

# Exceptional Early Childhood Educator Award

## Nomination Form

### Nominee:

- Must be a current, personal member of MCCA
- Frontline ECE II or III currently employed in an MCCA centre member or nursery school
- Must spend at least 75% of their workday on the floor working directly with children
- Must be classified and working as an ECE II/III
- Must have at least 3 years experience
- Participates in ECE Professional development, including courses, workshops, seminars, conferences, and networking
- Provides an enriched child care program through innovative programming and supportive relationships with children and families
- Demonstrates high standards of professionalism and inspires team spirit, commitment and serves as a role model and mentor for their child care colleagues
- Develops and promotes innovative program specific initiatives
- Guides children in developing social and emotional skills in a respectful and supportive manner
- Promotes child care as a service and profession
- Must submit a 1000 word (max) essay on what makes their work worthy of this nomination

### Nominator:

- Two MCCA members employed in the centre/nursery school
- The centre or nursery school director must sign the nomination form
- One letter of support from a parent user of the facility

### Award Recipients will:

- Be presented with a plaque
- Receive 1 complimentary tickets to the conference banquet
- Have names enscribed on a plaque at MCCA
- Will be profiled in the fall issue of *Child Care Bridges* and/or MCCA's website
- Recipient may be profiled on MCCA's social media platforms

*Previous recipients of this award and MCCA Board Members are ineligible.*



# Exceptional Early Childhood Educator Award Nomination Form

Name of person nominated: \_\_\_\_\_ MCCA # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: MB Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Ph: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_ ECE Classification: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years classified as an ECE II/II \_\_\_\_\_ Number of years at current employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of hours on the floor each week: \_\_\_\_\_ Completed level of ethics training: \_\_\_\_\_

*Each Nomination must be accompanied by the names of two MCCA members who are acquainted with the contribution made by the nominee.*

**Nominator 1** - Name: \_\_\_\_\_ MCCA # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: MB Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone : \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Employment \_\_\_\_\_ Work Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Nominator 1  
*I hereby agree to as a reference for the nominee*

**Nominator 2** - Name: \_\_\_\_\_ MCCA # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: MB Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone : \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Employment \_\_\_\_\_ Work Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Nominator 2  
*I hereby agree to as a reference for the nominee*

**Nominees must agree to be nominated. Therefore they are asked to indicate their agreement by signing below:**  
I agree to be nominated for the Exceptional Early Childhood Educator Award:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Director \_\_\_\_\_ Date



# Exceptional Early Childhood Educator Award

On a separate (type written page(s), please answer the questions below and provide specific examples. The more examples you can provide the better. Please use the same numbering to answer the questions.

Please explain how the nominee:

**1. Provides an enriched child care program through innovative programming and supportive relationships with children and families.**

*For example:*

- How is the nominee providing a program that is developmentally and culturally appropriate for the children in his/her care, indoors and outdoors?
- Is the nominee allowing children's input into the day to day program and choice of activities?
- How has the nominee constructed an inclusive and anti bias environment respectful of each child's differing interests, strengths, and abilities?
- How does the nominee balance individual children's needs with those of the group?
- How are the children's creative, curious, inventive, problem solving and communication skills stimulated?
- Does the nominee have strong partnerships with parent/guardian and provides positive support and resources to families? For example: Learning stories, portfolios, etc.

**2. Guides children in developing social and emotional skills in a respectful and supportive manner.**

*For example:*

- Does the nominee maintain objectivity while providing children with opportunities to resolve conflicts?
- Does the nominee demonstrate and provide mentorship in a variety of direct and indirect guidance techniques?
- Does the nominee effectively manage challenging behaviour while working with the child to develop appropriate coping strategies? Are outside supports recommended where necessary?
- How does the nominee nurture positive relationships among children and with children and staff?

**3. Demonstrates high standards of professionalism and inspires team spirit, commitment and serves as a role model and mentor for their child care colleagues.**

*For example:*

- Does the nominee articulate a personal philosophy regarding child care and is he/she able to integrate it within the philosophy, mission, core values of the facility?
- What does the nominee have planned for ongoing professional development, including short and long term career goals?
- How does he/she collaborate with colleagues, centre administration, the Board of Directors, parents and the community?
- List ways that the nominee actively participates in centre projects, staff meetings, curriculum development, and fundraising?

**4. Demonstrates an ability to provide an inclusive program (multi-age/additional support needs, cultural).**

**5. Develops and promotes innovative program specific initiatives.**

*For example:*

- Emergent curriculum, pedagogical journey, learning stories, technology, nature focused programming, forest schools, etc.
- Develops new inclusion policies and literacy programs.

**6. Promotes child care as a service and profession.**

*For example:*

- Does the nominee participate in advocacy? If so, what and how?

**7. Participates in ECE professional development, including courses, workshops, seminars, conferences, and networking.**

- Please list the professional development that the nominee has participated in the last year (Jan. 2019 – Dec. 2019)

**8. List any committee or volunteer work that the nominee has participated in.**

*For example:*

- Committee or volunteer work that is directly related to child care will score higher in the selection process.



# Exceptional Early Childhood Educator

## Sample Question/Answer Page

Award: Exceptional Early Childhood Educator

*Please note: This is just an example of how the questions can be answered and the type of answers the Awards Committee is looking for.*

**Question #1: Provides an enriched child care program through innovative programming and supportive relationships with children and families.**

*Example answer:*

- Children talk about their homes a lot in the preschool program. Sally observed this and organized walking field trips to see different kinds of homes. The children & parents were asked to bring in photos of their homes. The children then constructed homes out of cardboard boxes. Sally went further with this activity by going to an appliance store and getting large boxes. She then brought them outside to be painted and decorated by the children. Sally brought in books and pictures showing homes in other countries and how families live different & similarly. The parents were invited in to talk about where they grew up and the children drew pictures about what they heard. This activity developed into a potluck of what families eat. The children discussed differences and similarities of families' home, lives and food. Sally was not afraid to go with what the children interests were. She involved the families and their different cultures and experiences. She allowed it to build without fear of "what to do next". It was lead by children and continued to be of interest to them for a long time. One child was unable to get a photo, so with parent's permission; Sally went on her own time and took a photo of that child's home. The child was not left out and was able to talk about his home. The children were encouraged to talk about their families and lives outside of the centre in a safe & happy environment. They still talk about it. This is a key example of Emergent Curriculum.

**Question #2: Guides children in developing social and emotional skills in a respectful and supportive manner.**

*Example answer:*

- Sally is an enthusiastic & positive person. She comes to work in the morning with a hello and smile for everyone. At the end of the summer, the room that Sally worked in was having a difficult time with some behavioral issues. Sally decided that observations & documentation needed to be done on the program. As quite a few children were experiencing difficulty, she determined that things needed to change with the program. Sally & the children had a discussion on violence and using words. She modeled positive behavior and provided children with the words to use when they became frustrated and angry. The staff, with Sally's guidance, rearranged some scheduling, as they realized that the time between snack and lunch was too long. They made snack a little later, which helped with most of the behavioural issues. It did not remove all, so Sally and the other staff decided to continue observing & documenting with parents' permission.
- During this period of time, Sally noticed some unusual behaviour of one of the children in the program. She consulted with other staff in the room to see if they noticed the same things. When they confirmed that they also questioned some behaviours, Sally spoke to the director. They set up a meeting with the parents to discuss concerns. The parents gave permission to Sally to continue observations and discuss the observations with a specialist. She took the lead in meeting with parents and specialists. Sally ensured that specific programming was done according to the needs of this child. She became the link between parents, specialist, child and other staff in the program.



## Exceptional Early Childhood Educator

**Question #3: Demonstrates high standards of professionalism and inspires team spirit, commitment and serves as a role model and mentor for their child care colleagues.**

*Example answer:*

- When the centre received information regarding the Curriculum Framework project, Sally took the lead and investigated philosophies of other centres. She organized a working committee made up of staff, parents and board members to develop a philosophy specific to the centre. This committee is still in the process of developing the philosophy with the never failing energy of Sally as their lead.
- Sally is enrolled in the Developmental Studies Degree at U of W. She has taken 3 courses and will have completed her degree in the next 3 years.

**Question #4: Demonstrates an ability to provide an inclusive program (multi-age/additional support needs/cultural).**

*Example answer:*

- While preparing for a science experiment with the children Sally ensured that she was setting up in an area that was accessible to Joshua so that his wheel chair could be placed right at the table and that the objects could also be placed on his tray.

**Question #5: Develops and promotes innovative program specific initiatives.**

*Example answer:*

- The children in the centre showed a big interest in "what do mom & dad do when they leave me here". Sally organized a visit to parents' work place. She then brought the children on a field trip to a University. The children drew what they saw and she posted pictures of each parent at their work place. The children decided to make the dramatic area into an office. The following week was another parents place of employment. This continued for a few months with changes depending on what parent they wanted to emulate.
- Sally noticed the children in the turtle group were very interested in letters and books. She created a book club with those children & their parents. Every week the children took a book of choice home. At the centre, they drew pictures about the story as she read aloud. The parents loved the idea so much, they continued to do this at home. The parents & children brought into the centre their art from home where Sally posted it on the walls.

**Question #6: Promotes child care as a service and a profession.**

*Example answer:*

- Sally participated in a forum on Early Childhood Education at the Legislative Buildings. She spoke passionately about the benefits of child care for children and families and the importance of qualified ECEs.
  - Sally was asked to speak to the graduating class at XYZ school regarding being an ECE, what does the profession entail and how to get to where she is in her career.
-