



# ENHANCING YOUR PRACTICE: THE ART OF PEDAGOGY AND DOCUMENTATION IN THE EARLY YEARS

With Ana Valle Rivera, MPed in ECE

## What is pedagogy?

According to the Ontario Ministry of Education (2014), "curriculum (the content of learning) and pedagogy (how learning happens) in early years settings are shaped by views about children, the role of educators and families, and relationships among them" (p. 5).

Educators may share a similar pedagogical approach however there are as many ways to practice a pedagogical approach as there are educators.

## What is the difference between documentation and pedagogical documentation?

- Documentation can be used to track learning, milestones and in some cases behaviour.
- Documentation is often used as "proof" that learning is happening or has happened.
- Pedagogical documentation is living and situated in context, space and place.
- Pedagogical documentation can not be replicated or templated.
- Pedagogical documentation can be used to co-create curriculum, make children's learning, theories, perspectives and experiences visible.
- Pedagogical documentation can be shared with families and the wider community as a way to bridge worlds and strengthen community.



# What is some rich, descriptive, and inclusive language that can be used to make children's learning visible through documentation?

Take a look at the four foundations in Ontario's pedagogy (2024), and think about words that contribute to the image of the child as competent, capable of complex thinking, curious, and rich in potential.



## Belonging

connection,  
relational, empathy,  
collaborate,  
respond



## Wellbeing

reciprocity,  
participate,  
welcome, joy,  
contribute



## Engagement

inquire, discover,  
theorize,  
curious,  
investigate



## Expression

create, attune,  
experience,  
extend,  
represent



## MEET ANA VALLE RIVERA

Hi, I am Ana, founder of Early Years Thriving. Thank you for trusting me with your ECE professional development. I hope you learned something today but more important I hope you felt valued, appreciated and that your work matters.

## EARLY YEARS THRIVING

At Early Years Thriving, our mission is to provide meaningful learning opportunities to caregivers to give them inspiration, hope, practical tools and strategies to help them thrive and help the children they care for to thrive.

Learn more about Ana by visiting: [www.anavallerivera.com](http://www.anavallerivera.com)

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