

# Outdoor Play in the Early Years Conference

May 1&2, 2026



We are excited to have you join us this weekend! Included here are the schedule and map. We hope this answers all your questions, but if you need anything, visit the registration desk in the foyer or call or text Devon at 403-472-1211 or Christina at 403-998-4782.

There is no pre-registration required, follow your interest and go to any sessions you want to!

All sessions will be outside. See the map for locations. It will take approximately 5 minutes to walk to the session locations. Plan accordingly.

To see full descriptions of the sessions, visit: <https://getoutsideandplay.ca/conference2025>

Friday May 1		
6:00pm - 6:30pm	Check-in. Pick up your package and make a nametag	Foyer
6:30pm - 7:00pm	Introductions and group activity	Parking lot
7:00pm - 8:00pm	<p>Come play and connect outside! This interactive evening is an opportunity to learn a new skill, connect with other educators and best of all PLAY!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learn to light a fire with a ferro rod</li><li>• Create journal</li><li>• Learn some knots</li><li>• Make art</li><li>• Snacks on the fire</li></ul>	Parking lot
8:00pm - 8:30pm	Crystal Manyfingers is joining us to share Blackfoot stories around the fire.	Fire

Your hosts for  
this conference:

**NATURE PLAY** [natureplaykids.ca](http://natureplaykids.ca)

*Get Outside  
& Play* 

[getoutsideandplay.ca](http://getoutsideandplay.ca)

Saturday May 2		
7:30am - 8:15am	Mindful Yoga with Lauren Lutz of Mindfulones (optional)	Fellowship Hall
8:00am - 8:30am	Arrival and pick up packages if you didn't do this on Friday.	Foyer
8:30am - 8:50 am	Welcome Land acknowledgement and opening with Crystal Manyfingers	Sanctuary
8:50am - 9:10am	Move to session #1	
9:10am - 10:10am	Understanding Indigenous Values and All Our Relations with Crystal Many Fingers	Garden
	Creepy, Crawling Creatures with Mary Roy	Riverside #1
	Writing in the Woods: Taking Fine Motor Skills to the Forest with Lisa McBride	Riverside #2
	Shared Outdoor Play Spaces: Tips, Tricks and Tools with Brittany Spangelo	Open forest
10:10am - 10:30am	Move to session #2	
10:30am - 11:30am	Blackfoot Creation Stories with Crystal Manyfingers	Garden
	Sparking Curiosity in the Outdoors with Jennifer Usher	Riverside #1
	Inspiring Wonder Through Nature Based Art with Cheyenne Jackson	Riverside #2
	Songs of Nature with Tasha Werner	Open forest
11:30am - 12:40	<b>LUNCH</b>	
		Church

## Saturday May 2

12:40pm - 1:40pm	Big Beautiful Leaves: Playing with Rhubarb with Karen Gummo	Garden
	Splish Splash with Mary Roy	Riverside #1
	Curiosity P.L.A.Y. Compass: A Tool for Outdoor Play with Hester Laubscher	Riverside #2
	Earth Walks - Connecting Children with the Natural World with Chris Jenik	Open forest
1:40pm - 2:00pm	Move to Session #4	
2:00pm - 3:10pm	Tiny Steps, Big Stories: Supporting Language and Belonging Outdoors with Jenn Doeve	Viewpoint
	Staying with It: Learning Resilience Outside with Brittany Spangelo	Riverside #1
	The Power of Scent Outdoors with Amy Bye	Riverside #2
	Stories of Connection with Dave Verhulst	Open forest
3:10pm - 3:30pm	Move to Session #5	
3:30pm - 4:40pm	Building Confidence Through Risk with Rochellie Lywin	Garden
	Nature as Co-Regulator: Supporting Educator Well-Being with Julia Davies Dawson	Riverside #1
	The Magic of Wandering with Dave Verhulst	Riverside #2
	Forest Bathing Walk: The Nature of Well-Being	Open forest
4:50pm - 5:00pm	Wrap-up and draw prizes!	Church Fellowship Hall

Riverside #1 and #2 can be reached from the dirt trail off the paved pathway. You can also take the paved pathway to the bottom of the hill and turn left on a dirt trail.

Fence and Open forest are most easily accessed by taking the paved pathway down the hill.

Look for signs for further directions.

