Reggio Emilia, Image of a Child Learning

Please note: This is a very hard webcast to understand even if you turn your volume all the way up. The PowerPoint and the audio file are separate so you will have to practice them together a few times before you present this to a group.

Summary of Presentation:
“Image of the child” is the core of teaching in the Reggio Emilia approach to early childhood education. Founded in the northern Italian city, Reggio Emilia, after WWII, this child-centered approach has become imbedded in curricula around the world and was hailed by Newsweek magazine in 1991 as the best pre-school in the world. Learn about this philosophy that centers on essential questions about the roles of teacher, learner, and parent; the environment serving as the third teacher; children’s 100 ways of “knowing”; and capturing the story of learning to use as a form of assessment. Above all, the Reggio Emilia approach’s first belief is that all children are capable, competent, and worthy.

Join the presenters, all of whom work with Reggio Emilia programs and passionately believe in this educational approach, as they discuss these questions, other core concepts and curricula, as well as practical applications for various learning environments.

Speaker Biography:
Connie Sherman, Executive Director of St. Mary’s Child Center in Indianapolis, serves as a founding member of the Indianapolis Reggio Collaborative and was a 2010 recipient of the Indiana Early Care and Education Legislative Award. She also is a board member of Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children (IAEYC) and involved in many community organizations. Lynné McGuire, Director of Curriculum and Outreach at St. Mary’s Child Center, plans all teacher trainings at the Center as well as its outreach training on the Reggio Emilio approach. She studied and was trained in this approach in its place of origin, Reggio Emilia. She too earned the Indiana Early Care and Education Legislative Award in 2010. Dr. Ena Shelley, Dean of the College of Education at Butler University (Indianapolis, Indiana), is a nationally recognized expert in the Reggio Emilia approach. Recently she spearheaded a Reggio-inspired curriculum for the Indianapolis/Butler University Laboratory School at IPS 60 and was named 2010 Outstanding Educator of the Year by the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents for her distinguished work in early childhood education.

Time of Webcast: 1 hr 15 mins.

Intended Audience: All teachers, with emphasis on early childhood education.
Pre-Questions on the topic:
1. What does it mean to be educated? What are the ways to become educated?
2. What does it mean to learn? What is the relationship between the teacher and the child? How does it affect the child’s learning?

Questions to Answer During or Immediately After the Webcast:
1. What is the core belief that the teacher must have about each child?
2. How does this change the teacher’s approach?
3. What is the role of the child? The teacher? The parent? How are they interrelated?
4. What questions would you ask that would be different if you were teaching in Reggio Emilia? How would you help the children discover?
5. How are families included in the schooling?

Questions for Further Exploration:
Reggio is known for what are called Projects. They are nothing like the type we might associate with school. Projects that emerge from the children’s enquiries are in-depth studies of concepts, ideas, and interests that arise from the children. Considered as an adventure, projects may last one week or could continue throughout the school year. Throughout a project, teachers help children make decisions about the direction of study, the ways in which the group will research the topic, the medium that will demonstrate and showcase the topic, and the selection of materials needed for the work. Do some research on the Internet Reggio Emilia projects students explore.

Self-Reflection, Enrichment, and Extension Ideas (take and incorporate into your own teaching):
Learn more about the Reggio Emilia Approach:
- Official Reggio Emilia website: www.reggiochildren.it
- Information:
- History; http://www.education.com/reference/article/reggio-mericia-approach/

Additional Recommended KDP Resources:
*Kappa Delta Pi has no other resources for Reggio Emilia, but there are early childhood resources available.*

Articles
Willis, Judy. “Preserve the Child in Every Learner.” *Kappa Delta Pi Record*, Fall 2007.

Other Webcasts
Blamey, Katrin. “Word Walk: Instruction for Boosting Preschool Students’ Vocabulary”

Check the KDP website (www.kdp.org) for additional and updated resources.