



Deepening Empathy:

A Toolkit for Supporting a Community of Practice Exploring Empathy in Early Childhood

The links and resources below are offered to support your empathy learning. We hope they will inspire Communities of Practice across contexts to strengthen our broader field.

About Empathy

[The Case for Empathy](#)

[Best Practices for Developing Empathy Toward Wildlife](#)

[Five Tips for Cultivating Empathy](#)

[Flourishing in Nature Research Brief: Investigating the Impact of Nature Preschools on Young Children's Empathy](#)

About Communities of Practice

[Community of Practice Design Guide: A Step-by-Step Guide for Designing & Cultivating Communities of Practice in Higher Education](#)

[Community of Practice Facilitation Guide](#)

[Community of Practice Resource Kit](#)

[Cultivating Communities of Practice: A Guide to Managing Knowledge – Seven Principles for Cultivating Communities of Practice](#)

The Two Worlds Approach

[Indigenous Knowledges and Western Knowledges in Environmental Education: Acknowledging the Tensions for the Benefits of a “Two-Worlds” Approach](#)

[How Two-Eyed Seeing, ‘Etuaptmumk,’ is changing outdoor play in early childhood education](#)

[Two Eyed Seeing in the Classroom Environment](#)

Learning with Indigenous Partners

[Guidelines for Practicing Indigenous Traditional Protocols – University of Regina](#)

[Why a Land Acknowledgement Statement?](#)

[A Guide to Indigenous Land Acknowledgment](#)

[Beyond Land Acknowledgment: A Guide](#)

[Pedagogical Talking Circles: Decolonizing Education through Relational Indigenous Frameworks](#)

[Guidelines for Working with First Nation, Metis and Inuit Elders and Knowledge Keepers](#)

[Education for Reconciliation: Elder Protocol](#)

[Indigenous Giving Practices](#)

Deepening Empathy through a Two Worlds Approach CoP

[Natural Curiosity 2nd Edition: A Resource for Educators: The Importance of Indigenous Perspectives in Children’s Environmental Inquiry \(University of Toronto, 2017\)](#)

[Natural Curiosity Video Modules](#)

Deepening Empathy CoP Session Overview

Session	Pre-Session Participant Preparation	In-Session Activities & Aims	Post-Session Reflection
1. Co-Creating our Community of Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Watch: intro video on the Natural Curiosity website - Read: page 5-10 in <i>Natural Curiosity</i> text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Getting to know one another -Orienting to the work at hand -Co-creating how we would like to learn together (group agreement) <p>Sample Agenda for Session 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -What are five words you think of when you think of empathy? -Why does empathy matter to you? To your work? To the world?
2. Lighting the Fire (<i>Natural Curiosity</i> , 2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Watch: Video for Branch 1 - Read: page 58-64 in <i>Natural Curiosity</i> text - Read biography from <i>Spirit of the Ojibwe</i> (Balbin et al., 2012) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guest Speaker - Journal Reflection - Small group sharing to integrate learning across guest speaker, readings, and own experiences. <p>Sample Agenda for Session 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -What's standing out to you after the reflecting and sharing we did together? -What is shifting or deepening for you as you think about what empathy means, what it looks like?
3. Sending Out Roots (<i>Natural Curiosity</i> , 2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Watch: Video for Branch 2 -Read page 82 - 87 in <i>Natural Curiosity</i> text -Optional: Read page 65-79 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -MidWay point, begin synthesis of learning - Introduce Empathy Chart (meaning, strategies, importance) -Group discussion <p>Sample Agenda for Session 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -What's standing out to you after the reflecting and sharing we did together? -What is shifting or deepening for you as you think about what empathy means, what it looks like?

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4.The Flow of Knowledge (Natural Curiosity, 2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Watch: Video for Branch 3 -Read page 104 - 108 in Natural Curiosity text -Optional: Read page 88-102 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Guest speaker -Whiteboard reflection activity reflecting on today and building on last time - Full Group Discussion <p>Sample Agenda for Session 4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -What is shifting or deepening for you as you think about what empathy is and how we can nurture it in young children? <p>Mid point evaluation hand out</p>
5. Breathing with the World (Natural Curiosity, 2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Watch: Video for Branch 4 -Read page 134 - 139 in Natural Curiosity text -Optional: Read page 109-131 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Story sharing - Small group discussion -Full group discussion <p>Sample Agenda for Session 5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -As you reflect on our work over the last 5 months, what has deepened for you as you think about what empathy is and how we can nurture it in young children? -In what ways are you implementing what we are learning here?
6. Bringing it all together, synthesizing and sharing the learnings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Read our co-created Empathy Narrative -Reflect If you were going to share what we've learned with other early childhood educators, what would you share, draw, or synthesize? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Story Sharing -Small group work -Synthesis Activity -Full group discussion <p>Sample Agenda for Session 6</p>	<p>Final Reflection Survey emailed post session</p>
7. Celebrating our Learning: Community Potluck	<p>Bring a dish to share!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dinner & Celebration - Talking Circle - Closing Ritual <p>Sample Agenda for Session 7</p>	

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Driven to Discover



Natural
Curiosity

The Importance of Indigenous
Perspectives in Children's
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