Parents Implementing the LNS Philosophy at Home

Our curriculum is rooted in our respect for children's interests, ideas, and abilities. Loris Malaguzzi, the founder of Reggio Emilia's educational philosophy, maintains that children have a right to an image of collaborator, communicator, and co-constructor with the adults in their lives.
- How do parents maintain that respect for their children outside of LNS?
- What are the challenges?
- What supports are effective?
- How can we help each other?

At our September board meeting, lively discussion ensued, some snippets of which are captured here:
- Staying calm.
- Taking it down a level.
- Allowing enough time so you can have patience.
- Trying to understand the Why in the behavior; there is always a reason.
- Watching your children mirror you can be a good reminder.
- Listening and letting there be a pause rather than having an immediate response which may be an over-reaction.
- Reflect your child's own soothing behavior back to them; think about how they self soothe and use it to de-escalate a situation.
- Think about tools for learning; help a child think and learn that they have tools to empower them.
- Getting down at their level and making eye contact.
- Singing or humor.
- Constant interruption can be a challenge to focus when a parent is involved in a task (cooking dinner). Treat the child with respect: "I'm going to play with you for ten minutes, then I will cook dinner."
- If someone is talking, wait for an opening to talk.
- Setting a time when your child can talk with you un-interrupted at the same time each day.
- Develop a non-verbal symbol with the child, to connect with them when you cannot speak in the moment.
- Being conscious of your Yes to No ratio.

- Self care for parents is very important.
- Slowing down.
- Listening.
- Intentional parenting is hard work.
- Teaching respect by modeling how you speak to your partner.
- Validating your partner's (or your child's) feelings or reflecting back to them what you hear them say.
- Three part apology: "I am sorry that I ___. I did it because ___. Next time instead I will ___."