Once Upon OUR Time

Stories for Advocacy - Mini Workshop

Hosted by Ally Galit

November 19th, 2025
10:30-11:30am: Sully Time
University of Guelph-Humber - GH319

AECEO student blog

aeceo
Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario

Purpose: This mini workshop helped students in the Early Childhood program find their story, build their story, feel a sense of community, and learn about supports available through the AECEO and SECEO.

Reach: This workshop reflected Ally's 2nd-year experience as an ECS student and aimed to engage those who wanted to build community and uncover their voice for storytelling and advocacy. Through promotion, Ally welcomed ECS students from 1st through 4th year, all ECS support staff, Acting Chair Elena Merenda, and Associate Head Amina Yousaf, who attended to support.

Inspiration to Collaboration:

This event was inspired by Finding Power in Stories: The Foundations of Advocacy, a workshop hosted by AECEO staff member Erin Filby. Ally was immediately drawn in and left with an "aha" moment, feeling empowered, connected, and part of a community. Over the 12-week placement, Ally collaborated closely with Erin and mentor Amber, receiving ongoing coaching and mentorship. Their guidance helped shape this project, ensuring it was accurate, meaningful, and valuable for her university.

Ally's Hope for future placement students:

"Coming into this placement, I truly didn't know what to expect, what an online placement would look like, what my role would be, or what the purpose of my work might become. But everything shifted for me. Viewing the field through an advocacy lens answered so many questions I'd carried: Why is burnout so common? Why do some educators feel or act the way they do? Where is their support?!

If you ever have the chance to be placed here, take it. Say yes to opportunities. Join sessions, read widely, get curious about a topic that moves you, and explore where you want to see change. This placement made me feel like a better person *for* educators and *as* an educator.

The AECEO is not just a safe space; it's an uplifting, generous community that is always willing to support your growth, your questions, and your advocacy journey"
-Ally Galit (2025)