

Reflective Practice and Play as Complex Learning

A Thinking Lens Institute with Deb Curtis
and Associates from Harvest Resources

May 6 and 7, 2016
Marquis Hall, University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon

A little background information

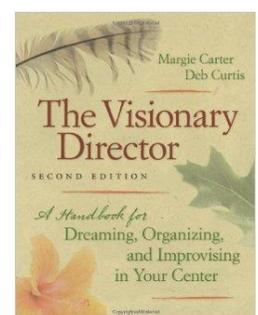
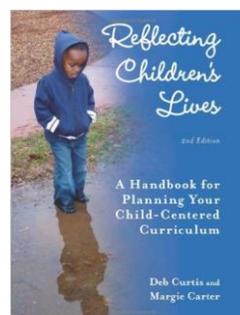
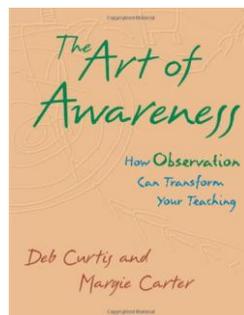
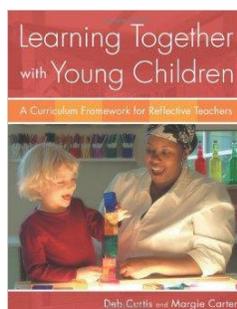
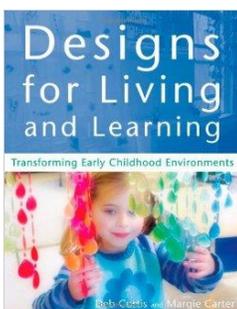
In May 2007, Deb Curtis and Margie Carter facilitated the “Wondrous Places to Learn and Grow” Conference, held in Regina, Saskatchewan. CAYC Saskatchewan Chapter, University of Regina, and SIAST, Regina Campus came together to jointly sponsor this ground-breaking conference. There were approximately 250 early childhood educators in attendance. Participants have long reflected how the conference was the catalyst for a deeper understanding of the principles outlined in *Play and Exploration* and for meaningful change in early learning spaces across Saskatchewan.

In May, 2016, Deb Curtis will be joined by Lorrie Baird from Peterborough, Ontario and two Associates from Harvest Resources to facilitate “Reflective Practice and Play as Complex Learning.” This Institute will continue to extend our thinking, inspire further dialogue, and grow the vision of high quality early learning practice in childcare and classrooms in our province.

About Curtis and Carter

Margie Carter and Deb Curtis founded HARVEST RESOURCES in 1994 as a partnership to inspire early care providers and educators to engage fully in their own learning. Carter and Curtis believe that when teachers become thoughtful, competent decision makers, they take leadership to transform and advance the profession.

Curtis and Carter are authors of numerous books that are well known and loved by early childhood educators in Saskatchewan and world-wide.



Belief statements taken from *Harvest Resources* website: <http://www.ecetrainers.com/>

In a time of standardization and prescription, Harvest Resources Associates stands for creative and critical thinking.

- *We believe teachers and children deserve to be emotionally and intellectually engaged with each other in learning*
- *We believe teachers deserve the time and resources to nourish their hearts and challenge their thinking*
- *We believe that training and resources should actively engage teachers in reflective practices that bring theory to life and real life to theory*
- *We believe seeking diverse perspectives is central to education for democracy*

About the Institute (from <http://www.ecetrainers.com/content/reflective-practices-institutes>)

A typical Reflective Practices Institute brings together 100-120 participants to focus deeply on a topic for 2-3 days. Learning in a Reflective Practices Institute happens through facilitated small group learning communities (communities of practice). Each community of practice is a small group of 6-8 participants who stay together and work with a facilitator throughout all sessions of the Institute.

Facilitators help the group make a commitment to deeply listening to each other and bring all voices to the table. They offer encouragement and challenge to focus the group's learning. Participants learn to use a Thinking Lens®, a disciplined protocol for reflecting, seeking multiple perspectives, and making decisions.

Institutes result in major transformation for the participants. Ongoing projects are launched from the institute as educators make commitments and design structures for follow through in their classrooms, workplaces and communities; creating opportunities with cohorts or leadership teams to continue collaboration, reflective practices and developing visionary approaches.

About the Focus of the Institute "Reflective Practice and Play as Complex Learning"

The focus of the May, 2016 Institute is on play, particularly as a pedagogical approach for learning. What is the teacher's role in planning and supporting the complexities of play? Through play, how are children's complex theories about the world and the way things work made visible? Concepts from *Learning Together with Young Children* will be explored in depth.

We hope you are as excited to explore and stretch your thinking about play as we are. See you in May for great dialogue, learning, and fun as we explore this topic together!

About CAYC

The Canadian Association for Young Children (CAYC) exists to provide a voice on critical issues related to the quality of life of all young children and families. CAYC is the only national association specifically concerned with the well-being of children, birth through age nine – at home, in preschool settings and at school. Members of this multi-disciplinary association include parents, teachers, caregivers, administrators, students and all those wishing to share ideas and participate in activities related to the education and welfare of young children.

