



# UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

MISSISSAUGA

Centre for Child Development, Mental Health, and Policy

September 23, 2020

Suzanne Finn  
Executive Director, Early Years/Child Care and Community Access  
Region of Peel  
10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A and B, Brampton, ON L6T 4B9

**RECEIVED**  
**September 23, 2020**  
REGION OF PEEL  
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

Dear Suzanne,

Our project entitled, *Building Interconnectedness: Linking Social-Emotional Development Research to Practice and Policy* was awarded a Partnership Development Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). Thank you again for supporting this initiative as a Co-applicant and Community Partner. We are currently preparing a formal agreement to be discussed during our first meeting on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

The goal of our project is to support a high quality implementation of our social-emotional development and mental health promotion training concepts into practice across the Early Years sector. Based on our longitudinal and intervention research over the past decade, we were able to provide evidence that social-emotional development is vital for healthy trajectories across childhood, academic achievement, and well-being, mitigating emotional and behavioural challenges (e.g., antisocial behaviours, depressive symptoms, experiences of victimization and exclusion) in early childhood and beyond. In light of the current and ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the capacity to support children’s development and well-being, as well as caregiver mental health, has become even more critical. As previously discussed, we are delighted that the Region of Peel will play a lead role through the course of the project, co-governing all project-related activities and co-chairing an advisory committee as appropriate.

We believe that establishing and cultivating a strong, equitable partnership between the University of Toronto, Mississauga and the Region of Peel will foster the development and implementation of innovative and sustainable practice strategies that can enhance best outcomes for children and families in Peel Region. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely Yours,

Tina Malti, Ph.D., C.Psych.  
Professor of Psychology  
Department of Psychology and  
Director  
Centre for Child Development, Mental Health, and Policy  
University of Toronto Mississauga

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