



Who in the world cares for babies?

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A spotlight on babies

- A sizeable subject
- A costly matter
- A moral imperative
- A weighty issue



Fields of study

- Translational research
- International contexts
- Prismatic effects
- Balance of stories



The Baby Room Project

- Complexities of contexts
- Project design
- People and places
- Who did we think they were?



Who do you think you are?

- research and development
- perspectives
- data sets
- routines
- paucity of explanations
- lack of voice.

Who cares for babies: summary

- characteristics
- professional development
- work-focused dialogue
- pay and working conditions
- self-esteem
- status



However...

- vast responsibilities
- low investment
- 'quality'?
- expanding 'business'
- political constructs
- 'cost' and 'value'



The quality/excellence debate

- the nature of people
- professionalism.....professionalisation
- minding babies.....mindful care
- qualifications



New understandings...

- the nature of the role
- the nature of knowledge required
- the nature of people employed to care

The deliberate professional

“The deliberate early childhood professional is one who always proceeds from a strong philosophical frame, one that is built upon her knowledge and beliefs, as well as her unique capabilities and talents.

The beliefs that guide professional decisions should be reasoned beliefs, those that have come from years of deliberation on the interconnectedness of theory, research and practice, not clouded by our personal outside issues, formed out of convenient habit or based on unexamined assumptions.

A philosophical frame is not a solid, static structure, but rather more organic and flexible, allowing room for growth and change. As the elements of the frame become frayed or faded, threads may need to be reinforced, with the old ideas and beliefs being revisited, re-examined; in all ways, beliefs must be defensible and stand the test of scrutiny as they are articulated to others.” **Mary B. McMullen, 2012**

How can this be achieved?

- Bruner's 'duality of landscape'
- Vygotsky's 'signalling' practice towards 'signifying' practice
- Dahlberg's 'discursive spaces'
- Telling stories



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4th Annual Baby Room Conference

Friday 19 April 2013

**At Canterbury Christ Church
University**

**Keynote speaker: Dr Anne Meade
from New Zealand**