

Lola- The Leadership Lamp

“From a little spark may burst a flame....”

~ Dante Alighieri



One sunny May afternoon during the final meeting of the 3rd Leadership Co-hort a discussion took place based on ideas from that were shared by the past two leadership co-horts. “How could the ECEBC Leadership Initiative be represented to future co-horts?” “Was there something that could be passed down from one co-hort to another?” These were two of the questions that were discussed.

Participants of the ECEBC 3 leadership co-hort took on the challenge! They became busy looking for that perfect representation that would be passed from co-hort to co-hort, they went out to the stores and searched and searched. One evening during the search, Cori Dewijin walked into a store looking from shelf to shelf.

Quietly sitting on a shelf in a store sat a little lamp wanting to shine so brightly. She watched as Cori from the 3rd leadership cohort walk by.

Cori carefully lifted the lamp off the shelf and suddenly the little lamp felt that her time collecting dust on the shelf was done. The lamp was wrapped and brought back to the 3rd leadership co-hort and was shown. ‘The lamp is perfect!’ declared one of the participants.

The little lamp sat so proudly on the table ready to be decorated. She listened to leadership participants share their excitement and their support for each other’s projects.

“Wow,” thought the lamp. The ECEBC Leadership Initiative certainly is changing the individuals, children, families, communities and the profession of Early Care and Learning!” She felt so honored that she was chosen to represent the ECEBC Leadership Initiative.

An emotional final day came to a close for the 3rd Leadership Cohort. After the closing circle, small group of participants gathered in a hotel room and went to work. There was so much excitement that the little lamp was going to take shape. The small group started to decorate the lamp with the color of purple. Purple had become the choice of color for the 3rd Leadership Co-hort.



Cori Dewijin and Lola 1st Leadership Link Event

As the decorating continued a participant suggested that the lamp have a name—“LOLA!” exclaimed another with much laughter and song ensued. Lola the Leadership Lamp! It was in that moment Lola the Leadership Lamp was lit and started to shine for all to see.

The moment was approaching and Lola became nervous, for she was making her debut at the 1st Leadership Link at the ECEBC 41st Annual conference. She was placed on a table and her light burst forward for all Leadership participants to see.

She had become a leader in her own way and waited patiently to be passed onto the 4th Leadership co-hort. She listened to the 3rd leadership co-hort talk about how the idea had collectively come from all the previous co-horts. She warmly cast her fondness to all those in the room and prepared for the adventures she was about to embark on and the brand new places in BC she was about to visit.....



***“Imparting knowledge is only lighting other men's candles
at our lamp without depriving ourselves of any flame”***

~ Jane Porter

Submitted by Carla Hees (Cohort 3)