

Into the Clearing Conference Feb 3 Beamish Hall

## **Our Approach at Ivy Road School: Towards A Compelling Early Childhood Curriculum**

Eleanor Duckworth asserts that *'the essence of pedagogy is to give learners the occasion to have wonderful ideas, and to let them feel good about themselves for having them.'*

Our role involves-

*'bringing a sense of wonder to the world, understanding the role of story and play in curriculum, maintaining spontaneity in teaching, and, ultimately, having faith in children.'*

Ben Mardell

*'For curriculum to be truly successful a good measure of love must be present.*

*When I bring my loves- my interests and passions- into the classroom, I am able to convey a genuine enthusiasm for the topic at hand. This enthusiasm is the elixir that turns ordinary activities into compelling curriculum. If I hit upon an area that the children love-or come to love- we become bound together by our common interest. The classroom becomes a place where study and discovery are celebrated. It is this love of learning and passion for specific content areas that we are trying to nourish in our charges. Love and wonder are the seeds of knowledge that will help children blossom into lifelong learners.'*

We aim to *animate* and *engage* the children

In the woodland project the children are vital, *'really alive.'*

Margy Whalley in 'Learning to be Strong' describes *'chuffed children'*

## SLIDE ORDER- brief notes

Slide 1	Intro Title slide(animated children) Our approach
Slide 2	Our beautiful site-the woods and the ancient buildings
Slide 3	Our approach- dignity and importance
Slide 4	The Big Question- a matter of life and death
Slide 5	Mind Map- the scope of the interests and activities
Slide 6	Life and Death- the woods the context where children can come close to life and death matters-seasonal change-the cycle of nature-new life- death. How to respond to these universal encounters
Slide 7	Death in the woods- our impulse is to protect children from this reality and shield them from pain/ anxiety
Slide 8	The Dead Bird
Slide 9	Giving children time and space to assimilate the experience-being sensitive
Slide 10	Personal experience of death- Tyrese's pets
Slide 11	Pets-wishing them alive
Slide 12	helping children focus- revisiting the experience
Slide 13	Skull and antler- time to look and talk
Slide 14	Draw and talk-feelings
Slide 15	Personal experiences Abbi and Anna- family
Slide 16	Giving imaginative expression to fears
Slide 17	Funeral Ceremony- ritual
Slide 18	The Dying Tree- nurturing children-empathy
Slide 19	Protect and heal tree
Slide 20	Love tree
Slide 21	The egg
Slide 22	New Life- birth- more familiar experience to children- siblings etc (Bird's egg founding the woods)
Slide 23	Children's Theories- rebirth
Slide 24	Birth
Slide 25	Freya theories- siblings birth
Slide 26	Wedding- royal wedding and bluebell wood
Slide 27	The girls- planning
Slide 28	The prince
Slide 29	Wedding –roles-gender roles-Bradley
Slide 30	Wedding music
Slide 31	Wedding music and dance
Slide 32	The ceremony
Slide 33	Bradley's photos
Slide 34	Kiss
Slide 35	What else- more plans
Slide 36	Music
Slide 37	Why do we have weddings?
Slide 38	Universal themes- children celebrating their culture
Slide 39-51	Parent's Findings
Slide 52	Anna 'This is my most favourite life I ever had.'

## 'Staying Safe in the Woods' Our Rules

- Don't put things in your mouth
- Don't climb high up trees
- Don't hoy sticks around. Hold them by your side.
- Don't stand on creatures. Look after them.
- Don't put ladybirds in your pocket
- Don't go where you can't see the flag
- Don't put your hand down rabbit holes and fox holes 'cos you might get bitten
- If you climb, make sure you can get back down on your own