

Here is the first CHILD CENTERED MANIFESTO from the original website
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Here at Ooey Gooley, Inc. we support the creation of child centered environments, but wait just one minute, what exactly does this mean anyway? There are many articles and books out there that claim being child centered is NO GOOD! And should be BANNED and AVOIDED at all costs. And, to be honest, after reading how they define it, I agree with them. Disengaged adults who stand around letting kids do whatever they want under the auspices of "being child centered" are missing the point and have either lost touch with the meaning behind the phrase, or never really had a grasp on it in the first place.

It is the desire of Ooey Gooley, Inc. to establish a base line understanding of what this phrase means so that we have a shared understanding of what is guiding us in our work with children! Remember one of my favorite phrases, *he who owns the language owns the debate!*

CHILD-CENTERED IS NOT...

putting out the new activity idea you learned at a conference this weekend then turning your back to the children while you clean out the cupboards...
letting children have the run of the place...
Lord of the Flies...
letting children do "whatever they want"...
children running around naked with paint flying through the air...
an excuse to be disengaged from the children...
something that happens over-night...
the elimination of rules, boundaries and structure...
CHAOS! ANARCHY!

CHILD-CENTERED IS...

linking concepts to experiences...
controlling the environment, not the little people in it...
making a commitment to understanding the research that impacts our profession...
believing that there is NOT a one-size fits all formula that can be applied to each child, each time, in each situation...
engaging and connecting with the children, even at the expense of the lesson plan...
the hardest way to be... why? Because it takes passion, dedication and commitment on the part of ALL grown-ups involved!

Ooey Gooley, Inc. is committed to providing parents, educators and administrators with the knowledge, facts and research that supports this educational philosophy. And it is this information that Lisa shares during the workshops she presents all over the world.

#teaching #learning #play #DAP #posterity #musings

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