

# CAPABLE. CONFIDENT. CURIOUS.

From Principles to Practice: Real Ideas. Real Stories. Real Learning.

## From the Framework

In *Capable, Confident and Curious: Nova Scotia's Early Learning Curriculum Framework*, storytelling is recognized as a powerful way for children to make meaning. When stories are co-constructed—especially in natural settings—they foster vocabulary development, narrative structure, and collaborative dialogue. These experiences support oral language, symbolic thinking, and the ability to express ideas—key foundations of early literacy.

This approach also reflects the learning goal of **personal and social responsibility**, which emphasizes children's connection to others and to the natural world. These values are central to Mi'kmaw Ways of Being and Knowing, which honour relationships, reciprocity, and respect for all living things, and invite educators to nurture a sense of belonging and care for the land.

## About this Issue

September marks Truth and Reconciliation Day on the 30th—a time to reflect on our shared history and commit to learning with and from Indigenous communities.

This issue highlights storytelling as a way to honour children's voices and deepen relationships with the land. Storytelling can be a path to empathy, understanding, and reconciliation.

## The Whispering Woods: Storytelling in Our Rural Preschool

*Submitted by: Cassidie Jewel Bonn-Dixon at Children's Place Daycare*

In our small rural preschool, storytelling doesn't just happen inside four walls. It comes alive in the forest that surrounds us. Each week, the children and I set out along a winding path into the woods, carrying only a small basket filled with story stones, puppets, and a well-loved blanket.

Once we find our "story circle" under a towering spruce, the magic begins. The children settle on logs and mossy rocks, and I start with a familiar phrase—"In the forest where the wind tells secrets..." From there, the tale grows, shaped by the children's imaginations.


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## Mi'kmaw Ways of Being and Knowing

Educators are invited to participate in the **Mi'kmaw Ways of Being and Knowing** professional learning, guided by Mi'kmaw Elders, Knowledge Holders, and community members. Through ceremony, storytelling, and reflection, participants will explore foundational concepts such as **Netukulimk** and deepen their understanding of Mi'kmaw history, language, and worldview.

Educators will consider how Indigenous worldviews can shape early learning environments and support reconciliation in meaningful, respectful ways.

Learn more: [Mi'kmaw Ways of Being and Knowing](#) 

A fallen branch might become a dragon's tail, a pile of autumn leaves turns into a fox's den, and the call of a bird becomes part of the plot.

In this setting, storytelling isn't just listening—it's seeing, touching, and moving through the narrative. The forest offers a living backdrop that deepens language, sparks curiosity, and connects the children to the land they call home.

One recent morning, a child spotted deer tracks along the trail. Without prompting, the group wove those tracks into the story, imagining a gentle deer searching for its lost fawn. They collaborated, negotiated plot twists, and built the ending together, practicing language, empathy, and problem-solving, all under the open sky.

For our preschoolers, storytelling in the forest isn't just an activity—it's a way of experiencing the world. The trees hold our words, the wind carries our laughter, and the land itself becomes a co-author in every tale we tell.

We'd love to feature your story from an early learning and child care program in the next issue of *Capable. Confident. Curious*.

If you'd like to include photos, please email us to request an Image Consent Form.

Story topic: **Creating a responsive feeding environment**

Submit by: **October 27, 2025** to be considered for the November issue.

Submit your story to: [\*\*ELCCprofessional.learning@novascotia.ca\*\*](mailto:ELCCprofessional.learning@novascotia.ca)

**DO YOU  
HAVE A  
STORY TO  
SHARE?**