WORLD CAFÉ RESPONSES – BATEMENS BAY NQF WORKING GROUP – 3.5.2012.

NQF FOR THE “HARD TO ENGAGE” EDUCATORS…..

1. **HOW DO I FIT INTO THE NQF SYSTEM? (& how do we support the educators who feel unsure about NQF?)**

* Grow and gain knowledge ,
* Reading = knowledge and develops ownership.
* Access 1:1 professional support
* All staff input is valued (cooks, untrained, trained, disabilities, directors, owners.)
* All staff are educators and are valued for their input.
* Value all staff contributions and make these visible.
* Use positive psychology.
* Use strengths based interactions with staff (even when we seek a change in behavior.)
* Use their current quality practices as evidence and make this visible.
* Encourage staff that they re already doing NQF, documenting the roles they do every day, engaging in reflective practice etc.
* Remind about the benefits for children and staff at all levels in knowing why we do what we do!
* By rethinking and evaluating current practices rather than saying, “We have done this for 20 years…we already know children and we don’t need to change.”

1. **WHAT IS THE RELEVANCE OF NQF FOR CHILDREN? (WHY BOTHER?)**

* Education and learning
* Enhance status of early childhood education
* Allow children to be individuals in the learning group.
* Ensure children’s well-being and health.
* Safety of children and respect for children.
* Educating children with the EYLF principles and practices in mind. Realizing the importance of “Being” in early childhood and how important the early years are in their life. Childhood (embrace, interact, enjoy, communicate.)
* Supporting children to participate.
* Providing positive interactions.
* Being, Becoming and Belonging.
* Importance of the environment and the feel of the centre (not just about documenting.)
* NQF supports whole basis of development, curriculum and learning.
* Providing opportunities for children to explore and expand their learning.
* Ensure opportunity is given to children to be part of a community within the centre.
* Provide opportunity /platform for communicating the ‘what’ and ‘why’ about ECE to families and the broader community.

1. **WHAT IF AN ASSESSOR ASKS ME A QUESTION? (& how do we help eduactors to feel confident about this process?)**

* By involving all staff in the QIP process so that they have knowledge and understanding.
* Increase our knowledge through reading / group meetings / reflections and evaluations of practice.
* READ the NQF.
* Practice it, talk it everyday with each other and families so that it becomes embedded in our practices.
* Empower staff to believe in themselves by: \* Brainstorming possible questions, \*having a clear understanding of philosophy, code of ethics and policies, \* Valuing staff contributions, and \* empathizing with staff.

1. **How can we fit doing (paperwork / meetings etc) the NQF into our busy days?**

* Brainstorm ideas – A4 sheet in the office.
* Quality not Quantity!
* Acknowledge that we actually do it – just have to refine and work on language and jargon etc.
* Allocate all staff different standards to review and work through and then meet for group discussions.
* Identify what is important to us right here and now and work on reflecting that.
* Develop priorities.
* Professional development plans: staff to set goals around personal and professional goals.
* Self-assessment books.
* Break it up into little pieces.