Leadership Breath

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Mindfulness Leadership

- Conscious of leadership decisions and actions
- Single Case Study - purposive
Our Beginning Assumptions

• That leadership in the infants room is not well researched or understood.

• That leadership in the infants room is different to leadership in other settings, and with groups of older children.
In this setting…

• More staff in the room – particularly part time
• Diversely qualified and experienced
• Diverse cultural backgrounds and beliefs about infants and their education and care
• Formation of a new team – some with many years working at Gowrie and others new to the organisation
Approach

• Aim was to be inclusive and respectful of all educators.
• Transparent in data gathering
• Survey asking educators what was most important for educators in their work with infants.
• Team leader journal and reflection each week on her leadership
• Individual responses to video clips capturing everyday moments at the setting.
Description of setting

- Physical Space
- Staffing and rosters
- Renovations
- Children
Key Themes

What kept coming through in my reflections.

• Constant reflection and doubt on my approach.

• Effective use of limited time for team communication.

• Relationships within the team.

• Inclusivity of experience and knowledge.
Unpacking these themes

• Differing approaches to child agency.
• How to set a leadership direction and inspire but still respect the individual beliefs and values of these experienced staff?
Reflecting

- Who inspires me.
- Advocating and backing decisions and information shared.
- Lessons on recruitment and orientation.
- Importance of the room leader to be present…and breathing!
Final Thoughts

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- Space for more extensive work on leadership in infant rooms.
- Mindfulness of breathing – what is being taken in and what is breathed out.
- Permission to lead – do we have a clear construct of leadership in infant rooms?