

Q: I am a recent graduate and a newly registered member of the College. What are the College's expectations of me? Do you have any tips or advice for registered early childhood educators (RECEs) who are beginning their professional career?

R: RECEs work in a wide variety of settings and bring with them a range of experiences and expertise. Despite this diversity of experiences, all new grads and members of the College are required to “know, understand and abide by the legislation, policies and procedures that are relevant to their professional practice. . .” (Standard IV: A. 2). This includes the *Early Childhood Educator's Act, 2007*, workplace policies and procedures and the College's *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice*.

One way a new RECE can learn about their responsibilities as a professional is by completing the online Expectations for Practice Module. The module guides members through related legislation, regulations and by-laws applicable to all RECEs.

The College's website, resources related to professional practice e.g. sector news and updates, the College's publication *Connexions*, case studies, Continuous Professional Learning program tools, YouTube videos and links to publications and websites are all useful resources. Connecting with a variety of professional associations and organizations that support and advocate on behalf of RECEs and the profession might also assist new graduates in charting their professional paths.

As RECEs often work in teams, new members have much to gain from colleagues who have experience in the profession. Seasoned RECEs are uniquely positioned to support, assist and mentor new graduates. The College encourages professional collaboration and co-learning between its members. Standard IV: C. 2 states that ECEs “support experienced colleagues, those who are new to the profession and those students aspiring to the profession.” As a new member, it is important to remember that all RECEs, regardless of their experience, have more to learn and lots to share with their professional community.

Working with other RECEs and professionals in the sector, striving for practice excellence, accessing current evidence-based research, following the required legislation, policies and procedures, as well as using the *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice* are all key elements to beginning a successful professional career as an RECE. ©

Practice Matters



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

Do you have a Professional Practice question? E-mail practice@college-ece.ca for more information.



Previous columns of **Practice Matters** can be found on the Professional Practice section of the College's website, college-ece.ca

Put it into Practice!

For experienced RECEs, consider how you might support new RECEs in their practice. How could you share your skills, knowledge and experience with others? What tips and advice do you have? How might you enhance your own learning in your interactions with new grads?
