



National Family Day Care Conference 2009

Explore, Excite, Educate

Date: 20-23rd May, 2009
Hotel Grand Chancellor
HOBART, TASMANIA



A FAMILY DAY CARE

ENVIRONMENT CAN LOOK AND FEEL AMAZING

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WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

A Family Day Care Environment Can Look and Feel Amazing is a workshop that challenges the predictable and predominant features of a Family Day Care Home – and examines new possibilities for creating visual and tactile play and learning experiences for children.

INTRODUCTION



- As young children begin to experience interesting visual objects and images, their perception of objects, movement and their world expands. Experts believe that 60% of children's learning occurs through visual and tactile experiences. Isbell, R. Exelby (2002: 26)



FIRST IMPRESSION



- In FDC, the first meeting with children and their families is critical to beginning the relationship with families.
- Taking time to consider the importance of attachment can look and feel amazing.
 - A visual picture of the FDC program
 - Recording a message from families to listen to every day
 - Photo bears for the first day in FDC
 - Taking time to ask children and families about the beginning of the journey into FDC.

FIRST IMPRESSION



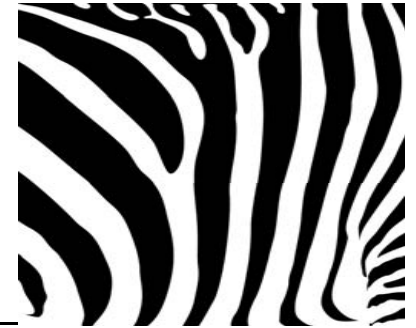
- “Strong parental support is linked to physical, emotional, social and academic progress.”

Evidence of Effective Early Childhood Education and Care Programs. Taylor, C. (2009)

- Secure attachment can also serve as a protective factor for children where families have experienced high levels of stressful life events.

Brainwave (N.Z.)

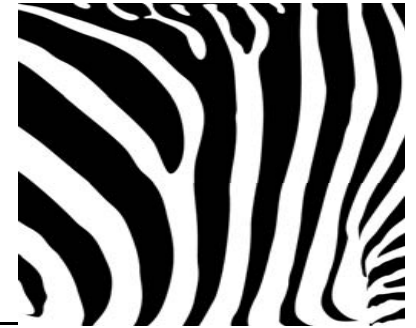
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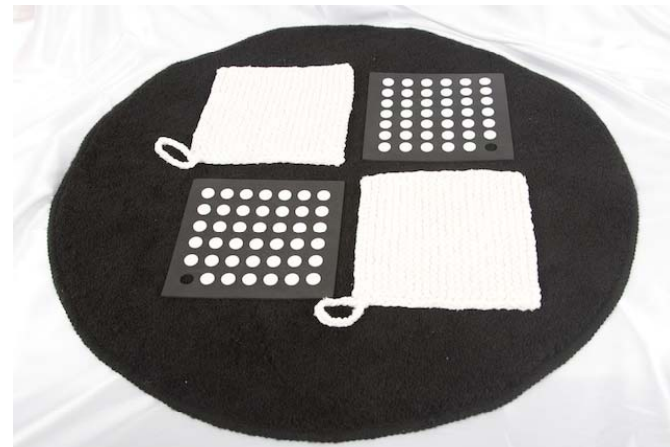
- Introducing the 'Black & White Series'



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- Extending children's learning opportunities can be a creative and rewarding experience. When there is a balance between what is known and what is ready to be known not far beyond the knowledge and competencies that children possess – the possibilities become interesting and intriguing. Gandini and Edwards (2001)
- In contrast, when resources and materials are scarce, activities monotonous, objects uninteresting – the harmony of exploration and play is inhibited, so children move from one thing to the next and competition and conflict may arise.

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- A FDC environment that looks and feels amazing is one which generosity derives not only from the richness and variety of the resources but from resources that are available in plentiful supply and children can take pleasure in:
 - Exploring and discovering objects and materials
 - Combining materials in different ways

Our observations of young children's interactions include the fact that children like to be in charge of their own explorations and discoveries!

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- Each object or space brings out different forms of thinking – and can encourage children to experiment actively, make connections and act on their own thoughts.
- The constructive messages of objects and materials makes it possible to introduce new levels of play when previous levels of play have been consolidated.

CONCLUSION

When you experience a young child's delight at the simplest of things, you come back to your adult world with a new perspective.

LET'S DANCE!





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