Alberta



**Key-Note Speakers:**



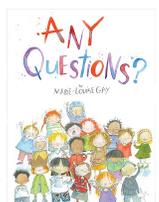
**Marian Small**— Author and International Professional Development Consultant for Improved Mathematics Education



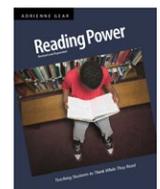
**Ashley Spires**— Numerous Award winner, Author and Illustrator of the Binky The Space Cat Series, The Most Magnificent Thing and The Thing Lou Couldn't Do.



**Marie-Louise Gay**—Four Time Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator's Award winner Author and illustrator of Stella & Sam, Any Questions, and Short Stories for Little Monsters.



**Adrienne Gear**— Teacher and author of Reading Power, Powerful Readers, Non-Fiction Reading Power and Powerful Understanding.



**Free Early Bird Conference Registration Draw**

The SE Regional is drawing for a recipient to attend the 2020 ECEC Conference in Banff. The draw will be made at the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, April 6, 2019.

**Building Capacity Grant**

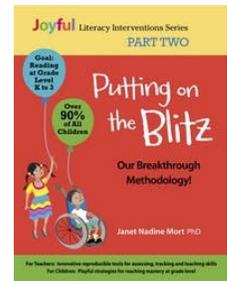
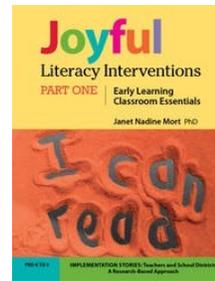
As a council we would like all members to have the opportunity to be able to attend PD sessions put on by various regionals in the province. If there is a small group wishing to attend such an event, there are funds available to help cover costs such as gas and hotel (when carpooling and sharing a room). If you are interested in attending a PD event in a different regional and are hoping to access these funds please email [eccecsoutheast@gmail.com](mailto:eccecsoutheast@gmail.com) apply.



**Joyful Literacy Summit  
By Annetta Labash**

I was able to attend the Joyful Literacy Summit that was held in Calgary this past November. Our school had heard about this summit and the impact that it has on early literacy for students so our administration was kind enough to send our primary teachers as well as themselves to this event. The most important key thing that I took away from that weekend is how important it is for children to gain the knowledge of phonological awareness at an early age. The success rates that schools have by implementing joyful literacy in their schools from where they were are amazing. Quite simply, it is making literacy joyful. It is a research-driven approach to early literacy intervention that was created by Janet Nadine Mort. There is what she refers to as 9 stepping stones to implement this successfully.

1. Create a Dynamic Learning Environment
2. Assess and Track skills daily (Using circle charts which is referred to in her book)
3. Teach Essential Skills Joyfully
4. Practice Skills in Centers
5. Play with RAN (Rapid Automatized Naming)
6. Schedule Shared Reading and Writing (5 times a day)
7. Involve families: Practice and Celebrate
8. Implement the Ideal Classroom Checklist
9. Make Systemic Change



Janet’s books goes into much more detail about each of these stepping stones however I believe that you would benefit from attending the summit. We have teachers in our school district who have attended multiple times! As a school we were eager to get started implementing this in our classrooms and started by using the circle charts so we knew where to begin. Our kindergarten class has seen huge results in just a few months where students came in not knowing any of their sounds to today knowing all of them! She does an amazing job of making literacy joyful in her classroom!

**How to Connect with ECEC:**

For information regarding ECEC please use our website:  
**[www.ecec-ata.com](http://www.ecec-ata.com)**

Other Social Media outlets:

Facebook — **Early Childhood Education Council ATA**

Instagram — **@ECEC\_ATA**

**E.C.E.C. Southeast Regional  
Executive**

**President—Jennifer Deruyter  
Treasurer—Annetta Labash  
Stacey McBain, Hailey Gale**

■ If you would like to become part of the Executive Council for the South East Region  
■ please e-mail Jennifer at [ececsoutheast@gmail.com](mailto:ececsoutheast@gmail.com)