

Welcome to My Childcare Home

How I am inspired by the Reggio philosophy and some practical ways I implement these values in my childcare home:

Documenting the Children's Conversations as their play unfolds during lunchtime or snacktime, during group or one-to-one play. For the toddlers, I may write an observation of their activities for 5-10 minutes as they select their toys or engage in activity. I post these daily for parents and to reflect on them to plan activities. I keep them posted until the end of the month where I re-read them and file for future reference.

Using a Small Voice-Activated Recorder and placing it near children during group activities allows me to capture many voices faster than I can write them down, especially when there are many children partaking. It also allows me to catch what I may have missed by rewinding and listening to the conversations again.

Taking Photos of children working with each other or partaking in art, dramatic play, self-expression, or on projects. Later I match these up with samples of their work or photocopies of their art to create documentation boards. I also use quotes I had written while children were working together or information I had written that children told me about their work. I usually write their verbatim on their work.

Taking Notes During Activities or writing my memories about an activity, event, or project that very same day adds to the authenticity of that day's work.

Communication is Key

Writing up a Daily Report which I post for parents to see at the end of each day gives parents a hint of their child's daily activities and a sense of the "flavor of the day". I photocopy these for parents at the end of the week and send home with parents.

Including Parents

I spend a Few Minutes Each Day with each parent, talking about their child's creativity, projects, or sharing ideas or concerns. I talk about their child's interests and ask about child's interests, activities at home.

Quarterly Newsletters keep parents informed of upcoming events, children's birthdays, holidays, and field trips.

Parents are Welcome to Volunteer to read, participate in any field trip experiences, or drop in for birthday cake, library day, or on a weekly park visit.

Quarterly Parent Meetings allow parents a forum to discuss our observations, children's activities, and to collaborate as a group about projects children may initiate.

Taking my Lead From Children, I rotate toys weekly based on prior activities, interests, or the children's requests.

Perhaps the best thing I do for children and myself is spend time observing, documenting, listening, and recording, as well as including myself in their play scenarios or their work, side by side, each and every day.

All of these things enrich my work with children and validate our ongoing working relationship as we continue on our journey of discovery and learning together.

Thank you for coming to my home and supporting the Reggio Philosophy as we work together we strengthen the lives of children, families, community, and each other.

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