

The Science of Early Child Development (SECD)

Newfoundland and Labrador access supports your work with children and families

SECD brings early childhood development research and concepts to life with hundreds of readings, videos, links, questions for reflection, and interactive activities. From the latest research into babies' brain development and the impact of early experience on well-being, to topics such as child rights, literacy, and the importance of play, SECD explores how nature and nurture interact from conception on to construct a foundation for development.

Now province-wide access to SECD resources is free in Newfoundland and Labrador to two online “living textbooks” (SECD - North American and Introductory Editions) and three additional modules (Child Development Primer in English and French and Prenatal Development Module). Access to the Science of Early Child Development (SECD) resources for residents of Newfoundland and Labrador is part of the [Early Learning Action Plan](#), under the [Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement](#).

NL access means that you can now explore all these modules independently and adapt them to your own needs. Each module includes an overview of the topic, as well as relevant research and links to practice. Here are some ideas to get you started thinking about how SECD could be used in your work with children and families:

You are a family child care provider looking for resources to share with parents.

- SECD is available via computer, tablet and smartphone which means it can be accessed from your home when the children are napping, or after they have left for the day. You can use the search function to find readings, videos, and interactive learning activities related to topics of interest to you.

As the administrator of a regulated early learning and child care centre, you are looking for resources to share with your staff or to facilitate a professional learning opportunity.

- Organize a session for your staff based on a topic of interest. Share an inspiring quote, highlight research findings from one of the readings, show a video, pose questions for group discussion, assign ‘homework’. For example: Communicating and Learning, p. 3.2, has a variety of information about “planning environments for learning”. There are photos of indoor and outdoor play spaces including a 360 degree view of an outdoor playground. As a ‘takeaway’, staff could be asked to review and respond to the reflection questions “Think about a play space...” and come to the next session ready to discuss.
- For professional learning (PL) that is done “in-house” to be counted as PL hours the person signing the PL certificate cannot be affiliated with the regulated early learning and child care setting. For more information, please contact the AECENL office at (709) 579-8993.

Your agency offers a supervised playgroup for children while their parents attend classes. You can use the resources to plan and present a short workshop to the playgroup facilitators

- A relevant topic for these childminders would be bilingualism and multilingualism (see Communicating and Learning, p. 2.2, for articles, videos, and links to websites).

You are planning a parent night at your early learning and child care program. Parents have been asking a lot of questions about children's social development.

- Coping and Competence, p. 3.2, focuses on "Getting along with others" and includes interviews with experts such as Jean Clinton and Joan Durrant, as well as short videos of children. Each video lends itself to discussion about topics such as sharing and turn-taking. You will also find related parent resources you can print and share.

You want to increase attendance at this year's AGM.

- The Child Development Primer has a page on "Understanding play" that includes information, links and videos that could be the basis of a presentation to parents. In addition, there are sections on play in each of the living textbook modules. Topics include risky play, active play, early mathematics, literacy, and much more! Consider showing a video followed by questions for discussion.

You are part of a group that wants to establish a licensed child care centre in your community. You are looking for information that will help you apply for grants and funding.

- Useful quotes, statistics, and research findings about the economic impact of early childhood education and care and benefits of investing in early child development can be found in Developmental Health, p. 2.4 and p. 3.1.

You work with professionals/specialists in the health sector (e.g., public health nurses).

- Let them know about the Prenatal Module and the fact that they can access the readings, videos, reflective questions, and interactive activities at no charge.

To access SECD resources in Newfoundland and Labrador, go to: nl.scienceofecd.com

Explore the *How to and FAQ's* and *Tools and Tip Sheets* for more information and ideas. Although the site and resources are quite user-friendly, SECD staff welcome the opportunity to meet to talk about the possibilities and answer questions. Please contact the SECD team at ResearchHSCS@RRC.CA