

## Reflective Practice Network Meeting Minutes

Monday January 26th, 2015 5:00 to 7:00 pm ECCDC, Community Board Room

### 1. Welcomes and Introductions

Participants introduced themselves to the group. In attendance were: Ginette Wilson, Patricia Couroux, Shari Hill, Jodi Lacasse, Sharon Milne, Nicole Rasmussen, Helene Randle, Robin Cotton, Jacquie Rodgers, Lori Brady, Jenna Brunarski, Debbie Prins, Brenda Steele, Christine Cameron and Laura Rasmussen

Regrets: Donna Dagleish, Kelly Wilcox and Lorrey Arial-Bonilla

### 2. Acceptance of Minutes from last meeting

Accepted by Sharon Milne and seconded by Jacquie Rodgers.

### 3. Acceptance of the Agenda

The pedagogical leadership video has not been unloaded to the Ministry of Education website. Participants were given the option to read the Pedagogical Leadership chapter, written by Anne Marie Coughlin & Lorrie Baird, in the Think, Feel, Act: Lessons from Research about Young Children document and discuss the reflective questions or to view the Learning Environments video by Karyn Callaghan and discuss the reflective questions. Participants choose the latter.

### 4. Training/Network Development Activity

- Feedback from Pedagogical Leadership events held at:
    - *London Bridge Pedagogical Leadership Institute and study tour*-Participants shared the following. It was useful it was to be able to visit different centres and see how the centres were set up. It was beneficial to be able to take photographs and share them with staff. Discussing the 'why not?'-rules without reason. Thinking about a person's dispositions when recruiting new members of staff, rather just their knowledge. It was useful to see the organization's progression including their struggles and what had worked or not worked.
- It felt that participants contributions were valued and listened to, which highlighted the importance of listening to the staff you are working with, going deeper, looking into the 'why not' and the reason. Is it that it could it be dangerous, if so how can we do it safely, support children and bring them into the discussion. She also highlighted the attention to detail and valuing the staff that you work and the work they do.
- The structure of the institute was well received; building relationships with the educators at your table so no one feels judged. It was beneficial to be able to learn from everyone. A participant who hadn't attended the institute felt that the information and photographs, which brought back by colleagues, from London Bridge, had really inspired and empowered staff to act on changes.
- It felt that it was more than just the pictures, but being able to connect with people over a few days. The excitement and enthusiasm didn't stop once you left the institute. She highlighted the level of respect and how the information trickles down to staff and that everybody knows that they are included in the decisions that are made. Each London Bridge centre's environments were different reflecting the individuality of each centre 'no

cookie cutter setting' as it is reflective of the families and staff. It took London Bridge ten years to get where they are today and they aren't finished as it's ever evolving.

A participant took away from the institute that it's not just an emergent approach with the children but the whole approach is emergent and just because you change something or because something is different it doesn't necessarily mean things have changed. What you put in is what you get out. The visits to the centres' highlighted their individual progression and it was nice to see the journey of each centre. It was an amazing opportunity and really wonderful, getting to share ideas.

Other key points included-being present in the time-being productive with the time given-time to reflect- great ideas around continuous learning for the staff – master educator program-critical friend who you share information with freely and support each other through feedback – accepting to listen and to offer, what would be the best practice for each person-you need to understand that you are moving there and it is okay to be where you are.

- *Ministry of Education's 'How Does Learning Happen?' conferences in Toronto and London-* A participant felt that it was her aha moment. She really understood the information provided and was very excited upon returning. She felt that it would have been beneficial if all RECE's could have attended and partaken in the event. The group was informed that more events are planned however the content will be the same at all sessions so people only need attend one. The difference between documentation and documenting, relationships that you build, high risk activity, important to experience to be able to move forward were also key points for the conference.
- *Niagara 'Pedagogical Leadership Institute'*-Participants shared the following. That you can teach skills but you can't teach open mindedness and values. Active listening and the authentic curiosity of children are important.  
There was a diversity of the individuals at the tables, but all had similar values and dispositions, and the importance for any leader to know his/her educators values.  
An other participant had attended all 3 and had taken different points away from each one.
- View the '*Pedagogical Leadership* video available on the Ministry of Education website <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/research.html> followed by discussion and reflection  
As the video was not available on the website participants viewed The Learning Environments video by Karyn Callaghan and discuss a given reflective question in small groups.

## 5. Future Network Development

- Spring Meetings-Participants felt it would be beneficial for meetings to be held at Child Care Centres, to enable program staff to view various emergent environments and practice, as currently this is only available to Supervisors who have this opportunity through the Child Care Centre's Supervisors network meeting.
- Future Meetings-Shari will be facilitating a *Higher Order Thinking Prompts* activity on March 23, 2015

- Program staff network meeting and potential new meetings. Participants were asked to consider any potential new networks and suggestion for the program staff network meeting format. Please let Ginette have any suggestion at the next network meeting in March.

#### **6. Round Table Updates and Discussion by organization**

- Regarding the utilization of the 'The Attentiveness Protocol' developed by Dr. Carol Anne Wien as discussed at December's network meeting. Participants found it useful but did not share any specific examples.
- Sharing experiences of Pedagogical Documentation – Participants are encouraged to bring examples to the network meeting. None were brought to this meeting

#### **7. ECCDC Resource Display**

- Resource Reference List and Resource Display-Documentation. Please see attached with the minutes
- Upcoming professional Learning Opportunities-
  - Welcoming Dad's conference on Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at Amici's conference centre in Thorold
  - The Infant and Toddler Institute on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at The Holiday Inn and Suits in St. Catharine's
  - The Reflective Practice Book Study-Designs for Living and Learning: Transforming Early Childhood Environments by Deb Curtis and Margie Carter on Tuesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2015 5pm-6.30pm at the ECCDC

#### **8. Meeting Evaluation**

9. **Next Meeting Date** Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 5pm-7pm at the ECCDC in the Community Board room.