

"Reframing My Learning Stance to Learn Through Inquiry"

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In the summer of 2013 I registered for a summer institute, *Making Authentic Inquiry Work*, with a couple of colleagues. When we arrived mid-summer for the institute we were ready to learn. The first morning we waited eagerly and wondered when the facilitators were going to tell us what we needed to know and do. By lunch we were getting a little anxious wondering if we were really going to leave understanding meaningful student inquiry. It wasn't until we sat outside during lunch that we began to reflect on the morning and realized something that changed the rest of our experience; we wanted to learn about this transformative method of learning through a very conventional method of teaching. We realized that what we spent the morning doing was setting the foundation for our learning together as educators through inquiry. We then changed our frame of minds and instead of wanting to "do inquiry" we took an inquiry stance to learning. This not only changed our experience during the rest of the institute but it changed the way we approached learning with our students.

A two-day professional development institute

Making Authentic Inquiry Work!

Exploring transformative pedagogies using professional inquiry methods



educators and as we harness the experience and knowledge within the room and plan for the possibilities.

That institute was only the beginning of my learning journey with *Natural Curiosity* and *Learning For a Sustainable Future*. I left inspired and with many questions to explore with my colleagues. With the support of our administrators we continued our collaborative inquiry at our school and stayed connected with the institute facilitators. The power of collaboration was highlighted as we embraced the messiness of learning, asked questions and took risks together to deepen our understanding of facilitating the inquiry process and designing meaningful assessment to drive instruction throughout the inquiry. This experience motivated me to continue to refine my practice and support other educators in their learning and reflective practice. This summer, I had the opportunity to join the facilitation team to share my passion for inquiry and continue to learn with



Building Children's Understanding of the World through Environmental Inquiry