

Karyn Callaghan

Degrees:

- 2001 Master of Education (M.Ed.)
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education/ University of Toronto
- 1987 Bachelor of Arts, Child Studies (BA)
Brock University
- 1978 Diploma, Early Childhood Education
Mohawk College
(became certified in 1994)

Employment History

- 1984 - present Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology
Professor of Early Childhood Education
- 2001 – present Artists at the Centre
Project Co-Originator and Coordinator
- 1982 - 1984 Pearson Parent Co-operative Nursery School
Supervisor and teacher
- 1981 - 1982 Delta Honey Bears Parent Co-operative Nursery School
Founder, supervisor and teacher
- 1978 - 1981 Laurier Parent Co-operative Nursery School
Co-founder, supervisor and teacher

Honours

- 2008 Woman of Distinction Award in Arts and Culture
presented by the YWCA and the Status of Women Committee, Hamilton.
- 1999 Children's Service Pin "in recognition of outstanding work to improve the lives
of children in our community", presented by the Association of Early
Childhood Educators, Ontario, Hamilton Branch

Scholarly and professional activities (past 10 years)

a) Professional Association Memberships

Canadian Association for Young Children (CAYC) provincial director 2007 - present
National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
North American Reggio Emilia Alliance (NAREA) provincial membership coordinator
Ontario Reggio Association (ORA) president 2009 -

b) Professional Inservice Programs Developed and Presentations Given

- 2009 Engaging Creative Minds (Halifax) "Balancing Act" (2-part , 3-hour workshop using wire as a language); "Artists at the Centre – Making Thinking Visible" (1.5 hour session)
- 2009 Reggio Inspired Care and Education Conference (Winnipeg) Keynote Address, plus "Designing Environments for Participatory Teaching and Learning" (2.5 hour session); "Foundational Principles of the Reggio Emilia Approach: A Canadian Interpretation" (2 ¾ hour session); "Beyond 'Which text do you use?': Bringing Emergent Curriculum to Life in Teacher Education Programs and in Inservice Professional Development" (1.5 hour session)
- 2008 Listening, Exploring, and Learning: Early Childhood in Alberta: What does the Reggio Emilia approach offer? (Calgary) "If we believe in children's intelligence, it changes us" (1.5 hour session)
- 2007 National Association for the Education of Young Children annual conference, (Chicago) , "Emergent Curriculum, Reflective Practice, and Teacher Change: Stepping onto the Bridge" (1.5 hour session in collaboration with Dr. Carol Anne Wien and Jennifer Armstrong)
- 2007 Canadian Association for Young Children Ontario full day professional development session, "Reflecting ON Teaching and Learning" - organizer and master of ceremonies
- 2007 A Symposium for Educators In Conversation with Reggio Emilia: Research, Reflection & Representation at The Hundred Languages of Children Exhibit (keynote speaker for full day session, with Dr. Carol Anne Wien)
- 2005 Nothing Without Meaning (3 hour workshop) Ontario Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology Early Childhood Education conference for ECE faculty.
- 2005 Arts and Early Years: It's Worth the Mess. (2 hour workshop) Arts on the Radar: Youth Arts Symposium, Toronto.

- 2004 Interpreting the Fundamental Principles of the Reggio Emilia Approach to Early Education (2.5 hour workshop) Sarnia Ontario Early Years Centre and NAREA.
- 2004 "Autumn Reflections in the Dell" - a conference designed to further enhance educators' experience exploring the Reggio Emilia approach, with the support of pedagogistas and artists (2 days)
- 2003 Halton Winter Recharge: "Supporting Children's Love of Books Throughout the Curriculum" (2 hour workshop) Association of Early Childhood Educators, Ontario, Halton Branch
- 2003 Halton Early Literacy Conference: "The Hundred Languages of Children" (2 hour workshop) Halton District School Board
- 2003 Canadian Association for Young Children National Conference (Vancouver): "The Artists at the Centre Project: Building Community" (2 hour workshop)
- 2003 "In a Lilac Dell" - a conference designed to provide educators with a learning experience that resembles that of the children in Reggio Emilia, with the support of pedagogistas and artists (2 days)
- 2003 Ontario and Eastern Canada Reggio - Inspired Educators' Colloquium: "In a Lilac Dell - An Authentic Learning Experience" (2 hour presentation)
- 2003 National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference (Chicago): "This is still hard! The vitality of emergent curriculum" (3 hours, in collaboration with Elizabeth Jones and Carol Anne Wien)
- 2002 Canadian Association for Young Children Quebec Conference (Montreal) "Artists at the Centre: Collaboration and Reflective Practice in Building Community (2 hours)
- 2002 Hamilton Wentworth District School Board Kinder Konferenz: "Moving to Learn" (2 hour workshop)
- 2002 Ontario and Eastern Canada Reggio-Inspired Educators Colloquium: "The Artists at the Centre Project" (Toronto - 2 hour presentation)
- 2002 Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario Provincial Conference: "Building a Community of Learners - Hamilton's Reggio Network " (Windsor - 3 hour workshop)
- 2002 Partnerships in Success: "The Continuum from Preschool to School - Preparing

- Children for Success" (2.5 hour workshop) Aboriginal Educators and Parents
- 2002 Home Child Care Provincial Conference (Niagara Falls) "The Reggio Approach in a Home Setting" (2 hour workshop)
- 2001 Halton Early Literacy Conference: "Don't Throw Out That Spaghetti - We'll Do Creative Movement Tomorrow!" (2.5 hour workshop) Halton District School Board
- 2001 Changes Conference: "Children's Literature as a Foundation for Planning Curriculum" (2.5 hour workshop) Brantford Professional Resource Centre
- 2001 Junior and Senior Kindergarten Teachers inservice workshop "Creative Movement Throughout the Curriculum" (2 hour workshop) Hamilton Wentworth District School Board
- 2001 *Artists at the Centre Project* inception. To the best of our knowledge, this project is unique in North America.
- 2000 School Age Child Care Provincial Conference (Toronto) "Progettazione" (2 hour workshop)
- 2000 Halton Early Literacy Conference: "...and they read happily ever after" (2 hour workshop) Halton District School Board
- 1998 Inception of a network to support educators who were interested in learning about the Reggio Emilia approach. This network has developed into a study group that continues to meet regularly, and in addition to the artists and educators in our *Artists at the Centre Project*, also includes participants from several child care programs and Ontario Early Years Centres.

Personal Inservice Learning

- 2009 Attended the ORA Conference with speakers Amelia Gambetti and Lella Gandini
- 2008 Attended the NAREA Conference in Boulder Colorado and the opening of the new version of the Hundred Languages of Children exhibit
- 2008 Attended Ontario Reggio Association Conference with speakers Carlina Rinaldi, Carolyn Edwards, Pat Tarr, and Carol Anne Wien
- 2005 Attended the opening conference for the Hundred Languages of Children exhibit with speakers Amelia Gambetti and Lella Gandini
- 2005 Attended the second Ontario and Eastern Canada Reggio-Inspired Educators Conference led by Amelia Gambetti, educator from Reggio Emilia
- 2004 Attended an international conference and study tour in Reggio Emilia, Italy.
- 2004 Attended Ontario and Eastern Canada Reggio-Inspired Educators Conference

led by Amelia Gambetti, educator from Reggio Emilia

Administrative Responsibilities

- 2004 Worked in collaboration with the Marketing Department at Mohawk to write text and select images for a large format six-panel glossy brochure to profile the ECE program.
- 2000 - present Artists at the Centre Project coordinator, grants proposal writer, media contact, exhibit coordinator, website master.
- 2000- 2001 Represented the college on a community group to prepare a proposal for funds from the Ontario Early Years Challenge Fund. The proposal was successful, and in the fall of 2001 we opened the "Together for Families" program at Mohawk, providing support children aged 0 – 6 years, their parents and / or caregivers, and an exemplary program where our students can observe and complete practicum.
- 1996 - 1999 Coordinator of the Early Childhood Education Program at Mohawk College
- 1996 – 1998 Spearheaded a successful fundraising effort to raise \$10,000 to have a named Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Fund Scholarship

Community Leadership

- 2004 - present Best Start Network member
- 2002 - present Curator of the Artists at the Centre exhibits of children's work and documentation by the educators and artists and the Art Gallery of Hamilton and the Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts
- 2006 Steering committee to bring the Hundred Languages of Children exhibit to Toronto
- 2005 - 2006 Hamilton Community Foundation's *Tackling Poverty Together through Arts* Planning Committee
- 1999 - 2002 Member of the Provincial Board of Directors for the *Association of Early Childhood Educators, Ontario*
- 1996 - 2004 Community Advisory Committee for Early Years
- 1996 - 2000 Chair of the newsletter committee (and editor) for the Hamilton Branch of the *Association of Early Childhood Educators, Ontario*
- 1997 - 2007 Board of Directors for Umbrella Family and Child Centres

Media

- Mayday. (2005). *What is your view of the child?* May issue.
- The Hamilton Spectator. (2004). *The remaking of Hamilton? Let's leave it to the kids.* March 24.
- The National Post. (2003) *Letting learning unfold.* December 17.
- The Hamilton Spectator. (2003). *A day in the dell designed as serious fun.* May 10.
- The Hamilton Spectator. (2002). *Painting to learn: Hamilton's youngest artists express*

themselves with special exhibition. March 23.

The Hamilton Spectator. (2001). *Where kids rule: children set the agenda in a new concept earning raves from educators.* November 10.

The Hamilton Spectator. (2000). *Charting their own course.* March 25.

Project and Research Funding

1999 - present Hamilton Community Foundation approved my funding proposal to allow the hiring of four artists to work in programs with preschoolers and early childhood educators to further our exploration of the Reggio Emilia approach. Since its inception, we have received additional funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (a 3-year grant), the City of Hamilton (6 grants), Ontario Early Years (2 grants), the Art Gallery of Hamilton (2 grants), and the Ontario Arts Council (2 grants) and have had successful exhibitions of the children's work at the Art Gallery of Hamilton (2002), the Hamilton Children's Museum (2002 and 2003), the Hamilton and Region Arts Council (2003), Dundas Valley School of Art (2006) and the Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts (2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007, 2008, 2009).

We are now in 16 sites and have 6 artists working with us. These artists and educators participate in the Reggio Study Group meetings along with other interested educators from our community. To the best of our knowledge, this project is unique in North America.

2004 Hamilton Community Foundation Grant (\$3,500) Qualitative research with Dr. Carol Anne Wien into the impact of having artists in classrooms.

2003 Hamilton Community Foundation Grant (\$3,500) Qualitative research with Dr. Carol Anne Wien into the process of change in programs where educators were exploring the Reggio Emilia approach.

Publications

Callaghan, K. (2002) Nurturing the enthusiasm and ideals of new teachers through reflective practice. *Canadian Children*, 27 (1), 38 - 41.

Callaghan, K. (2002) (2004) Catalogue of the Exhibit: Artists at the Centre

Wein, C.A. & Callaghan, K. (2004) From policing to participation: Overturning the rules and creating amiable classrooms. *Young Children*, 59 (1), 34 - 40.

Wein, C.A. & Callaghan, K. (2007) "Fragile moments": Artists co-constructing creative experience with children, parents and early childhood educators. *Innovations in Early Education: The International Reggio Exchange*, 14 (2), 13- 21.

Wylie, S. (2003). Observing young children: A guide for early childhood educators

in Canada (2ND ed). Toronto: Harcourt Brace Canada. *I am a contributing writer to sections of this textbook, and documentation from the Artists at the Centre Project appears throughout the book.*