



Standard 7: Educators engage in career-long learning

1. The chosen evidence is the description of a professional inquiry project that I joined as a student teacher during my Kindergarten practicum. This inquiry project is funded by the Learning Initiatives Grant (School District 79). Experienced Kindergarten teachers from Mount Prevost Elementary (French Immersion), Michelle Tremblay and Louise Ouellet, initiated this project after attending an inspiring conference on the Reggio Emilia approach. I borrowed Michelle's book on Reggio Emilia and found information on the internet and what I read convinced me that this approach to early education offered great ideas in creating authentic learning experiences for children. We all wondered how this could be used in the unique context of French immersion Kindergarten, where the main focus is to develop French vocabulary. Because I had experience writing grant proposals, I offered to write the proposal for the project and we were accepted, officially starting our inquiry journey with a meeting with the Learning Team of SD79 on December 8th, 2015. The driving question for our inquiry is:

“How can the guiding principles of the Reggio Emilia approach be used in French immersion Kindergarten in order to design meaningful learning experiences for all children while developing French vocabulary?”

2. I chose this evidence in relation to Standard 7 because it speaks to my personal commitment to career-long learning. Engaging in a professional inquiry before finishing my practicum was a natural thing for me to do because I am passionate about creating a meaningful and authentic experience for my students. Some of the activities that are traditionally used in French Immersion Kindergarten did not seem to foster authentic engagement from many students and I was very excited to join a project that would allow us to question the taken-for-granted assumptions about teaching. I felt privileged to be given the opportunity to join experienced and passionate teachers in exploring the Reggio Emilia approach, which is known for promoting deep and authentic learning experiences.

3. This learning standard is important to me as a new teacher because it is a continuity of my personal commitment to lifelong learning. I intend to model this attitude to my students daily and present myself as a learner. My hope for all students is that they graduate from the school system with a deep passion for learning and a positive outlook on life and its challenges. As I move forward, I want to find ways to keep participating in this inquiry project while working as a real teacher, creating learning experiences for my students that are deep, meaningful and authentic.