

Reflective Emergent Practice Network Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 15th June, 2016

6:30 to 8:30 pm

St Catharines Regional Child Care Centre, 179, Carlton Street, St Catharine's, ON L2R 1S1

1. Welcomes and Introductions; participants introduced themselves to the group. In attendance were Lori Brady, Christine Cameron, Kay Charles, Valerie Chase, Shari Hill, Laura King, Jodi Lacasse, Sharon Milne, Marg Peart, Leah Philbrick, Kristen Richardson, Jacquie Rodgers, Barb Smith, Brenda Steele, Beverley Werkmeister, Kelly Wilcox, Patricia Couroux (co-facilitator) and Ginette Wilson (co-facilitator and minutes).

- Regrets-Michelle Merit

2. Acceptance of Minutes from last meeting; the minutes were accepted by Sharon Milne and seconded by Shari Hill.

3. Acceptance of the Agenda; the agenda was accepted with no amendments.

4. Tour of St Catharines Regional Child Care Centre led by Sharon Milne followed by
 - An exploration of the centre's journey from a theme based approach to an emergent approach
 - Reflections and sharing of thoughts regarding the centre's emergent journey

Sharon Milne, centre supervisor, gave a tour of the child care centre including the indoor and outdoor environments, and explained that the centre was building upon the changes that had taken place under the support of the previous supervisor. Centre staff shared the changes that they have been making in their rooms and gave an overview of the how and why. The centre has relocated the lockers in the entrance area and added natural wood storage cupboards, which is a welcoming space to families and visitors. The relocation of the lockers has reduced running and children now negotiate the usage of the lockers. This space is where the children start and end the day, which enables educators to set up invitations to play, based on the children's interests, for the following day in the playrooms. The centre has been working on reducing the number of transitions and has a menu board which supports family engagement. Q: A participant asked how the children shape the centre? A: the children bring in flowers, ask for items, pick own salad from the garden and wash items.

A discussion took place regarding how the examples for best practice, which are taking place in centres, could be shared. Participants like sharing at network meetings however, they would like a means to share ideas on a more regular basis. It was suggested the network have a closed facebook page to share ideas. It was highlighted that there are facebook groups that have a Reggio inspired approach.

A participant shared that it is great not knowing what children are going to do with an experiences offered and seeing what they do with the materials.

5. Sharing how participants have utilized the 'A Thinking Lens for Reflection and Inquiry' and Dr. Carol Anne Wien's 'Attentiveness Protocol' since the last network meeting.

- Educators are encouraged to bring examples of photograph that they have been studying

and/or would like to discuss with fellow educators

Due to time, a review of the agenda took place and participants decided to skip this agenda item to enable sufficient time to discuss the next agenda item. However, Shari Hill highlighted two new reflective practice educator resource kits available for loan at the ECCDC; 'Supporting Your Team's Photo Study Skills' and 'Building a Culture of Reflective Practice Tool Kit'. Please see attached resource list.

6. Making children's learning visible through documenting

- Educator's will have an opportunity to engage in discussions regarding documenting children's learning, share strategies, and discuss the benefits and overcoming potential barriers to documenting
- Educators are encouraged to bring examples to share

A participant shared some examples of how they have documented children's learning. A discussion followed regarding the value of showing what children are doing and the importance of sharing children's learning with their family, which in turn supports relationships with families. Documenting what happens through pictures and dialogue supports the four foundations outlined in 'How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years.

Participants shared ways in which they are sharing documentation. They included posting on bulletin boards, using the 'interactive observation and documentation panel', sequencing photos, conversations, what was happening and learning in a story board, and using reflection and context as a starting point. Tips were shared and included; to be intentional and in the moment, scaffolding thinking as a team by sharing interesting work and valuing by retelling, bouncing ideas off fellow educators, and revisit with a critical friend asking questions to deepen thinking e.g. why did you take that photo, what happened there. It was also suggested that the 'Thinking Lens for Reflection' is utilized during discussions and reflection. A participant was conscious of reverting back to themes; it was suggested that they discuss with a critical friend and acknowledge that is good to be able to identify this through reflection. It was highlighted theme based kits are not redundant as educators can still use them but in a more emergent way.

A participant shared photographs of invitations to play, that had been offered to the children in her infant room. They included interesting natural Loose Parts and mirrors.

7. ECCDC Resource Display

- Resource Reference List and Resource Display-see attached with the minutes.
- Professional Learning Opportunities offered in the Spring ESTEEM.

8. Future Network Development

- Autumn meeting & future meetings-use the 'Thinking Lens for Reflection and Inquiry' with photos brought by participants.

9. Meeting Evaluation