

CCD visits Journals - 1

**Date:** March 29th

**Site:** XXXX

**Teacher:** Tom

**Co-educator:** Doreen

**Students:** 24 in total, 10-18 everyday

**Visit time:** 8:40am – 3:30pm

First day visit began with a bit rush because I went to the wrong centre which had similar name as my CCD visit site. It was my fault because I didn't Google the complete name of the site and didn't really understand the route that head of the ELC suggested in the email (though she didn't really mention which bus stop I should get off, with the wrong name, Google map took me somewhere else.) Anyway, new city, new site, a new lesson!

Site XXXX is considered as one of the best ELC in town. The head of the teachers let me choose which class I wanted to stay, but I had no idea. So she took me to Tom's class. When I stepped in, I realized this ELC was a boy school, though Tom was the only male teacher in there.

There were a few things which were amazing. Tom was very enthusiastic and introduced himself and his assistant Doreen to me. They stayed with the boys most of the time but took lunch shift in turns. They decorated the classroom which is about 100 square metres with these boys together, with lots of natural and domestic items, such as real coffee machine, real telephones, real seeds, seashells, etc. I asked Doreen What was the function of a glass cabinet at the middle of the classroom, with some mushrooms and student names inside. She explained that those mushrooms were boys' collections and they were really intrigued with them and ended up with lots of great artworks that they wanted to keep in that glass cabinet. Although most of the toys were quite old but had been kept very well. Another interesting point was that when I asked Tom about their pedagogy, he introduced that this ELC was featured as a Reggio Emilia pedagogy learning centre. They were proud of their emerging curriculum and the spirit of researching. This didn't mean that teachers were playing with children all the time aimless and freely. On the contrary, I found these teachers were quite harsh. There was an incidence today. Two boys took out all the folders and threw them on the sofa. When Doreen opened the folders and she was so disappointed that these boys squeezed all the pages. I was smiling and asked them why they did that. And these boys smiled at me but didn't say anything. Doreen came over and blamed them: "No smile on your face boys! This is really bad!". I felt quite embarrassed for my smile to these boys. I suppose the principle in this centre was you could have freedom as long as you followed the rules. The last thing I learned from the centre today was a new term – "intentional teaching". I saw Tom using it a lot. When boys were signing their names when arriving, Tom would try to guide them through spelling and support their development of fine motor skills (holding a pen). In the morning, there was always half an hour learning time with a topic that initiated by these boys but observed and developed by Tom and Doreen. They were working together to shape these boys' development.

I found catching up with their songs and rhymes were quite challenging. But I kept taking notes and try to learn at least three songs (games) from them.