Fostering a Maker Mindset: Engaging Diverse Learners Through Creative Spaces

Makerspaces have taken hold in communities across the world, as people rediscover the simple human joy of making something with their hands. Admittedly, the kinds of making associated with Makerspaces are usually somehow related to engineering and technology, but a growing contingent of low-tech makers are exploring the intersections between engineering and craft, between art and design. At LEARN, we chose to embrace all forms of making, and have called our makerspace an Open Creative Space, to honour both high- and low-tech making. An open creative space is a space in which people make things: students, educators, parents & community members. It is informed and inspired by the Maker movement, by Art Hives and by the act of creation that makes us human. **A Creative Space brings together head, heart and hands.**

For more information visit: [ocs.learnquebec.ca](http://ocs.learnquebec.ca)

Christine Truesdale

Christine Truesdale has been working at LEARN since its inception and is currently serving as Director of Pedagogical Services and Educational Technology. She holds a BFA in Visual Arts and an MA in Educational Technology from Concordia University. Since 1997, Christine has specialized in youth sector education, creating and delivering professional development for educators, designing competency-based educational resources and building tools to help educators design curriculum. She has led a variety of educational projects that provide resources and collaborative opportunities for students and educators across Quebec. She is passionate about learning and inspiring people to unleash their full potential.

Sylwia Bielec  
Sylwia Bielec is an instructional designer and pedagogical consultant, currently dividing her time and expertise between LEARN and the Cree School Board. She specializes in professional learning, reflective practice, informal/community learning and a systems approach to instructional design. A socioconstructivist educator at her core, Sylwia has worked on a variety of pedagogical innovation initiatives in a competency-based setting - most recently as part of the Open Creative Spaces team at LEARN. She holds and M.A. in Educational Technology, and has a background in media production and dance education. Her superpower is simplifying the complex, without sacrificing its intricate complexity.