

Person Centered *focus*

IMPLEMENTING PERSON CENTERED PLANNING WITH
CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN MUSKOKA, PARRY SOUND,
ALMAGUIN AND NIPISSING

Project Update

I am in disbelief that this wonderful project will be coming to close in February. We have seen so much excitement and inspiration during the past few months and it has just flown by. That being said we do have three months left in which to do more planning and workshops and hopefully improve situations for families, children and classrooms.

One Page Profiles are scheduled for a classroom at Monck Public School in Bracebridge. This will be our first in the Trillium Lakelands District School Board. It has also been suggested that we contact the Catholic Board in the Powassan area. It seems these workshops are in great demand and we are barely able to keep up. The Home Child Care program at DSSAB invited us to do a workshop with their home child care providers during their annual provider appreciation day. It was a fun filled workshop that explained what profiles are, how we use them and assisted the providers in building their own in order to better match them with child placements. Thank you for inviting us, we appreciate the enthusiasm and passion of the group to participate and continue building profiles. Some great ideas were generated regarding various purposes for children's profiles in their homes.

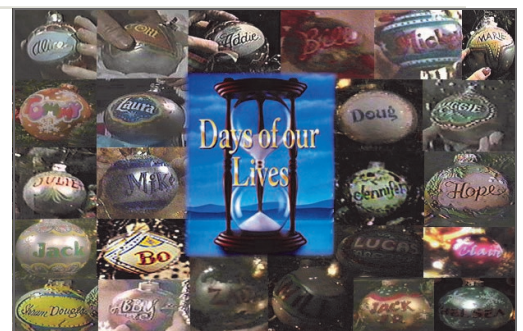
A number of plans are continuing to be developed and initiated. I found myself in a very inspiring family planning session this past month. It was very emotional for the family because they are such strong advocates that were in the process of making a very heart-breaking decision that they knew was for the best even though it wouldn't have been their first choice. Please see the attached page for the full story, which they have graciously allowed me to share with everyone.

Another plan that I mentioned briefly last month focused on a long term placement for a young lady transitioning to adult family home with no guarantee of funding. She currently lives in a highly successful environment and moving would create huge safety concerns for her and those around her. I am intrigued to see how/if our planning affects the outcome for her. I will keep you all updated.

It is the perfect time of year to reflect on what is important to your family. Take some time to enjoy the holiday season and celebrate those family traditions.



Anyone watch Days of Our Lives? The Horton Family Christmas Tradition has always been my favorite. Each family member has a ball with their name on it to hang on the tree every year. What is your favorite tradition?



Parry Sound High School teacher Bonnie Smith first encountered one page profiles when we offered to do a workshop for her Careers class last school year. In September she asked us to come back and do the same with her Learning Strategies classes. She supported the students over the following weeks to detail and personalize their profiles through exploring ideas and their IEP's. Once completed the profiles were shared with the principal and all appropriate staff and supports. They were a hit! Teachers really found them helpful in supporting their students. She went on to brainstorm around the implementation of profiles and how to ensure enough detail to be useful. From this came another invitation to come into her Careers class and help develop profiles but this time there was a marking scheme. The marking scheme was set up in a way that allowed flexibility and individualization while ensuring detail, thoughtfulness and purpose. The students included a vision for employment purposes and again were given time to build upon the profile to ensure it's usefulness. Some of the students, with consent from parents and administration, have allowed us to use their profiles for training purposes.

It is always a pleasure to work with Bonnie. Her enthusiasm and dedication to student centered learning and person centered thinking is inspirational.

Those AHA Moments!!!

Planning with child vs. family—so important to start with family first or we could have missed some very important details that have huge effects on the child



Person centered funding is needed—a very successful home placement could be jeopardized due to lack of funding, it would be more cost effective to place her in an already funded group home, BUT WOULD THIS WORK FOR HER? Why don't we fund people to live where they want instead of funding spaces?



One page profiles developed by home child care providers to help facilitate communication between parent and child!



One page profiles to match home child care providers to children



Education system not always aware of strategic plans of Community Living agencies—we need to communicate changes like closure of day programs to ensure the education system is supporting students to live a life in community.



Language in plans is very important as well as the presentation and collaboration with supports identified



Person centred planning that begins at a very early age with the child and family has a huge potential to change the future of academic programming at the high school level.



The "How to support" section of a one page profile is essentially the balance between "Important To" and "Important For" that we are trying to achieve for everyone



Any of these spark interest? Give us a call, we'll elaborate!

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Almaguin Highlands Community Living

