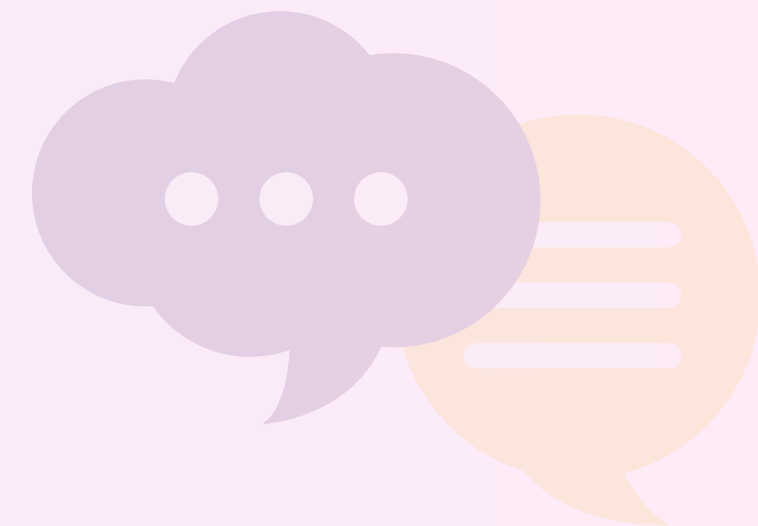


CONNECT AND REFLECT

Continuing the Conversation: Part 2 - Navigating Difficult Conversations with Families

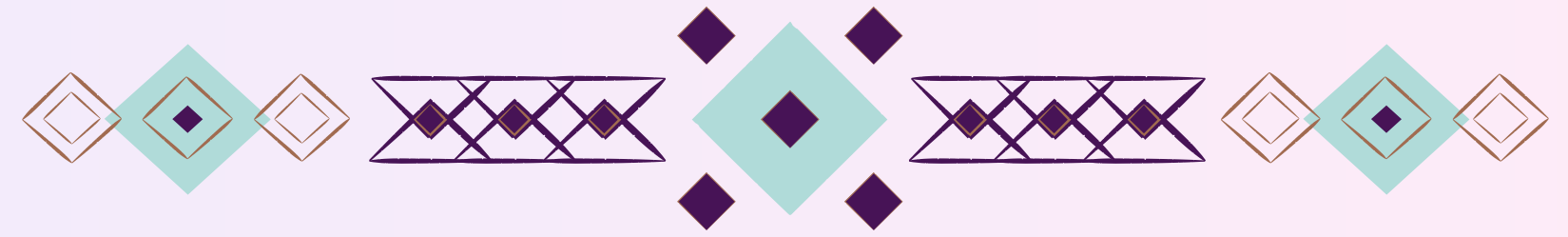


LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The land on which we live is the unceded unsurrendered territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg Peoples who have lived on and in relationship with this land since time immemorial. We are grateful to be present on this land.

We, as a community of educators and frontline professionals, commit to ongoing learning and understanding of Truth and unwavering action toward Reconciliation.

A January reflection through
storytelling - May We Have
Enough to Share



May we have enough to share,
to know the sweetness of every day.

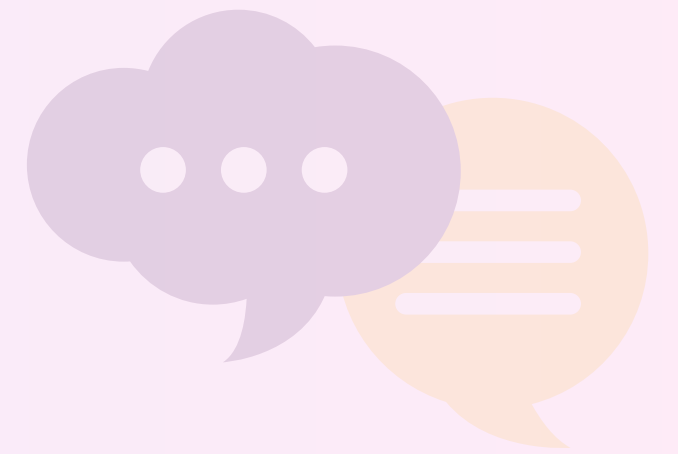


May We Have Enough to Share by
Richard Van Camp
(Orca Book Publishers)

THREE WAYS TO ENGAGE

Here are some ideas for using this Connect and Reflect guide to continue learning with your teams.

- Review the content with your team and use the accompanying scenerios and videos to facilitate discussions.
- Explore the Additional Resources page to continue learning and discover resources to support your programs





Revisiting the benefit of reflective conversations:

**Encourages
flexible thinking
and continuous
learning**

**Cultivates
self-
awareness
and reflection**

**Builds
community and
collaboration**

**Supports anti-
bias education
and inclusive
protocols**

The Perspective of Families and Caregivers

Video: An Engaged Parent: The Best Gift of All

How does this video align with your view of parents / caregivers attending your program?

Collaborative Conversations

A 4-Step Approach

Regulate

Step 1
Self-Check

How are you feeling and why?
What do you need?

Relate

Step 2
Identify the Problem

What is the problem and
why is it a problem?

Reason

Step 3
Assess the Stress

What action is needed: intervention,
support, monitoring, or no action?

Step 4
Relational Response

Lead with intention and
compassion. How can you
engage and empower?

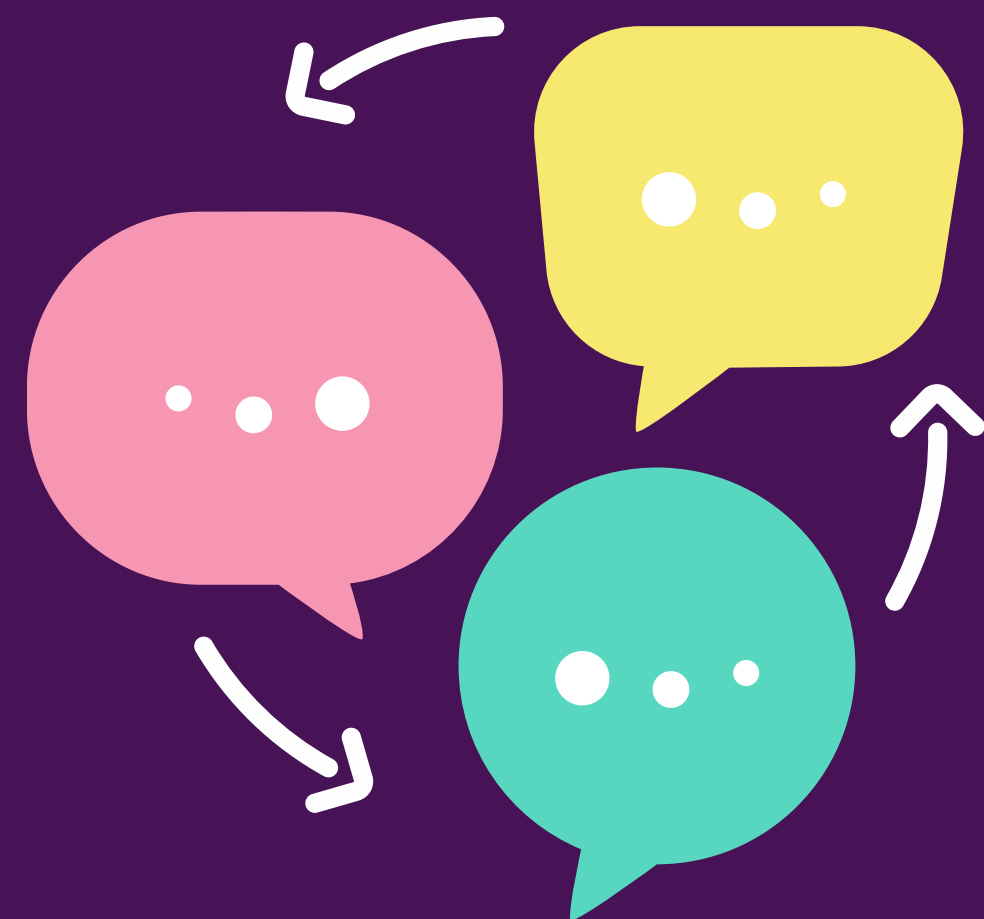


CURIOUS QUESTIONS...



- How can you invite parents to participate in activities like tidy-up without making it feel like a demand?
- How can you initiate conversations about developmental screening in a safe and supportive, way for parents?
- How can you encourage parent -child interactions (minimizing cellphone use) without making parents feel criticized and overwhelmed?
- How can you communicate to an experienced caregiver who is giving advice to a parent that could negatively impact a family's approach to a child's behaviour?
- What other interactions or situations are challenging?

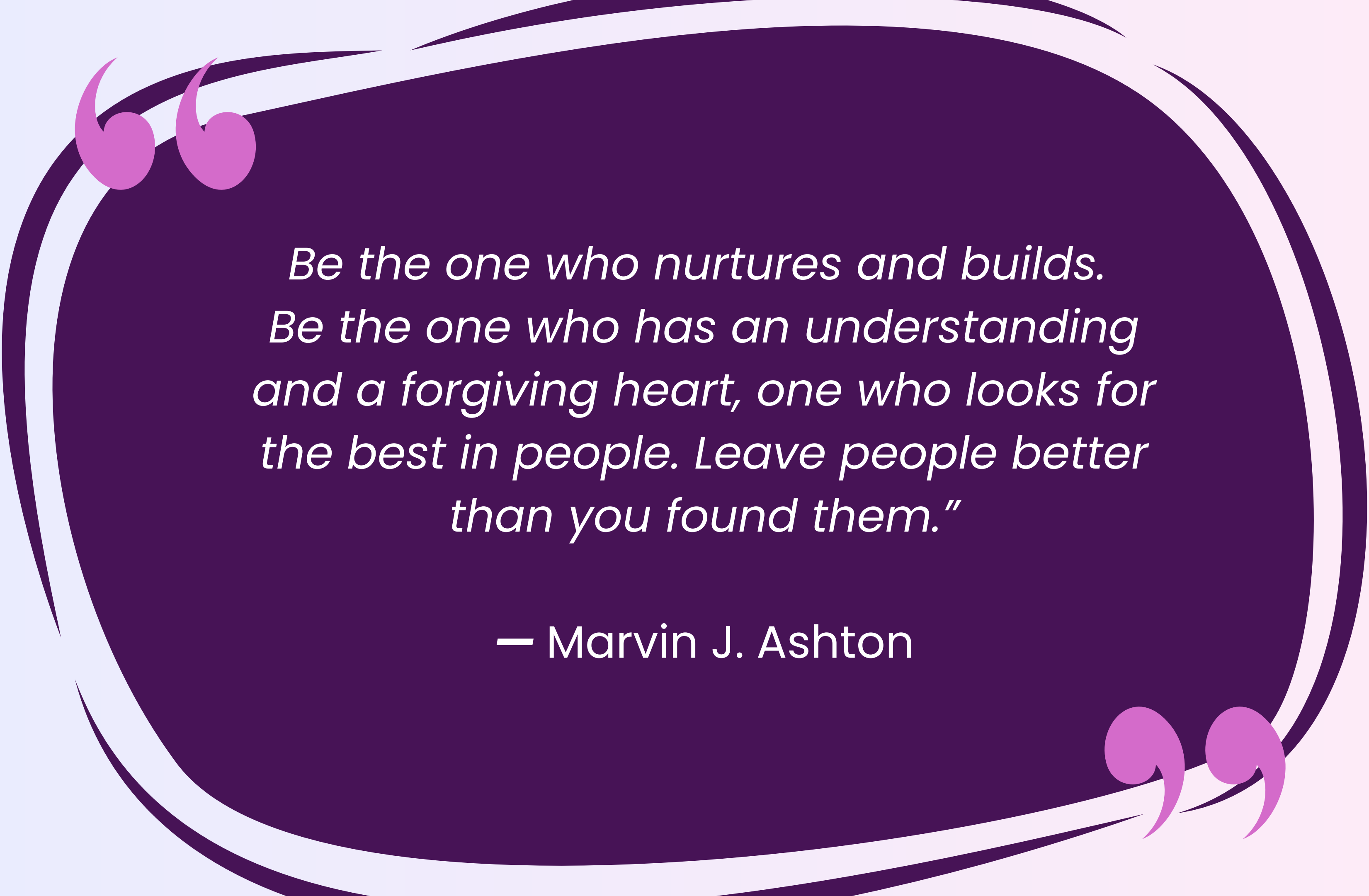
SCENERIOS TO EXPLORE...



A toddler in your program has been dumping materials at various centres during playtime. Their parent remains close but does not clean up the dumped toys and instead just follows their child around the room. When clean up time is called the toddler rushes to the carpet to wait for circle and the parent follows without helping to clean up.

A parent in your program arrives with their 3.5 year old who has just started coming about 3 weeks ago. You have noticed that the child does not speak verbally during playgroup. Instead, they have been communicating by grabbing and leading their parent, pointing, or squishing their parents' face.

A caregiver who has attended programs for years is speaking with a new mom. You overhear the caregiver say, "Your baby needs to learn how to self-soothe. You should make them learn to fall asleep on their own."



*Be the one who nurtures and builds.
Be the one who has an understanding
and a forgiving heart, one who looks for
the best in people. Leave people better
than you found them."*

— Marvin J. Ashton

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

There are many fantastic resources to support your learning and communication skills with families participating your programs. Here are a few inspired by our time together in our Community of Practice.

Activity and Material Resources

[Therapist Aid - Communication Exercises](#)
[Therapist Aid - Gratitude Exercises](#)

Articles

[Working with Different Cultural Patterns & Beliefs](#)
[Kindness to you, is Kindness to me](#)

Books

Early Childhood Leadership in Action

Local Resources

Ottawa Distress Centre Workshops:
Active Listening and Communication
Empathetic Assertiveness

Training and Practice Guides

[CECE Practice Guideline on Communication and Collaboration/](#)

Videos

[Video: May We Have Enough to Share Book Read Aloud](#)
[Video: An Engaged Parent: The Best Gift of All](#)

Websites

[Engaging Families - Conversations about Sensitive Topics ECLCK](#)
[5 Steps for Tackling Difficult Conversations](#)
[Great questions for practicing gratitude as an ECE](#)