

March 2022 Link edition - LCS Professional Development: TODDLE The Inquiry Educators Summit by Graeme Boyd

The weekend of 12th -13th March 2022, I was privileged to attend The Inquiry Educators Summit (TIES) 2022 <https://ties.toddleapp.com/> I had heard about this conference for years but this was the first time I had actually participated.

TIES as it is known, is designed to be a 'festival of learning like no other' which is an intriguing logo hard to pass by. It has a fantastic reputation for attracting the most recent, relevant and thought-provoking educators from throughout the world. The general remit of the Summit is that over 100 educators will be talking, sharing and interacting for over 3 days on a variety of educational topics from for example, autism to wellbeing. How could you not be excited about such a festival of creativity?

The Summit was a fantastic way to network and share ideas with other educators, especially those from my own field of librarianship. I virtually met with High School Librarians from Kenya, Mexico and the United Kingdom. We created our own 'Lounge' whereby other educators could stop by and 'meet' us. It was a pleasure to reconnect with some of my peers, especially given the niche field of international school librarianship can be somewhat solitary.

I attended over 20 sessions. Some I stayed for the full 45 minutes. Some I dipped in and out. The sessions were synchronous and offered all day and night, so depending on your timezone there would always be a 'live' session you could participate in. Some of the key names in education who presented included Helen Street (founder of Positive Schools), Rachel French (from Professional Learning International) and mindfulness consultant, Lucy Keller. Best of all, the sessions were all recorded and as a participant I now have access to every session for the next 6 months. Looks like I am going to be busy!

One of my favorite sessions was from Andrea Sachdeva, Senior Project Manager at Project Zero of the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Andrea co-wrote (with Liz Dawes Duraisingh) one of my favorite books of the year called 'Inquiry-Driven Innovation: A Practical Guide to Supporting School-Based Change'. Anything published by Project Zero I will take note of, so it was thrilling for me to know Andrea was presenting especially after I had already read her book. The book fundamentally aims to nurture human potential; learning, thinking, ethics, intelligence and creativity but within a 'doing' environment. Andrea advocates maker-centered learning which is a particular passion of mine. During the presentation I built up the courage to ask her some questions about how we (LCS) could start some sort of maker-centered space here at LCS. I gave her our school roll, location and makeup of students so she could get a flavour of what we have to offer. She gave me some great suggestions - as did some of the other participants within this session - and once I write up my findings I will present these ideas for our Senior Leadership Team here at LCS to look into. It felt to me like I was receiving free consultancy for Lincoln Community School from one of the most revered educational schools in the world. Why not!


Some of the presentations included our own staff. Amber Rhinehart co-presented a fabulous session on Friday 11th March called 'Using Triangular Partnership to Sustain Inquiry'. Amber is a natural presenter partly because she is so experienced but also because she is so passionate about what she does, so it was a pleasure watching her present. There were well over 40 participants in attendance at Amber's session and I felt proud to be present representing LCS and supporting Amber.

An added bonus was that within this session Amber accredited the work from our other esteemed colleague Vanessa Gomez (MYP Spanish) as an example to discuss 'Student Agency and Inquiry in Self-Assessment'. Here's the exact slide Amber used:

Talking: Amber Rhinehart

Student Agency and Inquiry in Self-Assessment

Vanessa Gomez
Lincoln Community School
Spanish Teacher



Johan Mouchet on Unsplash

Criteria A: LISTENING	Criteria B: READING	Criteria C: SPEAKING	Criteria D: WRITING
I can understand someone describing their home: hay, tiene, es.	I can identify familiar words related to types of housing, furniture, rooms in a house.	I can express ideas orally about my home [location, type, descriptions, number of rooms, my favorite room]	I can write about my home [location, type, descriptions, number of rooms, my favorite room].
I can understand information about rooms in a house and furniture [hay vs tener]	I can identify preferences and opinions with some explanation. <i>Yo prefiero... porque ...</i>	I can express ideas orally about activities others do on the weekends/after school, including myself.	I can write about activities others do on the weekends/after school, including myself.
I can understand simple questions about my home	I can understand information about rooms in a house and furniture [hay vs tener]	I can describe someone else's home, rooms, descriptions.	I can describe someone else's home, rooms, descriptions.
I can understand someone expressing opinions and preferences about types of housing and location (a las afueras, en el centro, etc.)	I can understand someone expressing opinions and preferences about types of housing and location (a las afueras, en el centro, etc.).	<i>I can express my preference of housing and give reasons. Yo prefiero... porque ...</i>	I can express opinions about some topics related to the unit using familiar connecting words: <i>también, pero, además, y, porque.</i>
I can understand someone talking about what they like to do in different areas of their homes			

It's encouraging that LCS offers its community opportunities to join such prestigious professional development events. I felt thrilled to be accepted to attend. Perhaps next year it will be me presenting! I do hope so.

Useful links:

- The Inquiry Educators Summit TIES <https://ties.toddleapp.com/>
- Harvard Project Zero <http://www.pz.harvard.edu/>
- Helen Street <https://www.positiveschools.com/>
- Rachel French <https://www.professionallearninginternational.com/>
- Lucy Keller <https://www.mindfulnessbylucy.com/>

Graeme Boyd is the Middle and High School Librarian at Lincoln Community School. If you have any library related questions (including reading skills and reading levels, selections, formats and suitable online resources for your children) please contact Graeme directly at < gboyd@lincoln.edu.gh >