Key characteristics of a responsive teacher

- Meaningful interactions with children.
- Always seeking to go deeper, beyond surface level.
- Thinking deeply.
- Concerned with applying the learning to the student’s real life.
- Not just going through the motions or sticking to the status quo.
- Is passionate!
- Not afraid to give some power to the students.
- Sees and treats ever individual as valuable.
- Committed to the success of every student and provides scaffolding and support to ensure this.
- Seeks to maintain a caring and nurturing environment.
- Responds to children’s questions and ideas.
- Makes Children feel of worth and part of a supportive learning community.

I like that you have bullet pointed the characteristics of a responsive teacher and that you have included being passionate as this is highly important especially if we are to teach with our head, heart and hands.

I feel that your list although very detailed and extensive, it has not included reflection. I think that this may have been an oversight on your part, as I truly believe that you would feel that reflection is a key characteristic. I could be wrong?

The biggest challenge

What I was most challenged about was the commitment it is to never settle for the easy way out, but to always seek to provide and facilitate the best possible learning experience for the children and to allow space for student voice and contribution. When teachers get tired there must be a strong temptation to not involve the children so much or respond or pick up on their comments and probe deeper. Teachers would have to be so sold and committed to this type of dispositional teaching that even weariness wouldn’t stand in their way.

I completely agree with you here and it would need to become a habit of the mind so that we do not just take the easy road when it comes to teaching and forget about what is best for the students. As teachers we have the opportunity to bring out the best in each individual child and that is going to take commitment. Some days will be easier than others but it is on those difficult days that we need to remember our commitment to the children and our passion for why we are in the profession we are.