



Caring for the Whole Child: Making Sense of Development, Behaviour, and Irreducible Needs

with [Dr. Deborah MacNamara](#)

How do we care for young children in ways that preserve relationship, support emotional growth, and create the conditions for healthy development? While managing challenging behaviors like resistance or not listening is a familiar part of childcare, the answers don't lie in quick fixes or behavioral strategies. Instead, they lie in understanding the deeper story of human development—and the irreducible needs that fuel it.

This presentation offers a developmental and relational lens for making sense of young children. Rooted in current science and insight-based practice, we will explore the key conditions that allow maturation to unfold: deep attachment, room for rest and play, the safe expression of vulnerable emotions, and the presence of caring adults who are a child's "best bet."

Many of us were raised and trained in models based on behaviorism and learning theory, but today's best practices ask us to move beyond reward charts and compliance. This session is an invitation to come back to what children truly need from us: relationship, resonance, and room to grow. When we shift our lens, we see not just behavior—but the human being behind it, and the path forward becomes clearer.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Cost: \$30 per person - non refundable

In person @ Penticton Lakeside Resort & Conference Centre, 21 Lakeshore Dr W

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