

PILOTING THE CAT 2011–2012

From a Director's Perspective...

The Collaborative Assessment Tool was used:

- to initiate discussions with Educators concerning documentation and programming
- to evaluate educators' growth, learning and engagement
- to identify deficiencies in centre policies and procedures
- as a portfolio to showcase early childhood learning in the centre to current and prospective parents/guardians

Benefits of using the CAT included:

- promoting a proactive approach to the implementation of the New Brunswick Curriculum Framework ~ English
- encouraging reflective teaching practices
- bridging the gap in communication between Educators, Directors, Early Learning Community Advisors and Early Childhood Services Coordinators
- highlighting educators' strengths

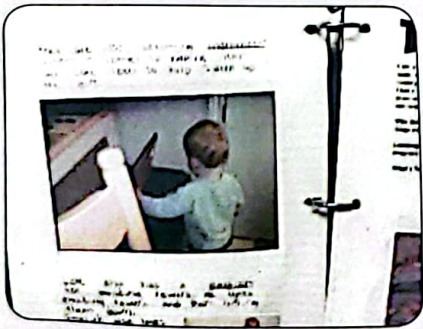
However, one challenge educators encountered involved the inherent ambiguity involved in a qualitative approach to an assessment tool. Specifically, educators were uncertain of how to record examples of evidence as well as how often to refer to the CAT. This challenge was easily overcome by encouraging educators to adopt an approach that was tailored to their individual needs. In doing so, our team found the CAT to be an invaluable resource.

~ Sara Thornton and Melissa McCallum

Little Geniuses Day Care Centre Inc., Fredericton



Donna Baisley, Early Learning Community Advisor interviews Nikki Matchett, Educator...



How did you use the CAT?

Nikki: I organized it first by reading all the sections, and then made a binder with sections. When I did something with the children and when they did things, I would take a photo and write a little description or a learning story and put it in the sections where it fit. I think everyone should organize a portfolio first to get familiar with the tool because organizing it helped me.

What did you see as your strength?

Nikki: My strength is identifying the children's interest. Also the CAT helped me to see how important the parents are and that they are a big part of the program. I didn't see that before. I am working and getting much better at involving parents.

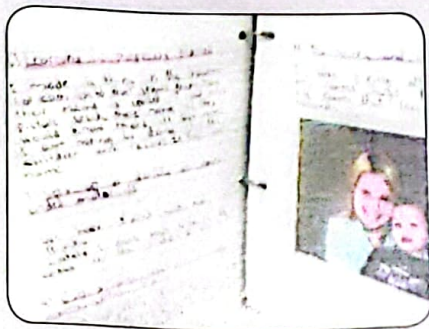
What are the challenges?

Nikki: Because I choose to do mine a particular way, I find time is an issue, I still duplicate my work sometimes and I know that we don't have to but I feel more organized when I do it this way.

How did you solve some of the challenges?

Nikki: I decided to work on some of my stuff at home.

~ Donna Baisley and Nikki Matchett Sparkling Diamonds Daycare, Miramichi



REFLECTING • RESPECTING • CARING • CELEBRATING • MAKING TIME • APPRECIATING • AFFIRMING • REVIEWING • WONDERING • EVALUATING • EXPANDING • INQUIRING • EXTENDING • PLANNING • ENGAGING • SHARING • ELABORATING • COLLABORATING • EXPLORING • DOCUMENTING • EXPANDING • RECORDING • SCRIBING • QUESTIONING • JOURNALING • OBSERVING • CONVERSING • RESEARCHING

