

Title of Training: Virtually Tour Modern Day Miss Tizzy's Child Care Space

Board Present: Jennifer Bowman – President, Michelle Weise - Vice President Membership/Communications, Emma Tempest – Secretary, Anna Cannon – Washington County Member-at-Large, Terri Teters - Ex-Officio, Debbie Mays – Advisor, Susan Edwards – Advisor

Participants in attendance: 22

The meeting was called to order at 6.30pm by Jennifer Bowman. Jennifer welcomed the participants to the NWAECA meeting. She thanked Debbie Mays for hosting the meeting and allowing the tour of her program.

Business:

1. Jennifer announced the Explorers Curriculum trainings are available from Marcy White at A State Childhood Services for ages 3-6yrs. This is a free training; you can find more information on our Facebook page.
2. Terri shared some ELS Basics and some ERS trainings that are happening online. Email Tabitha Lewis at A State for more information tlewis@astate.edu
3. Terri also shared that the NWA Director's Roundtable meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month from 12.30-2.00pm. This is available for any early childhood administrator/director. Email Terri for more information tteters@astate.edu
4. Jennifer shared that The Scott Family Amazeum will be having their Educator Night Out: With a Spin on October 29 and NWAECA will be partnering with them again. There will be a drive through event and presentations held virtually. You will get PDR credit!

Speaker: Debbie Mays

Debbie began by sharing the story of Miss Tizzy. You can watch the video of a retelling [here](#). The book tells the story of a child care provider, Miss Tizzy, whose neighbors may think is quite peculiar, but the children love her. They love her colorful house and her colorful clothes, but most of all they love the special attention she pays to them all. Together, they bake cookies, make pictures full of sunshine and butterflies for folks who have stopped smiling, play dress-up, put on puppet shows and parades, or stretch out on bright quilts in Miss Tizzy's backyard of an evening to sing moon songs. When Miss Tizzy becomes ill and takes to her bed, the children know just what to do to let her know she is missed and loved. Debbie shared that she wants all children to leave child care programs each day saying they "loved it".

Debbie then shared a video of her child care space prior to when she had to change some things around due to Covid19. She invited attendees to participate in the chat box. She talked about how her setting has lots of natural loose parts that children engage with

rather than traditional toys - she is Reggio Emilia inspired. Debbie talked about how her program uses Conscious Discipline strategies and she has a calendar at her parent sign-in desk with tips so the parents and families can see reminders every day. One of the Conscious Discipline strategies she uses is a Wish You Well board to show not only who is here each day, but to wish children who are absent well – creating community and empathy. On one of her tables Debbie had some old electronic equipment out that the children could dismantle and tinker with. Her science area had books and tools as well as natural items such as a turtle shell, butterflies and even a snake skin! Her music area has musical instruments and an Alexa device that her children love – instant music at their fingertips! Art materials are available as a free choice area, with original art pieces displayed for children to be inspired by and so they develop an appreciation of beauty. She has lots of fine motor opportunities with playdough, dominoes, and pom poms with tweezers. Debbie also has a storm shelter in her room that contains a light table, books, and her emergency bag. Debbie has a block area, dress up room (yes, a whole room!) with a kitchen/home area full of dress up clothes, props, and puppets. She also showed us her safe place – a space for children to calm themselves and express their emotions in a safe way.

Debbie talked about how there is not a 'receipt' in her program for what the children do every day – such as a worksheet or a workbook. She took a real apple and wrote down all the words she could think of to describe it – red, juicy, smooth, peel, half, core, shiny etc. Then she took a plastic apple and went through the list crossing out all the words that did not apply to the plastic apple. She then did this again with an apple flashcard, and again with an apple coloring sheet. The list got shorter and shorter! With all the things you can learn with a real object, why would you want to use a worksheet/flashcard/coloring sheet and learn so little? She says that if you use real objects you won't have much in terms of a receipt, but that is when your parent engagement is key as you need to be able to share all the learning that is happening with their children. Debbie shared some documentation strategies she uses – written observations, group floor books, photographs, shared notebooks with parents, portfolios.

There was a question about center limits and if Debbie used this as a strategy. Debbie explained that she does not have a limited number of children at each center and instead invites them to solve problems if they feel too crowded or if there are too many children wanting the same resource. Debbie coaches them if they need help finding the words to use.

During the outside tour, Debbie said she wants parents to be able to look at it and say "That looks like a fun place for kids to be." There are areas in her yard that are designed for one or two children, to have a quiet place outside where they can just hang out or hide away (while still being in view to the adults). There is a mud/digging area that right now the girls in Debbie's program are loving – as well as a mud kitchen to mix, pour and bake their concoctions! There is environmental print outside, using signs to show children

the purpose of words rather than drilling them with worksheets to learn their ABCs. Debbie's children have sand play and water play available outside, as well as a tool bench and every child's favorite toy...boxes!

Debbie talked about the changes in her program since Covid19. She said we must do everything in our power to honor childhood as some research has shown that this pandemic will have lasting damage on children for years to come. Ask yourself if the changes you are making in your program are worth it for the sake of child development. If there are things that you must do due to new regulations, what could you do in other areas to help with the deficit? Debbie now has a smaller group size, from 16 to 10. She wears a mask inside and tries to socially distance outside where possible. There is a hand wash timer by her inside sink that plays a song and lights up long enough for the children to wash their hands appropriately. Individual art supplies kept in baskets are now available to children instead of it being a free area. Debbie does more sanitizing daily now and has put out less dress up clothes daily, washing them all at the end of the week. Play food has been put away due to the risk of children putting them in their mouth. She has used images of food and modge podge'd them onto plastic plates so the children can still use the concept of play food without putting it in their mouths. Debbie does home visits at the beginning of the school year, but this year did not go inside homes. She also has children pick up and drop off from the car line now rather than parents coming into the setting.

Please visit Debbie's [Modern Day Miss Tizzy page](#) if you want to contact her.

Meeting was adjourned by Jennifer Bowman

Next Meeting: Tuesday 13th October 6.30-7.30pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4798416326>

Topic: COVID19 Reflection and Implementation Responsive Circle

Minutes shared by Emma Tempest