
Images Of Learning Project

Generating
dialogue, reflection
and new thinking in
the early year's
community and
beyond

Kim Atkinson and
Danielle Davis

Biographies



Kim Atkinson has 30 years of experience in the field of Early Childhood Education working in day-care and preschools. Currently Kim works as a Pedagogical Facilitator with the University of Victoria's Unit for Early Years Research and Development where she provides collaborative support to educators to develop meaningful and relevant practices related to quality. Kim's journal articles and book chapters have appeared in publications nationally and internationally. 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 a Honourary Life Member of the Vancouver Island Cooperative Preschool Association.



Danielle Davis has been in the field of Early Childhood Education for 17 years working in a variety of settings. She is currently sits on the executive board for ECEBC Victoria and is a founding member of OPEN, an innovative conference inspiring educators to take children and education outside. . She has been deeply influenced by the philosophy of Reggio Emilia and post foundational theories and has made pedagogical narrative a part of her everyday practice. She has mentored many colleagues and students with her passion for beautiful environments and

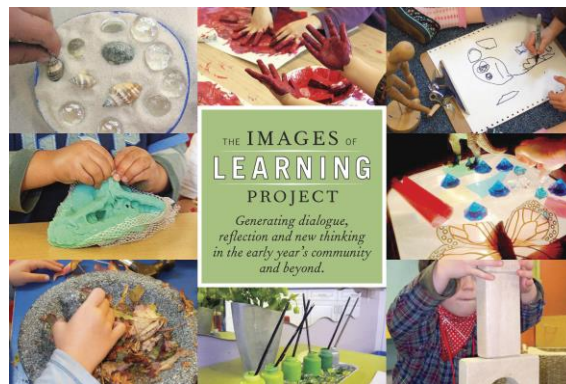
her commitment to a pedagogy of relationships and listening. Danielle is also the mother of the ever curious and lovely Helaina who deepens her understanding about the competencies of young children every day.

Kim and Danielle have presented at conferences, colleges, child care centres, school districts, universities and community events around the province. The workshops generate dialogue and new thinking for those in the early year's community by engaging participants in reflecting on their practice and values. College instructors, ECEs, students, teachers, and administrators, have been inspired to rethink ideas and practice.

“Danielle and Kim are fabulous presenters! They kept us busy with readings, and challenged us to think about what our image of the child really looks like. They opened the door to so many wonderful possibilities.”

Kim and Danielle are the creators of The Images of Learning Project, an exhibit that incorporates a strong visual and philosophical message that reflects the work of early childhood educators, as well as an image of the child as competent, complex and full of potential. The exhibit has been hosted by the ECEBC conference, The University of Victoria, the Burnaby School District, the Saanich School District, Peninsula Connections, the UBC Institute for Early Childhood Education and Research and many more venues throughout the province.

www.imagesoflearningproject.com



Presentations

Images of Learning; Enriching Your Practice with Pedagogical Narration and Reflective Practice

In this presentation we invite participants to reflect on how they view children. We discuss cultural and historical perspectives and how these perspectives frame our practice with children. We open up discussion around the rules we have in our centers, what our values about children are, and what barriers exist that make it difficult to bring our values to our practice. Danielle and Kim will talk about pedagogical narrations and share some examples. We facilitate dialogue that both challenges and inspires participants to take a fresh perspective on the important work we all do.

Images of Design: Rethinking Environments and Materials

We will open this workshop by provoking thought on how environments can affect well-being by engaging participants in reflection on spaces they feel good in. We engage in discussion on our childcare environments, what areas in our centers work and what areas seem to attract chaos. A variety of images from many centers will be presented for participants to reflect on. We will facilitate dialogue around the values we hold about children and how the environment and materials can help support those values, and we will engage participants in some hands on activities. Our goal is to excite participants to rethink their environments and imagine new possibilities.

Creating a Culture of Possibilities in the Early Years Settings

“Thank you for opening up a whole new way of looking, thinking and reflecting. It was great to not be preached to but more asking us to listen to our own voice with big questions.”

Each early childhood setting has its own culture, routines and ways of being. Does the culture in your setting reflect the values you hold about children, families and learning together? In this workshop we explore how we can create a culture that is responsive,

welcoming and full of possibilities. We will discuss how our centres can become places that nourish social relationships, and thoughtful engagement, by reflecting on our environments, schedules, philosophy and assumptions. We want you to leave with practical ideas, ideas that challenge you, and ideas that rejuvenate you.

Pedagogical Narration: Beginning the Dialogue

Pedagogical Narration is recognized as an important tool for observation and critical reflection in the field of ECE in BC. But there are many uncertainties: What is it? How do we use it? Why is it important? And how do we fit it into an already busy day? Danielle and Kim will share their experience of embedding pedagogical narrations into their own practice, and discuss both the challenges and the new ways of knowing that emerge. Pedagogical narration cannot be "learned" in a day, but through dialogue and examples participants will come to a better understanding of how this ongoing process of deeper listening and reflection can stimulate new and richer practices.

Long term collaborative inquiries

Kim and Danielle also provide support for long term continuing professional development. They work with educators and teachers to facilitate dialogue on a wide range of topics including image of the child, reflective practice, pedagogical narratives, rethinking environments, and materials. By collaboratively inquiring together educators are inspired to re-imagine their role and what can be possible in early years and primary settings. This long term process creates real shifts in thinking and practice and inspires continuing reflection and leads to deeper engagement with children and colleagues.

“This project gave me a valuable opportunity to share ideas with colleagues who are grappling with many of the same “big questions” about teaching. It provided a ‘safe’ place to share concerns and successes. It is the first professional setting that gave that kind of learning opportunity, rather than “here is the latest methodology/series of strategies to implement in your classroom.”

Keynote Addresses

Kim and Danielle present keynote addresses for conferences and other events.

Topics include:

- Reflecting on our image of the child, the image of the educator, and re-imagining our role.
- Considering environments and materials
- Exploring pedagogical narrations
- Leadership, democracy and the early years.

Presentations can be designed for specific audiences and to meet your interests.