**Inquiry into Pedagogical Approaches to Teaching Human Rights**

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 What might teaching as/for human rights look like in grade one?

**Key Questions:**

Who are my students?

How do they experience love and belonging?

How might we build community, love, belonging and empathy in room 26?

How can I help students to uncover/learn who they are?

How might we begin to acknowledge and embrace the diversity (personal and cultural) in our classroom?

*Born out of a realization and a philosophy that in order to teach my students I had to know them and they needed to know me.*

*Human relationships are the foundation to learning.*

**Additional Benefits:**

* creates community - students get to know each other- builds empathy and understanding
* moves beyond content coverage and skill development to the heart of the child (a student centered approach).

**Logistics:**

How might I integrate the teaching of key skills (including reading, writing speaking and listening) into this child centred project?

**Process:**

* During parent teacher interviews caregivers were given background knowledge about the project, reviewed their responsibility and the goal of the project ( to know their child, to bring the child’s “outer world” into the classroom etc....)
* Children were given the camera, one child per evening and were instructed to take photos of -places, people and things that were important to them - November and December
* Children's photos were loaded onto the computer. Children shared their photos with the entire class. Others were encouraged to ask questions or make comments in order to learn more about the child - November, December, January
* Photos were saved
* Students selected 4 of their favourites - February
* Students wrote about each picture ( working copy first) March
* Typed up best copy ( draft 2)- in collaboration with the computer teacher March/April
* Published book with beautiful cover - in collaboration with the art teacher - April
* Shared books with parents and book buddies at a book launch- May

**Tips for success:**

* Work alongside your students.
* Help them see the decisions you make as a writer, photographer/viewer etc. Help them get to know you too. Make yourself vulnerable as a child/student. Do what you are asking them to do yourself.
* Collaborate with other adults in the school as needed.
* Begin early in the year.
* Help students see the purpose. We are authors, sharing with the reader our ideas, thoughts feelings things that are important to us.
* Photography is one way authors communicate their ideas- zoom in, zoom out, what do you want to convey?
* Create opportunities to share - set criteria for listening and speaking including appropriate feedback.
* Create and Celebrate!!!!!!!!!