

I believe this to be the essence of child care and why I think it is primarily about the adults and not the child, I believe that that passage refers directly to all adults who stand in a " parenting " relationship to children. We might each ask ourselves how our staff relationship match up to it.

In Child Care there are no ' final ' solutions, nor are there in this life in religious terms. Here we in Ireland look to the Church for a witness to a ' Hope ', a vision of man that may highlight the supreme value and dignity of each person, of each group, and of Society. It is our hope to care committedly , consistently, professionally, with that awareness of the subtle otherness of people based on the deepest courtesy and respect enshrined in the centuries of service given by the Church.

No matter how successful our Caring there is still a mystery to life, to the otherness of people, to pain, suffering and death, to the decisions people make and the life they live.

Child Care in the Residential Home - be that the one established to receive children from their families, or the house in which the child is living with his own family - is about adults utilising their relationships with each other and with the children. It is to contribute in terms of the child's needs to enhancing all that is best and positive in those processes whereby a person takes hold of his own uniqueness, confronts himself with the real world, and discovers for himself those anchorages of hope that turn life from animal reaction to human purposiveness, from drudgery to glimmers of joy. It is a journey out of loneliness to aloness that each must make for himself before he can seek to accompany another.

To quote Derek Morrell :  
it is :

" To foster the growth of loving persons -  
who are aware both of their individuality and