

Winter 2014

Child Care Connections

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Step into new beginnings.....

Appreciation and Recognition Event

On November the 13 approximately 200 early childhood educators joined together for a wonderful evening of celebration at the Peterborough Golf and Country Club. Speakers Sam Moore from Hiawatha and Sandra Robinson from the City of Peterborough provoked participants to reflect on the significance and importance of the work of early childhood educators. Following this, a group of 10 talented musicians from local First Nations performed powerful traditional drumming and songs. To end the evening Raising the Bar certificates and certificates for individual professional learning at the platinum level were handed out.

Once again congratulations to the *121 individuals* who participated in a minimum of 20 hours of professional learning in 2012-13 and to the *6 agencies* where all staff achieved this level!



Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them humanity cannot survive.

Dalai Lama



Investing in Quality staff:

susan@investinginquality.ca 705 - 749 - 3488 (217)
katherine@investinginquality.ca 705 - 749 - 3488 (218)
 Website: www.investinginquality.ca

Investing In Quality 
 Early Learning and Child Care Peterborough

From the Professional Learning Coordinator

What will this winter bring for us? While it is often a time for staying warm and snug in our homes, it is also a time to look ahead at the coming year and to reflect on the past one. What stands out for you in the past year? What is something that you are proud of in your practice? What would you like to learn more about or do more of in the months ahead? On the opposite page are some of the planned opportunities for professional learning that will be offered over the next months. We hope to be able to add some others as well

I am excited to offer a book study which is a first for us. We can learn so much more with others when we share our ideas and talk about them together. As well, there is an evening planned for men in Early Childhood to come together to explore their experiences in the field. We are also planning a workshop where we will look at the materials we use in the classroom and why we might want to broaden our idea of what to offer the children. Planning is also well under way for the annual Early Learning and Child Care Conference in the spring. Any one of these might be the spark that you need to keep your ideas and enthusiasm alive during the next few months!

Katherine Orgill RECE



From the Quality Initiative Coordinator

It has now been over 6 months since I accepted the position of Quality Initiatives Co-ordinator with Investing in Quality. During this time I have gained an appreciation for the unique rhythm of the work involved. In the months of September, October and November are some significant dates that are central to my job. They include the Raising the Bar binder submission day, peer review of the binders and then the ECE appreciation evening.

First of all my gratitude to the 7 teams of peer reviewers whose commitment and dedication to the peer review process was outstanding and made peer review a very enjoyable day!

Congratulations to the 22 programs who successfully maintained a gold level for the second year. (Evergreen status is achieved after a minimum of 2 years of maintaining RTB standards at the gold level). For more on the recognition event, please see the back page.

To date I am in the final stages of preparing the launch and distribution of the 2013-14 Raising the Bar profiles. Each program participating in the RTB initiative will receive a package (either by mail or in person) that contains an electronic version of the workbook, profile and supporting materials.

I very much look forward to having time to visit, in person, many of the early learning and child care programs in our area, and continue to support programs participating in Raising the Bar.

Susan Scoffin RECE



Update on Resources

First Art by MaryAnn Kohl

Although this book from the resource library says it is for toddlers and twos, it is appropriate for older ages, too. First published over 10 years ago, it reflects the author's belief that "the process of art for young children (is) more important than the finished product". Each activity lists materials needed, the level of preparation needed, whether the activity is quiet or active along with tips and variations. If you are looking for inspiration, you can borrow one of the copies from the library.

Owl Babies by Martin Waddell and illustrated by Patrick Benson

Did you know that the resource library has several children's books available to borrow? Many, such as this one are relevant to social and emotional learning for young children. If you don't know this story about 3 young owls, you owe it to yourself to bring it to your centre and share with the children. See the list of other books on the Investing in Quality website under Resources:

Children's Tools: <http://www.investinginquality.ca/resource-library/childrens-books/>

Professional Learning Highlights

Book Study

'Learning Together with Young Children'

Come together over four sessions to read and discuss this book with others. Copies of the book are available for borrowing from the resource library.

Wednesdays: Jan.29, Feb. 26, March 26, April 30

6:30 - 8:30

IIQ office / 550 Braidwood

Loose Parts

What are loose parts and why would we use them? Come and explore with your colleagues to open up new options for your children and your programs.

Thursday, March 27

6:30—8:30

IIQ office / 550 Braidwood Ave

Men in Early Childhood

Are you a male working with young children? Would you like to have a chance to gather with other males in the field to network and share stories? This evening is your chance to do so with a video and discussion.

Monday, March 31

6:30 - 8:00

IIQ office / 550 Braidwood Ave

Save the Date

Early Learning and Child Care Conference

Mark this date on your calendars.

The annual spring conference returns with a wide range of workshops.

Saturday, April 26

9:00 - 3:30

Marc Battle ~ Highlights *Tammy Quilty RECE*

"We don't receive wisdom, we must discover it for ourselves after a journey that no one can take for us or spare us." Marcel Proust (French novelist, 1871).

This quote was displayed as I entered the room late. Getting my attention right away !!

Emergent Play couldn't be more sensible and natural as when ECE speaker Marc Battle shares his experiences - entertaining, educating and enlightening. Well, at least for me, whilst I sat amongst about 70 other women and a few men on a warm bright balmy fall Saturday.

I pay out of pocket to go to a workshop/conference to be fed ideas that will nourish my passion for educating our youngest citizens. \$25 bucks was a small fee for the large quantities of nourishing my soul received.

Oh yes Marc Battle!!!! He is a little treasure...that's the truth!! He was on fire! He reminded us all to ask ourselves at the end of the day, "Was it meaningful?" meaning my program for that day.

He drew everyone in at one time or another! He sang & reminded us that we all have rhythm—he proved it too! He clearly demonstrated how easy it is for song & movement to be included throughout our days. Tapping his toes, clapping his hands & chanting an old work song.....he was contagious!!

He shared some of his favourite inspiring quotes. A popular one in our profession: *"You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation."* Plato

We, the fellowship of like-minded ECEs had the opportunity to go back to our childhoods & remember the most favourite thing we did as play. And then discussed around and around the tables and trusted each other with our memories. The passionate discussion was evidence of the philosophy that *play matters*. For me, I was excited to be reminded that PLAY & LEARNING are naturally intrinsic—children are internally motivated & that *wisdom comes only from our own experiences*.

For information, contact Katherine Orgill at (705) 749-3488 ext. 218
katherine@investinginquality.ca

For full details and registration forms, visit www.investinginquality.ca
Check periodically to see new additions.



Highlights from the proposed legislation:

- 1) Provide the government with greater authority and enforcement tools to strengthen oversight and enhance safety : Includes raising penalties and being able to issue compliance orders
- 2) Increase access to spaces in licensed home child care settings: Increase from five to six.
- 3) Clarify programs that do not require a license
- 4) **Quality** The legislation and other policy changes reflect a focus on safety and high-quality programs that contribute to healthy child development.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT CHILD CARE IN ONTARIO

- Since 2003, access to licensed child care has grown by nearly 100,000 spaces.
- There are 5,050 licensed child care centres in the province with a total capacity of 294,490 spaces; 143,020 of those spaces are in publicly funded schools.
- Ontario is providing \$346 million in child care funding over four years to help stabilize and modernize the child care system.
- Since 2003, the province has increased funding for child care by 90 per cent to more than \$1 billion in 2013-14.



DECA Update

As many of you will know, the first Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) for preschoolers was initially developed over ten years ago. It has been updated and is now called the DECA-P2. There have been some changes to the form:

- the preschool form is now recommended for *ages 3 – 5* with the infant/toddler assessment used for two year olds
- Some questions have been *re-worded* to make them more easily understood
- one more has been added (there are *now 38* questions)
- there is a new rule for scoring blanks and easier scoring

The protective factors for both Infant/Toddler and Preschool are now the same:

- initiative
- self-regulation (changed from self-control)
- attachment/relationships (addition of relationships)

Why these changes?

- **Self-regulation:** “the child’s ability to express emotions and manage behaviors in positive ways”. It is not the same as self-control. It is an area of research where information is exploding.

In Ontario, Dr. Stuart Shanker, a leading researcher, has been involved with the Ministry of Education. Here is a link to some short video clips of him speaking on this topic: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/selfRegulate.html>

- **Attachment/relationships:** “the child’s ability to promote and maintain mutual, positive connections with other children and significant adults”. This broadens the scope of the term and moves beyond simple attachment.

Dr. Jean Clinton, a child psychiatrist from Hamilton, has also been involved with the Early Years Division. Here is a link to her speaking about the importance of relationships: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/positive.html>

“Every child deserves to have someone who is crazy about them.”