

# Ethics: *Best Choices*



## Why is Ethics training important?

We work with one of the most vulnerable groups in society...children. Because our work affects children's lives we need to make sure we are making choices based on professional ethics, using a thoughtful decision making process. When we are thoughtful in our practice we make informed decisions rather than quick ones which contributes to a positive early childhood experience. Positive early childhood experiences help all children to learn and grow to their potential.

## What is an ethical practice?

Ethics are the "rules" that govern our lives and help us to make decisions. Some of these rules are personal and make us who we are as individuals, such as The Golden Rule – treat others as you would have them treat you. Others are shared by society as a whole, or groups within our society. In our case, we have the MCCA Code of Ethics – eight principles intended to guide early childhood educators in deciding what is the best choice. Ethical practice involves the ability to see ethical components in a decision, reflect on your own beliefs and values, and use a decision-making framework.

Sound difficult? Not when you break it down!

## About the Best Choices – The Ethical Journey Workshop Series

The Best Choices – Ethical Journey workshop series consists of four workshops that will help you develop the skills you need to use ethical practice. It is called The Ethical Journey because ethical decision-making is a personal and ongoing process that recognizes individual experiences.

### Workshop I – Personal Beliefs, Values and Ethics

In workshop I, you will be lead through a series of exercises to help identify and clarify your belief system, a crucial step on the Ethical Journey.

### Workshop II – Professional Beliefs, Values and Ethics

In workshop II, the MCCA Code of Ethics is introduced and you will discover how you "live" this code everyday while you see where challenges or dilemmas occur.

### Workshop III – The Decision-Making Process

You will be guided through the decision-making process in workshop III. This workshop will help you develop skills required to break down a complicated ethical dilemmas.

### Workshop IV – Renewing Our Commitment to Best Choices

Workshop IV provides you with the opportunity to revisit the decision-making process, conquer your stumbling blocks and commit to keeping ethical decision-making part of your early childhood practice.