

## ELCC 1110 Fall 2018 Responsive Environment Documentation

Students in this course were asked to contemplate the significance of the environment in early childhood settings through consideration of guiding principles utilized to create inspiring and responsive environments for children.

After viewing the early learning environments in the Immersion Studio, students choose one that resonated with them. They explained why they choose that environment, why it appealed to them, how it related to their aspirations as an early childhood educator, how it related to their values and beliefs, and how it portrayed a responsive and inspiring environment.

Students viewed the environment through the lens of design principles and elements of responsive environments including how:

- \* Nature inspires beauty
- \* Colour generates interest
- \* Furnishings determine space
- \* Texture adds depth
- \* Displays enhance environment
- \* Elements heighten ambiance
- \* Focal points attract attention

They also considered how these environments:

- \* Created connections and a sense of belonging
- \* Kept space flexible and materials open-ended
- \* Included natural environments that engage the senses
- \* Provoked wonder, curiosity and intellectual engagement
- \* Engaged children in symbolic representation, literacy and visual arts

A third component was the consideration of time, space, materials, and participation, elements of responsive environments as delineated in the Early Learning and Child Care Framework for Alberta (Flight).

The Immersion Studio allowed the students to view and appreciate a variety of early childhood programs that would otherwise not have been possible. The sharing of these environments through a technology offering a 360° perspective brought an immersive experiential learning opportunity for the students that enhanced their knowledge and understanding.

Thank you to the following programs who so willingly offered to share their environments with us:

Haysboro Community Playground, Calgary  
City of Calgary Mobile Adventure Playground  
Children's Commons Ecological Society Calgary Nature Kindergarten  
The Secret Garden, Child Care Centre, New Zealand  
1000 Women Child Care Centre, Edmonton  
Child Development Dayhomes, Kari and Jodi, Calgary

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#### References:

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Deviney, J., Duncan, S., Harris, S., Rody, M. A., Rosenberry, L. (2013). *Inspiring spaces for young children*. Lewisville, NC: Gryphon House.

Makovichuk, L., Hewes, J., Lirette, P., & Thomas, N. (2014). *Flight: Alberta's early learning and care framework*. Retrieved from [flightframework.ca](http://flightframework.ca).

