

Book Study Discovering the Culture of Childhood

Meeting April 13, 2018

Attendance- Anita P, Jodi C, Margaret H, Gladys B, Kelly O, Kim F, Diane T, Kim C

***Meeting Dates***

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Friday May 11th- Chapter 3 & 4 Sherbrooke EarlyON Program

Friday June 8th –Chapter 5 & 6 Children and Family Centre Confederation college

Friday July 13th- Conclusion Anishnawbe Mushkiki

Friday August 3rd- Discussion with Author TBA

We will be taking minutes during the meetings Action: everyone to take a turn with the minutes.

After the book discussion we will take a tour of the organization who is hosting the book study.

***Reflections:***

Chapter One – “It’s a Good Thing You’re Fat”

* The group felt that perhaps Chapter One was setting the foundation for the book.
* We had a great discussion on cultural differences and what it means to respect these cultural differences.
* The awareness that children inhibit a distinct culture demands that we truly appreciate children for who they are NOW. (p.25)
* Childhood is always measured against adulthood. We fail to see children as “human-beings” and see them as “human-becoming”
* Failing to see childhood as a unique culture leads to wrong conclusions about childhood behaviours. (p.27)
* We need to question our responses to children’s actions as coming from their own unique culture. (p.27)
* How do we handle children’s curiosity? Children don’t view the world with the same lens as us. We need to see children through their lens to respect their purpose and curiosity. A child’s purpose means nothing to us until it is unfolded…watch and observe.
* What if begin to look at children’s strengths. (p.21)

Chapter Two – “Poison Meat Eaters”

* It is our responsibility to make sure children have a chance to be friends with everyone, not the duty to be. (p.46)
* Why are children expected to share?
* There is no misbehaviour, there’s just behaviour. What is the child trying to communicate through their behaviour?
* “Watch” for moments of child competency. The more you look the more you will see it.
* Children have a purpose in their play and need all tools to do their work.
* Rules…Safety…etc. NOT “don’t do this” but rather “how can we…?”
* Model “social norms” rather than force children – no forced apologies.
* As children play they are creating and navigating social structures.

***Questions for the Author:***

How do we teach parents to be okay with the culture of childhood?

***Thoughts***

Be aware of our different guidebooks – let that awareness DRIVE our interactions.

As EDUCATORS we DO NOT have to fix everything.

Give children lots of uninterrupted time to play. Allow lots of physical space for play.

Next Meeting May 11, 2018 - Annishinawbee Mushkiki 9:00-10:30am