

In light of recent events we want to state our opposition to racism in all forms and take a position of solidarity with Black and Indigenous People of Color.

The Regina Early Learning Centre works with low income families from all backgrounds to foster the healthy development of children from prenatal to five years of age. Children are not born racist and a core part of our work is to provide environments where children learn respect for themselves, others and the world around them.

Over the past 42 years, the Centre's Board and staff have worked together to articulate our core values: our beliefs about how children learn and how the Centre engages with children, families and the broader community.

These values are congruent with an understanding of the rights of children. The UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child and the Regina Children's Charter ground the work of the Centre. At their heart is a strong condemnation of any form of racism.

The Early Years Family Resource Centres provide programs and services to all parents and caregivers of children newborn to age five in Regina. They are each equipped with play and learn spaces supported by Early Childhood Facilitators. We strive to create an inclusive and anti-racist space. We aim to offer welcoming and culturally responsive spaces and authentic and diverse programming. At the same time, we know we may have blind spots and we are open to feedback and criticism. Painful as criticism may be in the moment, our mistakes often become opportunities for growth and improvement.

In a very real sense we strongly believe that if we get early childhood right we will make a difference in the long term. The National Association for the Education of Young Children's position statement on Advancing Equity in Early Childhood Education states: "All children have the right to equitable learning opportunities that help them achieve their full potential as engaged learners and valued members of society."

In Canada, we must acknowledge the impact of colonialism and the racism experienced by Indigenous peoples. The Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action provide us with tools to create meaningful change .

On behalf of our entire organization, we commit to standing with you and relentlessly working together to create communities where every child, family, and educator can thrive.

We would like to continue this dialogue by sharing content that challenges ourselves and our audiences to be advocates for change. If you have any resources or suggestions that you think would be appropriate to share please send them our way.

We want to share some anti-racism resources curated by Project Play YQR to assist parents and our children in this journey.

(<https://www.playyqr.ca/anti-racism-and-play.html>)

Additional Resources:

1. Regina Early Learning Centre Core Values: <http://www.earlylearning.ca/about/values.html>
2. TRC website: <http://www.trc.ca/>
3. UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child: [https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Education/Training/Compilation/Pages/1DeclarationoftheRightsoftheChild\(1959\).aspx](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Education/Training/Compilation/Pages/1DeclarationoftheRightsoftheChild(1959).aspx)
4. Regina Children's Charter:
5. <http://www.reginakids.ca/regina-childrens-initiative/about-us/regina-childrens-charter>
6. NAEYC Advancing Equity in Early Childhood Education <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/position-statements/equity>