

New Jersey Educators Exploring the Practices of Reggio Emilia, Inc. (NJEEPPE, Inc.)

Educational Leadership in Dialogue Forum:
Directors and Administrators discuss current and
pertinent topics and issues.

On Saturday, January 31, 2015 The Valley School in Park Ridge, New Jersey hosted the first NJEEPRE, Inc. *Educational Leadership in Dialogue Forum.*



Thirteen Reggio-inspired School Directors, Administrators and those in Leadership roles gathered for our first NJEETRE, Inc. *Educational Leadership in Dialogue Forum*. Conversations unfolded in discussion of topics such as staffing, staff development, marketing, and wider recognition and support from outside programs. The collaborative construction of new possibilities is near and dear to the Reggio experience of learning. School organization and management reflect a culture of sharing, questioning and adapting to contexts for meaningful outcomes.



Forum participants came from northern, central and southern New Jersey as well as our sister state, New York. Common threads and also unique circumstances and needs could be heard. We listened. We wondered. We shared. We considered. Every year more schools in the private, public and religious sects of America are reflecting the principles and practices of the municipal schools of Reggio Emilia. The visions and pedagogy for these schools are influenced by every leadership decision. NJEETRE, Inc. is providing a forum for meaningful discussion and support in response to this growing trend.



As directors, administrators, educators and leaders we seek to act responsibly to our staff, our families, our communities but most of all to the children. As adults we hold the obligation to question: How are we holding children and their families in the highest regard? How are we training, providing support and guidance to our teachers and staff to do this? How are we leading others to understand, support and desire quality, rich environments in keeping with the Reggio experience we envision? Supporting each other in who we aspire to be, we can accomplish great things in the field of education..... together!

“...skilled and impassioned people must continue to study, to stay curious, and look forward so that this approach will continue to be so special and enrich the humanity of us all.” from The Hundred Languages of Children, Edwards et. al p.80.



What did this experience cause you to think about?

What topics would you like to see in future Educational Leadership in Dialogue Forums?

A FEW REFLECTIONS FROM OUR PARTICIPANTS:

(adapted from Educational Leadership in Dialogue Forum participant evaluation forms)

- Moving forward means keeping current with technology.
- Staff support, hiring procedures, the bigger overall picture.
- It is helpful to share ideas and compare our experiences
- The process of evaluations
- Adaptation and replacement of policies and procedures
- Social media
- Recruitment ideas
- Managing data
- Parent-School Relationships
- Team building among educators
- Professional development for all staff
- Teacher training support
- Infant/toddler programs
- Time management
- Handbooks and Forms
- Goal Setting
- Teacher Evaluation Process
- Parent Education of the Reggio Approach
- Documentation on the WWW

Courtesy of New Jersey Educators Exploring the
Practices of Reggio Emilia, Inc.
(NJEEPRES, Inc.)

Raising awareness, encouraging and supporting the principles and practices of the Reggio Emilia approach to early childhood education among early childhood professionals.

We believe that Reggio inspired practice is grounded in the belief that schools should be amiable communities in which collaboration between adults, children and families are central to the learning process.

Eleanora Linder, M.Ed.
Roundtable Chair, NJEEPRES, Inc.