Early Years Twilight Seminar

14 August 2019 video transcript

Video 10: Quality improvement

SUSANNE GARVIS: Quality improvement work also involves the preschool teacher reflecting on their own pedagogy, their own didactics, and ways of working, and it can also be reflecting on – as part of that, the results from this survey. And the survey will ask quite a number of different questions and the idea is to really provide useful information for quality feedback. So it's not – it can include some general questions, such as, ‘What do you think about the preschool food?’

But there are – it's more deeper questions in there about the learning programs, understanding the quality improvement work that's going on as well. There will be questions for the parent, how involved have they felt or how comfortable have they felt around documentation? Assessment is one that comes up a lot as well. So there will usually be a lot of questions around the quality of assessment, if it's been useful, effective for the families, but also suggestions. So it's not only about measurement scales, it's open-ended questions to provide really useful information back to the preschools.

DARLENE LEACH: So partnerships with families is crucially important to get that right. So I'm a Swedish preschool teacher and my parent survey's come back. It's not so great. Tell me what I would do.

SUSANNE GARVIS: So if it's not so great you'd start to think about and reflect on your own practice but also gain more information there as well. So because there is a professional respect there between the families and the teacher, or the teaching team, it's about looking at this information in further detail but then creating a plan as well about how this can actually be used in a positive way. Or is it problems with miscommunication about things as well. So again these are the questions that the preschool team is continuously reflecting on.

DARLENE LEACH: What skills do I have now as a parent to take into and to be a strong advocate for my child?

SUSANNE GARVIS: You have a lot of skills I think that have been developed over this period of time. Because it's not only the skill development that is happening within preschool education, it's also skill development from working with other Swedish agencies, such as health care. So in health care there is universal access and it is all public, so you have very close relationships working with maternal child health nurses but then the child health nurse also works with the preschool as well. So there's this interdisciplinary way of working with the professionals. And this really builds parent confidence so when they are – when the children are going into school, they become strong advocates for their children, but also the schools know what the expectations are for families and families know what the expectations are for schools.