

SPEAKERS:

Fraser Mustard- Founders Network
Freda Martin-Hincks-Dellcrest Centre
Nancy Cohen - Hincks-Dellcrest Centre
Andrew Reesor-McDowell - Hincks-Dellcrest Centre
Constance Gardiner – The Lawson Foundation
Jane Fitzgerald – Invest in Kids
Carol Crill-Russell- Invest in Kids
Alan Pence – University of Victoria
Robert Glossop- Vanier Centre of the Family

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Local TLC³ site information:**TLC³ SITES
THE LEARNING COMMUNITIES**

Connections – Vancouver, BC

University Child Care Centre – Calgary, AB

One Foot Forward – Meadow Lake, SK

Early Learning Centre – Regina, SK

Growing Together - Toronto, ON

ALI- St. Remi, Apprendre en Coeur –
St. Remi, QC

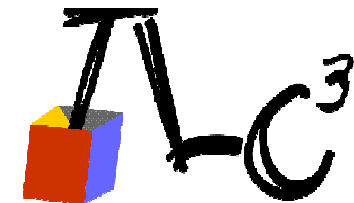
TLC3 Nova Scotia - Dartmouth, NS

EARLY CHILDHOOD:

How to spend scarce dollars effectively

**A Cross-Canada
Videoconference**

**Wednesday,
November 12, 2003**



**Hosted by the Gail Appel Institute,
Hincks-Dellcrest Centre**

EARLY CHILDHOOD: How to spend scarce dollars effectively

A Cross-Canada Videoconference Wednesday, November 12, 2003

THE PROBLEM:

Researchers and funders have clear knowledge about the importance of programs and services for young children. The best way to implement and fund these programs is less clear.

THE CONTEXT:

A number of initiatives around social, emotional and cognitive development in the early years have been or are in the process of being undertaken across Canada. Hopefully, this will be an ongoing priority in the years to come. At this juncture it is important to ask how we can best position ourselves to make the most of these opportunities for the benefit of young children.

This videoconference was stimulated by the positive experience of the Hincks-Dellcrest Centre managing and evaluating a project called TLC³. This was a national seven-site, five-year project on early language and cognitive development in the context of early relationships. The funding structure of TLC³ was positive and unique in a number of ways. First, the funder, The Lawson Foundation, was proactive in developing both its goals and in maintaining an interested and supportive presence available for consultation throughout the life of the project. Secondly, the funder hired a central management team, Hincks-Dellcrest Centre, to manage both the ongoing implementation and the evaluation of the project. Thirdly, Lawson and Hincks-Dellcrest agreed on a number of guiding values and processes, chiefly: (i) find good people and give them autonomy; (ii) articulate clear goals, both for project outcomes and regarding the evaluation process, but leave room for flexibility

both to adapt to the local context, and to adapt over time to new challenges and learnings; (iii) maintain an active, supportive presence which both encourages growth and ensures accountability.

While this structure worked well for TLC³ it may not be appropriate for all communities. Therefore.....

THE OBJECTIVES FOR THE DAY ARE:

- To present one innovative funding method that has proved effective
- To stimulate discussion about alternate funding models that would apply in local contexts.
- To stimulate a cross-cross country discussion around how to effect a balance of factors (or create synergistic relationships) that would, on the one hand, encourage local autonomy, program flexibility, ultimate sustainability and ability to change within the program, while maintaining accountability to the funder.
- To make both the presentation and key points of the resulting discussion available both in print and on-line.

THE FORMAT:

The Hincks-Dellcrest Centre will host the program from the Munk Centre, University of Toronto, and will videoconference it to the seven TLC³ sites across Canada, who, in turn, will facilitate discussion groups within their own communities. In addition to plenary presentations and discussion, the agenda includes time for on-site discussion and feedback. The conference will be moderated by Andrew Reesor-McDowell, Director of the Gail Appel Institute, Hincks-Dellcrest Centre.

THE AGENDA:

(These are Ontario start times, and will change across time zones)

11:00 – 11:10am	Welcome and Site Check-in - <i>Andrew Reesor-McDowell</i> Introduction of Fraser Mustard <i>Freda Martin</i>
11:10 – 11:30	Keynote Address - <i>Fraser Mustard</i>
11:30 – 11:35	Purpose of the Videoconference - <i>Andrew Reesor-McDowell</i>
11:35 – 12:30pm	Presenting "One Model" – Hincks-Dellcrest Centre, The Lawson Foundation, and TLC ³ Advisors
12:30 – 12:40	Break
12:40 – 1:50	Sites' Experiences - <i>TLC³ site representatives</i>
1:50 - 2:00	Issues, challenges for site discussion- <i>Andrew Reesor-McDowell</i>
2:00 – 4:00	Lunch and site discussions led by site facilitators
	a. What do you see as options for funders and providers to balance factors (or create synergistic relationships) that would encourage local autonomy, program flexibility, ultimate sustainability and ability to change within the program, with accountability to the funder?
	b. What do you see as practical next steps for your community in working towards these options?
4:00 – 5:10	Feedback from each site.
5:10 – 5:15	Short Break
5:15 – 5:45	Panel Response
5:45 – 6:00	Concluding Summary