



THE IMAGES OF LEARNING PROJECT

Making visible the
competencies of children
and the work of
Early Childhood Educators



“Children speak
to us even when
they don’t speak.”

Carlina Rinaldi

And it is our
responsibility
to listen closely...

THE IMAGES OF LEARNING PROJECT PHILOSOPHY

We believe that children are creative communicators in continuous dialogue with their world. Through art, sculpture, language, drama, and stories, children demonstrate the depth of their existing knowledge and their continuous search for new knowledge.

When you look at a child, we want you to stop and listen deeply to:

- What children know
- How children are researching what they do not know
- How children integrate that research into new learning
- The many ways children communicate.

Our concept builds on the work of community awareness done in the Italian city of Reggio Emilia with “*The 100 Languages of Children Exhibit*” which has travelled the world making visible the work of early childhood educators in Reggio and the competencies of children.

THE PORTABLE EXHIBIT

The “Images of Learning” exhibit features a series of life-size panels designed to call attention to the child as a protagonist in their own learning, capable of expressing themselves in a myriad of ways. The panels have photos, dialogue, and reflections that tell stories of learning. “Storybooks” attached to the display offer more images of the intelligences of children.

Viewers are invited to contribute their understandings by leaving “traces” on interactive instalments.

Participants of all ages are encouraged to interact with the exhibit in a number of ways.

Reflections and collaborations of educators weave throughout the exhibit, questioning, wondering and celebrating each story.



“I’m an artist –
that’s why I get dirty!”
– alex, age 5

ADVOCACY FOR LEARNING

“The child as a democratic institution is understood as a competent citizen, an expert in his or her own life, having opinions that are worth listening to and having the right and competence to participate in collective decision making.”

Dahlberg and Moss, Ethics and Politics in Early Childhood Education, 2005

By highlighting the extraordinary learning that happens every day in children’s lives, the “Images of Learning” exhibit provides a focal point for dialogue and “support adults to create rich early learning experiences and environments that reflect the latest knowledge on how best to support young children’s early learning and development.” (*British Columbia Early Learning Framework*, p. 3)

AN IMAGE OF THE CHILD

Through the use of photos, words and work of children, the exhibit portrays an image of the child as competent, complex and full of potential which provide a tool for advocacy and activism in the larger community. Our exhibition incorporates strong visual and philosophical messages that reflect the work of early childhood educators in British Columbia.

The “Images of Learning” exhibit reflects the vision set out in the *Early Learning Framework* “so that together we can develop a common language and greater understanding of the vital importance of early learning for all young children.” (*British Columbia Early Learning Framework*, p. 3)



“Electric can make light.”
“Light is a kind of light colour.”
“Light is dark” “Light shines”
“Light is a fire light”

“Without listening, without being responsive to the ideas of others, there can be neither learning nor teaching.”

Veà Vecchi, Atelierista, Consultant to Reggio Children

THE IMAGES OF LEARNING PROJECT

In 2009, Kim Atkinson and Danielle Davis joined together to conceptualize and produce the 'Images of Learning Project.' The goal of the project is make visible the competencies of children and the work of Early Childhood Educators, through the use of a portable exhibit.

"Pretend life and real life:
the pirates are pretend
life, but in far water"

– Louis, age 4



Kim Atkinson, ECE

Kim has 27 years of experience in the field of Early Childhood Education, working with both children and adults. She is continually in awe of the strength and capacity of children and she shares her passion through facilitating workshops for parents and ECEs on topics ranging from emergent literacy to reflective practice. As a writer, her work appears regularly in a number of BC publications. Kim is currently participating in the 'Investigating Quality Project' at the University of Victoria and 'The Early Childhood Educators of BC Leadership Initiative.'



In 2008, Kim received the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Early Childhood Education and in 2004 was a nominee for the Vancouver Island YMCA Women of Distinction Awards. She is an Honourary Life Member of the Vancouver Island Cooperative Preschool Association.

Danielle Davis, ECE

Danielle has been in the field of Early Childhood Education for 14 years. Inspired by the philosophy of 'Reggio Emilia,' she has made pedagogical narrative and documentation a part of her everyday practice. Her role varies from that of ECE, to administrator and workshop facilitator. She is passionate about reconnecting children with nature and is involved in research that facilitates putting this philosophy into practice.



Danielle has been a keen participant in the 'Investigating Quality Project' through the School of Child and Youth Care at the University of Victoria, as well as the 'Leadership Initiative' through ECEBC.

Share in our vision.

Host the Images of Learning Exhibit in your community.

The Images of Learning Project exhibit is portable and available to individuals and groups that share in our vision. We encourage you to host the display so that parents, ECEs, policy makers, school boards, teachers, licensing officers, academics and the interested public are exposed to the important work of ECEs and the competencies of young children.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

The Images of Learning Project

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