LEARNING EXTENSIONS:
HOW TO USE THE TUTORIAL & QUESTIONS FOR TEAM TRAINING

To support programs in meeting professional development needs, we've designed a tutorial and group discussion questions so that you can easily facilitate your own **Activity Planning for Mixed-Age Groups** team training. Team training based on the tutorial and Questions for Personal Reflection and Group Discussion will create an opportunity for your team to:

- collaborate and learn together
- discuss issues that are specific to your site
- share ideas, expertise and challenges
- build supportive team relationships
- solve-problems

To develop effective training for your team, we suggest that you (the facilitator):

- preview the tutorial and list the questions
- select questions that are most helpful to your team
- decide how long the training will be and determine the format
- determine how you will introduce the questions and how long you will spend on each question
- think about how you will encourage participants to follow through with ideas and suggestions at the end of the training.

It might be helpful to schedule a follow-up meeting to discuss how the ideas and strategies are working in the program. Enjoy your training and let us know how it goes!

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Objectives that we can pull from:

1. List 5 benefits of mixed-age groups for children. Is there anything you could do to reinforce or better take advantage of these benefits in your program?

2. As a team, discuss some of the challenges you've faced in mixed-age groups. How have you been able to overcome these challenges?

3. Reflect on your current programming and schedule, and how it currently meets the needs of children at different ages and developmental stages.
   a. How often to you plan small group activities for different age groups? What could you do to incorporate more small group activities in your program?
   b. Is there anything that you could do to better support and engage the older/younger children?

4. Consider/discuss the materials that you currently have in your program.
   a. Do you have enough loose parts and open-ended materials?
   b. How do different age groups usually play with the toys and materials that you have available? Is it different for older and younger children?
   c. Are the materials safe for all of the children in your program?
   d. Are there any materials that you would like to add or change?

5. Think about your space and how it's working for your CNC team and children.
   a. Is your room set up in a way that allows staff to easily supervise children in all of the different play areas? If not, what changes could you make to improve supervision?
   b. Are there any areas that are only for the older/younger children? How are they working for everyone? Would you like to make any changes?

6. Describe considerations for modifying an activity to work with different age groups.

7. List three key points from this tutorial that will impact your programming in the future.