

Afterword

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Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning developed *A Time for Learning, A Time for Joy: A Resource for Kindergarten Teachers* to support you in your important role as play-based Kindergarten teachers in Manitoba. As Albert Einstein advised, it is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge. The department gratefully acknowledges the important contribution you make each day to helping our youngest students get off to a great start as they experience wonder, joy, and success during their Kindergarten year. Thank you for all you do!

This closing message is one of encouragement as you commit to implementing a play-based approach to Kindergarten in your classroom. With your support and intentional teaching, your students will grow like the flowers in Friedrich Froebel's vision of Kindergarten. Rich contexts for learning will encourage children to wonder, pose their own questions, make their own discoveries, construct their own knowledge, communicate their findings, build positive attitudes toward school and lifelong learning, and enjoy friendships with fellow discoverers along their way.

“Nothing
without joy.”

Loris Malaguzzi



We hope the ideas found within this support document will help you to

create or find small pockets of hope where children can experience the joy, vitality, richness, pleasure and challenges of unfettered play in their . . . schools and schoolyards. These children will then take with them the seed of productivity, support, nurturance and courage throughout their lives. (Bos and Chapman 158)

A child is a joyful and enthusiastic reader.

And finally, in the poem “If . . .,” which first appeared in the introduction to *The Hundred Languages of Children* exhibit at the Dayton Art Institute, poet and curator Pamela Houk wrote:

If . . .*

By Pamela Houk

If I can

Ask my own questions,
Try out my ideas,
Experience what’s around me,
Share what I find;

If I have

Plenty of time for
My special place,
A nourishing space,
Things to transform;

If you’ll be

My patient friend,
Trusted guide,
Fellow investigator,
Partner in learning;

Then I will

Explore the world,
Discover my voice,
And tell you what I know
In a hundred languages.

* Source: Edwards, Carolyn, Lella Gandini, and George Forman, eds. *The Hundred Languages of Children: The Reggio Emilia Approach—Advanced Reflections*. 2nd ed. Westport, CT: Ablex Publishing Corporation, 1998. 293. Reproduced with permission.