

REsearch Conversations & Inner West Network Meetings 2023

METAMORPHOSIS - Tuesday 14th March 5.30pm - 7.30pm

At Highfields School and ON ZOOM

Convenors: Deb Garrett, Virginia Aghan, Paula West, Victoria Kirkwood

Attendees :Emma Cullen (Wellbank Children's Centre), Michelle Doran, Tia Doran, Rianne Hill, Tara Kissick (Turner Road Preschool), Tinna Loker (Gib Gate), Courtney McConnel, Sara Zappia, Linda Henderson (Abbotsford LDC), Victoria Parish, Caroline Arthur (Bluegum Community), Lyn Davidson (Randwick TAFE) Monique Bennie, Sandy Ireland, Deborah Cook, Lisa Hutchinson, Brigid Clair, Emily Beer, Fiona Dundas Smith, Liz Roberts (Highfields School)

On Zoom: Deb Garrett, Liz Cohen (NNS), Kelly Simpson (NNS), Anna Cimarosti (NNS), Natalie Cordukes (NNS), Monica Kim (NNS) Dalma Rehak (NNS), Jo Krabman (NNS), Rowena Robinson, Helen Smith

Apologies: Sarah Herbert (International Grammar School)

Item	Discussion
5.30- 6 Participants and Sign-in register Centre Tour	<p>Thank you to Deborah, Sandi, Fiona and the whole team at Highfields School for hosting our first meeting, opening your inspiring environments and so generously sharing your research with us.</p> <p>Greeting, Service names, Tour of Centre Photos of the school</p>
<p>Welcome</p> <p>6 -7pm</p> <p>Presentation and discussion</p> <p>Padelt of both presentations here</p> <p>Available for a limited time for attendees</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highfields- Acknowledgement of Country Convenors welcome everyone - (Identify the working relationship between the convenors) We would like to bring people's attention to this specific meeting at Highfields that will run from 5.30-7.30pm. Our meetings last year were held from 6.00- 8.00pm and we may continue this schedule at future meetings. <p>Journey at Highfields School over the last 3 years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandy Ireland will share how they are developing ' a culture of research' with children, educators and families. <p>Creating a culture of research.</p> <p>The team wanted to establish a shared vision of sustainability and practice. They explored the idea as a team through the lens of 'teacher as a researcher'.</p> <p>They realised they were learning in isolation. They added posy=t it notes at a team meeting to ensure everyone had a voice. A voice for all, creating a safe and inclusive space.</p> <p>Time and vulnerability were needed to build trust.</p>

Teachers as researchers
Children as researchers
Families as researchers

The team each chose different symbol cards (from Innovative Resources) to explain where they felt they were at in their understanding of sustainability. They wanted to establish research questions for teachers, children and families.

Some of the words the children came up with were 'save', 'help' or 'care'. Different words imply bigger belief systems. Save or help imply desperation and a sense of doom.

The Reggio Children quote about care really struck a chord.

"The soul of all that exists is care; the care of work projects, care of the children, care of creating relationships with each other. Caring for our spaces and environments, caring for listening to children and families. Care for crediting others, valuing other people's contributions. There is care of empathy, ethical values. Everyone is valued, a participant, a citizen....."

April 2012 - Reggio Children

Caring for our Earth from the perspectives of the child. The questions were put to the children

- 1) What does caring mean? Tell me about what you care for?
- 2) Who needs to care for the Earth?
- 3) How do we show that we care for the Earth?
- 4) Is it important to care for the Earth? What makes you say that?

Teachers drew together research ideas.

An email was sent to the parents. "How important is it for your child to learn to care for the Earth? What makes you say that?"

The importance of meeting together as a class was discussed. Guidelines for coming together as a group were established.

In 2022 the team came together to reimagine how they plan for a new research question.

What is our understanding of quality planning and reflective practice?
Documentation Vs meaningless paperwork.

What do we keep? Let go? Or get better at?

Developing a culture of research could only happen after developing a team culture first.

Next area: Research inclusive practice with a Reggio lens.

Introduce Tea and Talk sessions with families.

Ideas raised:

How to include new staff on the journey? How do new people become part of the culture?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fiona Dundas-Smith will share how they have embedded deep learning and inquiry based principles across K-Yr2. <p>Kath Murdoch - Cycle of Inquiry Guy Claxton - Highfields Learning Habits Deep Learning - 6 global competencies</p> <p>Deep learning is at the centre of the Inquiry Cycle. Targeted dimensions, communicating the learning progression.</p> <p>Tradition vs deep learning The example of a provocation of a mystery trunk. What was inside? Dave Burgess Teach like a Pirate (hook ins)</p> <p>Connecting to funds of knowledge - what do children already know, understand and can do? Children as active citizens - wrote a letter to the principal, wrote permission note, collected data and research, shared with the community Used google maps as well as old pictures etc. Is change good? Old or new? Socially involved by petitioning about the new Coles development. Families could sign up for a research task. Letterbox drop with QR code for feedback. The children represented their findings at an assembly.</p> <p>Findings- all the curriculum in the scope and sequence were addressed including all the learner profile / attributes through inquiry based learning.</p> <p>Broader discussions were had within the participants about the current training of teachers at different tertiary institutions.</p>
7 - 7.20pm Ongoing business and recommitment to ongoing model of meeting	<p>Overarching questions for discussion -</p> <p>What provocations will challenge and excite critical thinking and deepen engagement in 2023?</p> <p>How do we continue to build relationships of collaboration and learning together?</p> <p>In 2022, a unanimous decision was made to merge the Inner West and REsearchConversations network group, as we needed to consolidate the co-convenors roles. So what do you think we should call our merged group and why?</p> <p>Information to share with the group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing facebook groups and opening a new group Screening questions to join Timings of meetings?
Come back to share discussion	
2023 REAIE Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscapes of curiosity and creativity: In dialogue with 100 Languages Thursday 29th June - Saturday 1st July 2023 - Melbourne

2023 Meeting Dates

Tuesday 14th March at Highfields School

Wednesday 7th June on Gadigal land at the Art Gallery of NSW

Thursday 31st August on Darug and Guringai land at Blue Gum Community School

Tuesday 21st November on Gadigal Land at Barangaroo



