Teaching for deep-seated and value-based pedagogical change: some provocations

Date: Wednesday 19 October 2016

Time: 6.30- 8.30pm (light supper provided at 6.30, presentation starts at 7pm)

Where: Lecture theatre 1, Otakaro building, College of education, Health and Human Development, Dovedale Avenue

Fee: $20
Payments to REACH bank account: Internet banking number: 12 3038 0408638 55 Please use your name and school as a reference.

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Intellectual and pedagogical teacher engagement during professional development and mentoring moments is usually personal, emotional and committed. Teachers tend to be enthusiastic about their new learning. However, it seems that the spectre of technical practice often continues to dominate pedagogical thinking when teachers begin to translate their learning into their everyday practice. This workshop will address the question: why is it so difficult to match a vision for children with the reality of everyday interactions in early childhood and school settings? The power point presentation and workshop will challenge and provoke teachers to explore for themselves the interface between philosophy and pedagogy and everyday ‘technical’ practice in early childhood and the ‘first-years-of-school’ settings drawing on Reggio-inspired concepts but also drawing on concepts that have arisen out of Aotearoa NZ national curriculum. It will be suggested that pedagogical change in everyday practice needs to happen via the deepest levels of our thinking.

Diti Hill recently retired as Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Education at the University of Auckland. She continues to be involved in post-graduate supervision, research and writing. For over forty years Diti has been actively involved with a wide range of early childhood services and organisations as parent, teacher and teacher educator. Over the past 21 years, Diti has facilitated and co-facilitated professional development, conversation groups and conferences, drawing on the intellectually-engaging philosophy and pedagogy of Reggio Emilia. She is a trustee of REANZ (Reggio Emilia Aotearoa New Zealand), an organisation that promotes the philosophy and pedagogy of Reggio Emilia in the Aotearoa New Zealand context and is also national president of OMEP Aotearoa New Zealand. Diti is passionate about inspiring teachers to explore and debate the nature of the teaching-learning process and to reflect on the effect that personal pedagogical practice has on their own lives and the lives of the children they teach.