

Reflective Practice Network Meeting Minutes
Monday, 8 June 2015 6:00 to 8:00 pm Welland Regional Child Care Centre

1. Welcomes and Introductions

Participants introduced themselves and present were: Stephanie Barton, Samantha Beauparlant, Lori Brady, Christine Cameron, Robin Cotton, Donna Dalgleish, Shari Hill-minutes, Jodi Lacasse, Theresa Matthews, Cindy McMartin-Klassen, Michele Merritt, Sharon Milne, Tracey Murray, Debbie Prins, Nicole Rasmussen, Jacquie Rodgers, Amelia Rupsys, Brenda Steele, Kelly Wilcox and Ginette Wilson facilitator and minutes

Regrets: Heather Gorham-Nowell and Patricia Couroux

2. Acceptance of the minutes:

Accepted by Brenda Steele and seconded by Debbie Prins

3. Acceptance of the Agenda:

The agenda was accepted with no amendments.

4. Tour of Welland Regional Child Care Centre by Jodi Lacasse followed by

- **An explanation of the centres journey from a theme based approach to an emergent approach**
- **Reflections and sharing of thoughts regarding Welland Regional Child Care Centre's emergent journey**

Jodi gave an overview of the centre's progress, to date, on their journey from a theme based to an emergent approach. Previously the indoor environments were very busy with lots of colour and commercially produced visuals. Photographs of the centre's indoor environments prior to the change were displayed for network members to view. She highlighted that the staff are still on the journey and the centre has high levels of parental engagement. The staff has noticed changes in the children's behavior and parents have also noticed these changes at home.

Parents are now spending longer at the centre to 'hang out' with their children. The centre has nine pre-school children with special needs in a group of 16 children and the educators shared that since the move to an emergent approach that the behaviours have lessened "you do not notice any behaviours". Previously Educators were directing behaviours whereas now they are engaging in the children's play, which is reflected through "joyful engaging in the classroom". Jodi feels this is like a research project and she can see great results and understanding of reflective practice and emergent learning. The centre has a champion for emergent learning, which has helped to move things forward. The centre has just started to work on their outdoor environment and have recently introduced a 'mud kitchen'.

The centre has an attractive welcoming area at the entrance with a fish aquarium and a bulletin board highlighting that children are competent, capable, and curious, and a list of future endeavors.

This is also a homely area with a sofa, coffee table and books in middle of the centre where parents and children can relax. The centre has a toddler area consist of a playroom and a big body area, and a preschool room. The environments include real authentic objects such as china tea cups and tools. Educators set up provocations based on the children's interests and change the environments to meet their needs and interested e.g. "the children were laying on the floor so trucks were put on the floor for them to play with".

Program planning; currently program plans are completed as learning happens however when the centre first moved to an emergent approach the educator used post-its on the program plan, but now they feel more comfortable to enter information directly onto the program plan. Educators utilize the owl philosophy: observe, wait, and listen.

Values; the staff team developed a set of values for the centre, which are used alongside Niagara Regions values.

5. Round Tables updates and discussion by organization

- OEYC Mary Ward Catholic School highlighted the Intergenerational program at their centre. They provide provocations for children and seniors, which include musical sticks, teddy bears and rhymes and bubbles. Physical activities are great to use if seniors have dementia.
- The cost of making changes to the environments was highlighted. Participants shared the following suggestion; Kijiji has a free section for items and there is a freecycle on the Internet, which are good for source items, using funding to purchase larger items and asking for donations of smaller items, retaining some colours i.e. chairs and purchasing over wooden adult sized items and cutting them down to size.

6. Highlight Naturalized Playground Partnership at the ECCDC

This is a pilot project with Bienenstock Playgrounds and will include up to five centres who would like to naturalize their outdoor playspaces. This is offered to centres at a discounted rate of 60% and will include a topographical survey, 3D custom design which can be phased in, customized workshops, practical hands-on strategies for nature experiences and ongoing maintenance.

7. ECCDC Resource Display

- **Resource Reference List and Resource Display**- Shari Hill highlighted examples of new Play Based Learning Kits, available at the ECCDC, which include natural authentic materials and Loose Parts.
- **Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities**-Science celebration on the 23rd June 10am-12 noon at Charles Daly Park Jordan, Exploring Nature Education on the 16th June 6.30-8.30pm and Using Recycled Tires with your Early Learning Environment both at the ECCDC and Susan Stacey session Exploring Emergent Curriculum on Saturday 26th September 8.30am-4.00pm at Amici's Conference Centre.

8. Future Network Development

- Fall meeting and future meetings- participants would like a meeting to be at an OEYC site following the same agenda and journey as today's meeting. If a centre is willing to host the next meeting please contact Ginette Wilson. Participants would like to share pictures and ideas of provocations, and examples of documentation for the group to study together.
- Potential new networks-revisited previous discussions regarding program staff network and whether this is the logical network for them to attend, as this network has evolved to include many educators, and suggested a separate network to look at policy change, change management and systems, and pedagogical leadership. The discussion mainly concentrated in this network and the name of it. Participants wanted to keep Reflective Practice in the title and suggested Emergent Reflective Practice.

9. Meeting Evaluation

10. **Next Meeting Date**- Wednesday, September 30th 2015 6.00pm-8.00pm venue to be confirmed. NB This date has been rescheduled to November the 2nd and will be held at OEYC Port Cares in Port Colborn.