

## Parent and Family Education 2012 Summer Retreat

### Closing Circle Comments

(Friday PM Circle)

- Learned so much from everyone here from deep thinking- . Enriching as she moves through Ph.D.
- Nice to be with like-minded people. Opportunity to share, even though not on lesson plans. Wiki sounds good. What can I do as PE to help us all get on board to meet parenting needs?
- Watching football analogy, watch for 3 min., then go play it. The retreat spurs us enough. Ready to move.
- On Ready4K email, but not active. Can do more to get involved. Getting the courage and follow through to do that.
- It's been a treat to be here. Hope to stay in touch with everyone. This should be done once a month. Not much cost or effort, but so important.
- Great to see people. Love new challenges. As comfortable in role as PE, can work on offering new classes for parents. Getting together more regularly, maybe could initiate and invite to Edina. Facebook page for Friends of Family Education.
- Appreciated seeing live people doing real work. Nice not to have to write paper in my head while sitting here. No work freed up my brain. A retreat!
- Will process for days or weeks to come. For my own practice - help me deepen my own practice in the classroom. Thoughts about development of profession as a whole is still swirling.
- Thinking about what this group process experience was like for me and what then it could be similar in a parenting group that I facilitate. Think about group development and stages of making connections. Felt relaxed. Not able to observe as much if anxious. "Walking with parents" is a nice visual. I'm often walking a few steps ahead because I need to be.
- Loved deepening the connection, topic, subject. Not just about immediate family, but community. Action step is making collaboration with other professions to let them know PE is out there. Being purposeful about making those connections. Networking to continue.
- A lot is swirling. What is clear to me as action step that I know I can do and will focus on is preparing myself to lift the field up when talking to others outside the field. When someone appears to not know about PE I don't share with confidence about parent

education. You have helped me see the complexity of difficult work all of you are doing. In doing so you put your chest out and showing off what I do. I hesitate, but I'm not talking about me, I'm talking about our profession, and want to be proud.

- Well behaved women rarely make history. Picture of women baseball players. Wants to take it and reproduce it or frame it because its the idea of team, of successful happy team. Hugging and that kind of thing. What we do we are parents and professionals and are a team working together. Hope we can do more of these things so there is reconnection times and we are able to retreat with each other. Different than competition at the U, but to feel part of the team. Action is to frame photo and keep by computer. Come back to what motivates her work as team.
- Thinking about being out of school a long time. Didn't enjoy it when was in it. Just because it works doesn't mean you shouldn't try new things. Reminded to keep learning and try different things. Hearing knowledge of those in school is incredible. To be an advocate for ECFE and don't be afraid to be that voice.
- Be a stronger advocate for professional development for parent educators in my district. Not just complain about it. I see many of us being burnt out by end of year we tear up. Need to care for selves so we can care for our families.
- Feels empowered and confident at end of retreat. Being present with others who share my passion makes me feel good to be part of the team. What I want to do with this is to figure out what it was about this retreat that made it so intimate that I can bring it back to our groups. Wants to facilitate parent stories that brings out something deeper about why they reacted the way they did.
- Bridging online teaching at the University with connections to practicing parent educators. Desires more opportunity to visit and observe, as well as work with PEs who want to deepen storytelling as part of their practice of parent education and connect them to content topics.
- Four little steps at a time. I've taken a lot of those little steps at retreat. I feel I've had an opportunity to take care of myself. Balance for physical and emotional health. I don't see competition in this profession. We're here to work together. What other profession can say that?
- Interesting to me coming from not being a parent and not experience with ECFE. Interesting to see diversity of where educators are coming from and perspectives from different areas of the state. Action step is to figure out ways to incorporate information, such as the context of what parents are going through.
- Appreciated the diversity in the group.