

# MASTER OF EDUCATION THESIS DEFENSE

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**Wed. December 1, 2010, 9:30 a.m.**

Location: Memorial Hall, Room 417

## **Do You Hear What I Say? *Attending to the Voices of Prince Edward Island Parents***

### **ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this research was to obtain a perspective from Prince Edward Island parents of preschool children, regarding their views on what is important for them, and for their children, in terms of understanding healthy development and parental support. Specifically the research set out to identify: (a) whether parents believed they had a meaningful voice in program or policy developments which impact children and families; (b) what concerns they might have in relation to child development, childcare, and early childhood education in general; and (c) whether they identified any gaps in current services or programs. *Do You Hear What I Say? Attending to the Voices of Prince Edward Island Parents*, captured the opinions and perspectives of parents of preschool children from across PEI. In summary, the research findings identified the need for high quality accessible and affordable childcare; effective communication with parents; ongoing opportunities for parents to provide input into decisions which affect them as parents or their children; programs and services which reflect current research and best practices; and information on child development and parenting techniques. In general, PEI parents want to be understood and have their needs responded to in a meaningful way. The findings from the research may be meaningful for program and policy developers interested in the health and well-being of families with young children.