



## BUILDING COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR THE EARLY YEARS



Lethbridge Roving Gyms continue to be a growing success in the community. We had 443 participants in October and November. That is a 64% growth in attendance over last year for these two months. In November, Lethbridge Roving Gyms was featured on [Global News](#) and [CTV \(go to 8:20\)](#).

### L-SKIP (Lethbridge Seniors and Kids Intergenerational Pilot)

Three L-SKIP sessions were offered this year - two at Nord-Bridge and one at LSCO. We had seventy-seven participants in total including children, seniors and parents. While seniors and kids enjoyed active play, stories, and puzzles, parents engaged in conversation on topics including serve and return, executive function, stress, early brain development and more. One evaluation noted, *"I had a great time and will miss the interactions. It has been quite a while since I have been around children and really enjoyed this."*



### DIGITAL PLAY PACKS



Digital Play Packs launched this September at The Crossings Branch. Digital Play Packs (DPPs) encourage caregivers and children to consider the importance of balance between digital play and active play. Sunrise Rotary Club has generously donated funding to create eight new DPPs. We are working with Helen Schuler Centre to create a Nature Play theme and Lethbridge Sport Council to create a Physical Literacy themed DPP. DPP evaluation comments included: *"I enjoyed learning about digital learning tools for my son through this kit."* *"We enjoyed the variety of activities – it was well balanced with books, activities and digital device use."*

### OUTDOOR PLAY PRESENTATION – save the date!!

Joanne Keilty, former Lethbridge College ECE staff member, will be presenting on Outdoor Play, Wednesday, February 28th from 6:30 – 8:00PM. Joanne has been a member of the field of Early Childhood Education for 36 years and was instrumental in Lethbridge College receiving major funding for a research project advocating childhood outdoor play.



### PROVINCIAL UPDATE



The next few months will be very busy for Lethbridge Early Years as we receive the 2016 EDI community reports and lead discussions in the community about what the results mean and what actions can be taken collectively to respond to these results.

### OTHER 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

- The Brain Architecture Game was played at Children's House Child Care Society, Agape, and Lethbridge College Preschool Parent Program
- LEYC has a monthly column in The Lethbridge Herald
- LEYC has had presentation opportunities at Building Brains and Futures' Parent Cafes and AHS Baby Steps
- A new LEYC Parent Committee has been established to provide leadership over a community initiative in 2018