



# ECEBC LEADERSHIP

Featuring Alumni of the ECEBC Leadership Initiative

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## “Reaching Farther Than First Imagined”

Katie shares that since the leadership initiative she is able to be more articulate both in written and verbal format. She can find those words that really help her to stay focused and confident in her role.

Katie reflected throughout the interview, that as

she has grown as a confident leader, she finds herself now stepping out of that comfort zone when she is placed in that sometimes difficult role of mediator.

“Take the time to listen, it is so important to allow others to express what they are feeling,” shared Katie, when she spoke of working closely with others in her role as a leader at the center in Prince Rupert. Katie expanded her thoughts, “As I have grown in my role as a leader I am reminded that when I as the leader don’t understand why conflict occurs – when I am feeling down,

*“I find myself now stepping out of that comfort zone when I am placed in that sometimes difficult role of mediator”....Katie uses tools from the Leadership Institute to cope with conflict. “I am not as judgmental of the situation or people around me.”*  
Katie Wahl



*Katie has been a member of ECEBC since November 22, 2007. She is an active member of the Prince Rupert Branch and a member of the ECEBC Board on May 13, 2011.*

## Prince Rupert: A Child Friendly Community

Katie Wahl began her leadership journey as part of the Prince Rupert project that focused on supporting the leadership capacity of early childhood educators. The project worked to have Prince Rupert declare itself a Child Friendly community and to integrate child friendly policies into its overall community plan.

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confronted or confrontational, I remember HALT. I ask myself, am I feeling HUNGRY, ANGRY, LONELY or tired. Using this tool that she had captured in her notes from one of her leadership institutes, has given her those skills that have made her better equipped during those conflicts. She is not as judgmental of the situation or people around her.

Changes for Katie continued to flourish ever since completing the ECEBC leadership initiative. In her role as a leader she remains as she always has-being genuine and positive. She is mindful that she is thankful that being open and honest with her staff they come to her more often. It is that communication piece that stands out for her time and time again. Employees are a reflection of yourself, and if you make honest and ethical behavior a central focused value, the team will follow.

The Leadership Initiative impacted Katie both in her workplace and as an avid curler. During the winter Katie found that her leadership skills extended there as well. She has been able to lead by example for those around her. She has been able to help others around her develop their character and their own personal goals.

Curling and leadership are very much alike. During those moments when asking her team to take on a change in focus or new challenges, Katie has continued to encourage and support them as she has done on the ECEBC Board of Directors. Keep the support and eye on the goal consistently and remember to check in with the team she has learned.

Katie expanded her leadership skills by engaging all the members of her team both at the rink and at the center by understanding the importance of encouraging everyone to have a voice.

She maintains that as she continues on her leadership journey that leaders who make an impact - believe their team members will be successful. She wants only the best for her team and has provided them the opportunities and direction to meet both the needs of the children, their families and the staff team.

Katie extends a sense of calmness and humor as a leader. Most importantly, Katie both on and off the ice has grown to an influential leader. She continually encourages her team to feel comfortable enough to share their ideas. These ideas are taken, collaborative decisions are made and she leads them as a team to work together for a successful outcome.

Katie being the true leader she reminds us as that successful teams and leaders encourage focus on building the confidence in the team she works in partnership with. She continues to inspire those around her to express their natural creativity and initiative.

Interview by Carla Hees

*“There's a lot of  
difference between  
listening and hearing.”  
— G.K. Chesterton*