

About Students Learning in the Field – A research project

We know that experiential knowledge acquired in the Field has a tremendous impact on educators' practice. That is why the College of Early Childhood Educators (Ontario) mandates field education courses for all students preparing to work with young children and their families. At TMU we require our students to take a field education course in each year of their four-year program. To help ensure that these courses offer high quality learning opportunities to students, we have undertaken a study this figure out:

- What do our students learn in the Field
- How does this learning happen
- What facilitates or impedes their learning
- What can be done to enhance student learning in the Field

Each year, students write four short papers based on their own field experiences as a part of their assigned coursework. Students who choose to participate in the project formally consent to use of their papers as data for the study. Collectively, these papers help us address the above questions.

Data collection for the study started in 2021 and is expected to continue for another 5 years. We invite anyone interested in learning more this project to contact Dr. Judith K. Bernhard at bernhard@torontomu.ca

The ethics protocol for this study has been reviewed and approved by the Toronto Metropolitan University Research Ethics Board (REB # 2025-103).