

**Jill M. Soto, M.S.**

# Intentional Curriculum Implementation: The Director's Role in Supporting Teachers in Early Childhood Classrooms









# Director's Role

- Moving to the Next Level



# Goals for the webinar

- Defining intentional
- Curriculum implementation
- Guiding principles for international directors
- Supportive strategies
- Review
- Wrap Up

But it's not just learning that's important. It's learning what to do with what you learn and learning why you learn things at all that matters.

Norton Juster

*Learning Together with Young Children*, Curtis and Carter,  
2008

# Intentional Teaching

Intentional is to act purposefully, with a goal in mind and a plan for accomplishing it.

Ann S. Epstein, 2014

Intentional teaching means teachers act with specific outcomes or goals in mind for all domains of children development and learning.

Ann S. Epstein, 2014

# The Meaning of Intentional

- The meaning of intentional is to act purposefully, with a goal in mind and plan for accomplishing it.





# Intentional-Director and Teacher

- High expectations
- Planning and Management
- Learning-Oriented Classroom
- Engaging Activities
- Thoughtful Questioning
- Feedback

Epstein, A. S. (2014). *The intentional teacher: Choosing the best strategies for young children* (Rev. ed.). Washington, DC: National Association for the Education for Young Children.



# Intentional Director

- Directors play a supportive role during curriculum implementation and planning
- Balance between supporting and telling



# Guiding principles of intentional teaching

- Creating a learning environment rich in materials, experiences, and interactions
- Encourage children to explore materials, experiences, relationships, and ideas
- Converse respectfully, reciprocally, and frequently with children

Epstein, A. S. (2014). *The intentional teacher: Choosing the best strategies for young children* (Rev. ed.). Washington, DC: National Association for the Education for Young Children.





# Guiding principles of intentional teaching

- Consciously promote all areas of learning and development
- Know the content that make up each area of learning
- Know and use specific teaching strategies that are effective with young children

Epstein, A. S. (2014). *The intentional teacher: Choosing the best strategies for young children* (Rev. ed.). Washington, DC: National Association for the Education for Young Children.



# Guiding principles for the intentional director

- Creating classrooms with rich materials, educated staff, strong curriculum and assessments
- Encouraging teachers to interact in a meaningful way with children
- Designate planning and prep time



## Guiding principles for the intentional director

- Provide professional development
- Observe teachers and offer feedback
- Know and use effective strategies for each staff member because all staff have unique needs
- Remain patient during the implementation of new curriculum or the hiring of new staff

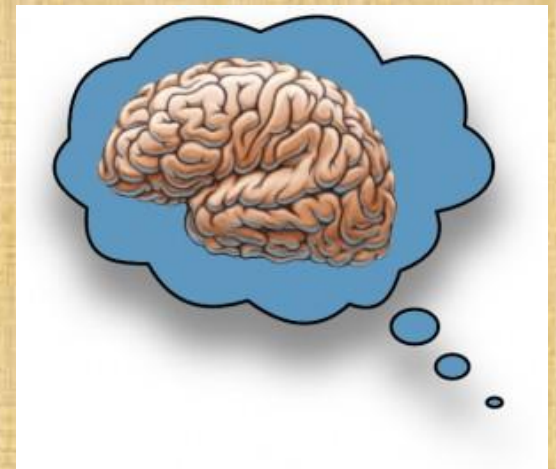


# Curriculum Implementation

- Professional Development
- Planning time
- Support
- Remember it takes time

# Thinking about Thinking

- Coaching teachers to coach children to learn about learning is an important aspect of the scaffolding process



# Directors Role

- Scaffold
- Support
- Question at the level of inquiry



# Supervision of Teachers

- What do you do?
- How do you do it?
- When do you do it?
- Why do you do it?



# Role Model

- Director morning check-in
  - How does it work?
  - When do you do it?
  - What do teachers think?
- Interactions in Learning Centers
  - What do teachers do?
  - How do they monitor free play?
  - Are you getting what you want?



# See, say, and do

- I might see teachers.....
- I might say.....
- What I might do....
- What teachers can do....



# Growing Teachers: Directors Supporting Teachers

- Classroom observations
- Curriculum-Professional Development





# Collaborative Supervision



# Collaborative Supervision

- The most effective way to encourage adult learners to analyze their own practice, solve problems, and take responsibility for their own learning
- When the teacher supervisor team work well they plan together, decide where to focus their inquiries, and determine what coaching is needed to enrich the teacher's practice

# Staying at Inquiry

Your text here



A word cloud centered around the word "Inquiry". The word "Inquiry" is the largest and most prominent, written in a dark blue, cursive font. Surrounding it are various related terms in different colors and sizes, including: "creativity", "decision making", "thinking", "life-long learner", "investigation", "authentic", "research", "problem-solving", "construct", "attitudes", "purposeful", "skill development", "roles", "gathering information", "engaging", "processes", "ownership", "action", "reflecting", "engaged", "active", and "questions". The words are arranged in a circular pattern around the central "Inquiry".

# Preparing

- Think about your relationship with the teacher
- Think about the skills level of the teacher
- Establish goals together
- Get ready to support the teacher





# Observing

- Avoid being intrusive
- Focus on the reasons you are there
- Use tools to guide your observation
- Look for strengths
- Look for examples of teaching and learning
- Take some notes



# Reflecting

- Two-fold
  - Teachers reflections
  - Director reflections



# Offering Feedback



- Think about when and where you will have feedback conversation
- Prepare for your feedback session before you have it
- Validate teachers' efforts
- Support conscious decision-making
- Structure the discussion as a conversation

# Setting Goals

- Provide information, ideas, and suggestions that relate specifically to the teachers goals and your observations
- Guide the teacher to take the next steps
- Summarize your plans in writing
- Determine a timetable
- Follow-up





# Action Steps

- Prep—think about teachers
- Observe
- Provide Feedback
- Next Steps



# Wrap Up

- Defined intentional
- Curriculum implementation
- Guiding principles for the intentional director
- Supportive strategies

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