

# I AM LEARNING TO ENGAGE FAMILIES BY MAKING LEARNING VISIBLE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

## BOOK: VISIBLE LEARNERS

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### REFLECTION

Families are busier than before. Often I only meet parents twice a year, at the beginning and at the end.

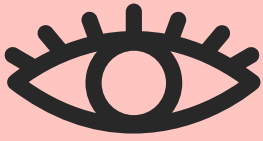
The section of this book on Introducing families to making learning visible provides suggestions to families to promote learning at home. After reading this book I became more mindful on the way I document and who is my audience: the families.

**Questions that arose for me in this learning:** What about the families that have no interest in what their child is doing? How do I encourage these conversations to happen?



### EVIDENCE

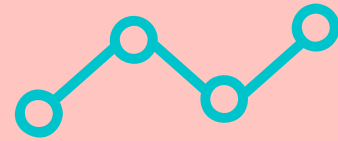
Over the past two years I have been exploring how to use my classroom blog. At first I was mostly using it as a vehicle for communicating information to parents. After reading this book I have moved in the direction of making it as a "digital bulletin board." Parents who had not previously used a class blog in this way were excited to see what their child shared. Students also enjoyed seeing the comments they received from their families. Even though on my class blog we are sharing about the same topic, what the students share individually about their learning gives the opportunity for families to engage on a deeper level.



### EVIDENCE CONTINUED

#### BULLETIN BOARDS THAT MAKE LEARNING VISIBLE

- communicate and promote values about teaching and learning
- reflect a class's or school identity
- make individual thinking available to the group
- support collective knowledge building and reflection
- help learners make connections across units and subject matter



### CONNECTION TO EDUCATIONAL THEORY

"Reggio educators hold an image of the child as capable and powerful as opposed to unskilled and passive" (Visible learners p 53) When we engage families by making the learning visible we are also expanding their view on their child's capabilities.

**Howard Gardner Theory of multiple intelligences "Evidence of learning can be demonstrated in a variety of symbol systems beyond the traditional school focus on words and numbers" (Visible learners p. 58)**

Giving students multiple ways to represent their learning provides families with opportunities to engage in their child's learning in different ways.

## 5 PRINCIPLES OF LEARNING

- LEARNING IS PURPOSEFUL
- LEARNING IS SOCIAL
- LEARNING IS EMOTIONAL
- LEARNING IS EMPOWERING
- LEARNING IS REPRESENTATIONAL

(VISIBLE LEARNERS P. 54)

# CAPACITIES



I am developing in...

## **Engage in dialogue with family and community to deepen understanding of children as citizens**

I'm continuing to strive for open communication with the families and how we can work together to support their child.

## **Explore contexts and environments that support and respond to learners' needs**

I'm learning to explore different resources within my community to engage families in making learning visible in their homes as well as at school.

## **Investigate educational theories and philosophies to inform my practice**

In reading this book I have discovered that documentation of the learning needs to be purposeful and meaningful to engage families.

# VISIONS AND GOALS



To provide families with the language in how to engage in the learning of their child

To be more mindful on how I use the bulletin boards and class blog as a way to engage families

To engage with the larger community