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## What is an external evaluation?

External evaluation is any process in which an organization, institution or group is examined by evaluating a person who is not part of those human groups. That is, it is the evaluation carried out by a person outside a group of people in order to have the least biased and subjective measurement of it possible. These types of assessments are quite common in business and educational contexts

[<https://englopedia.com/what-is-external-evaluation/>]

*Outdoor Pedagogy  
Project - External  
Evaluation in New  
Brunswick*

**I was unsure what to expect in NB in terms of the evaluation. I first concentrated on situating myself in this beautiful, unknown place & space. We explored our surroundings and enjoyed the beauty. We tried new tastes and began our conversations about the project.**

**Meeting the Lawson Foundation representative and the 2 external evaluators for the project gave me a glimpse into the process. Our conversations began on a more 'relaxed and informal' basis.**

**Then the 'interviews' began. The questions caused me to dig deep into my learning and what I have done in terms of introducing outdoor pedagogy at my college.**



# THE EVALUATION PROCESS CONTINUED...

I was proud to report to the evaluators the accomplishments, the work I still hope to do, and the collaborations occurring within my faculty team at Bow Valley College, and with my colleagues within the Lawson Foundation Project.

I wondered, "Was I providing the fullest picture of the tremendous learning, achievements, and changes that this project has allowed? Could I really communicate the gratitude and professional growth I have experienced due to this opportunity?"



## THE CONVERSATIONS

### I WAS ASKED ABOUT...

- *my outdoor teaching and learning within the ECED program at the college*
- *my work with children and their educators in partnership with ECE settings in Calgary*
- *the community of practice and my collaboration with the colleagues within it*
- *my achievements in promoting outdoor pedagogy within my college community and ECED program*

### WHAT I SHARED...

**The highlights of our discussions for me** were sharing about the children- how the children have taught me the most about play and learning outdoors.

**My students** - their successes, challenges and progress in offering outdoor play experiences within their practicum settings and their participation in weekly seminar classes held outdoors

**The C.O.P.** and what I am gaining from our weekly meetings.

**Bow Valley College Faculty** and how my colleagues are now more engaged in learning about outdoor pedagogy & have begun teaching outdoors within their classes and not just the outdoor practicum course!

**The educators** - The paradox I find in what educators 'say' and what actually 'happens' in the outdoors with children - why are some ECE's so engaged and others not?

I so appreciated the conversations and the challenge of articulating my perspective on this very important project