



Thinking Differently About Quality

Veronica Pacini-Ketchabaw
School of Child and Youth Care
University of Victoria

Canadian Approaches to Quality Improvement

- Development and use of measurement and instruments to assess quality
- Improvement of children's developmental outcomes
- Standards and best practice guidelines



Renewing Dialogues



Language de-construction and re-construction

- Quality, outcomes, school readiness, vulnerability, at risk
- Who defines these terms?
- What is assumed by the terms?
- How are children contributing to the definition of these terms?



Critical Dialogue Concerning the Image of the Child

- Vulnerable children, at risk children,
- What is the image of the child we choose to have?
- How does that image drive our vision?



Critical Dialogue Concerning the Image of the Early Childhood Educator

- Training
- The role of educators as provocateurs



From Formal Assessment to Meaning Making

- Pedagogical documentation
- Learning Stories
- Critical Literacies



Meaningful Community Participation

- Reconsider our view of families as 'deficient'
- Involvement of families and communities as valued co-participants



Structures that Embrace Stability and Multiple Perspectives

- Deep respect for the plurality of ideas
- Willingness to discuss opposing points of view
- Structures that provide conditions of possibility (e.g., framework)



Quality...

A continuous process of ethical negotiation among participants, from children to politicians.



Racialization of Policies

- Creation of policies for racialized minorities and Indigenous children and families
- Policies are created to counteract deviations from the 'norm'
- What is not questioned is the 'norm'

