

Practice Matters



Practice Matters features questions regarding the College and the early childhood education profession. Director of Professional Practice Melanie Dixon RECE addresses issues that RECEs face and applies the *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice* to various situations.

Do you have a professional practice question? Email practice@collegeofece.on.ca for more information.

Q: Are RECEs expected to complete a certain number of hours of professional development annually, in order to maintain their Certificate of Registration?

At this time, the College does not specify ongoing education requirements for members. A program is in development that will emphasize the importance of continuous professional learning and outline the College's expectations of members to remain current in their knowledge, skills and professional responsibilities.

One of the ways that the College regulates the early childhood education profession in Ontario is by establishing and enforcing ethical and professional standards that are applicable to members of the College. The College published the *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice* in February 2011. Within this document, you will find many references to the College's expectation that members will engage in continued learning.

In particular, refer to the Code of Ethics and Standard IV: Professional Knowledge and Competence.

To learn about how to get involved in the development of the College's Continuous Professional Learning program, see page 6-7 of this newsletter.

Q: Does the College have a rule against RECEs practising in the same environment where their own child has been enrolled?

The *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice* states that registered early childhood educators (RECEs) should avoid dual relationships that could impair their professional judgment or increase the risk of exploitation or harm to children under their professional supervision.

A dual relationship is defined as a situation in which an RECE has a relationship with someone beyond a professional setting. This includes having a personal relationship with the child, the child's family, a colleague or supervisor.

The College expects members in a dual relationship to evaluate whether its existence might impair their professional judgment or increase the risk of exploitation or harm to a child under their professional supervision.

The College also recognizes that it may be extremely difficult or impossible for members working in certain small communities or remote locations, or in certain ethnic or religious communities, to entirely avoid dual relationships or situations which may give rise to a conflict of interest.

In those circumstances, members should declare the conflict of interest, take appropriate steps to address it and attempt to eliminate the conflict if possible.

For more information on dual relationships, please review Standard V: Professional Boundaries, Dual Relationships and Conflicts of Interest and the related endnotes in the *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice*. You can always contact the Professional Practice department for further information.