

TEACHING AND GROWING IN THE MIDST OF CHANGE: LEARN, PRACTICE, SHARE & MODEL

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INTRODUCTION



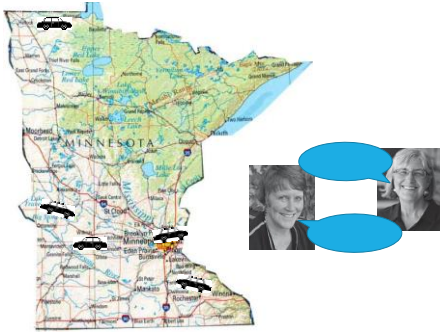
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EARLY LITERACY & EARLY MATH INITIATIVES





TEACHING IS A JOURNEY



Where did your early childhood journey begin?

Think about where your journey began...



POLL:
HOW MANY OF YOU....

Began working in early childhood education right out of school?

Worked in a K-12 classroom before working in early childhood?

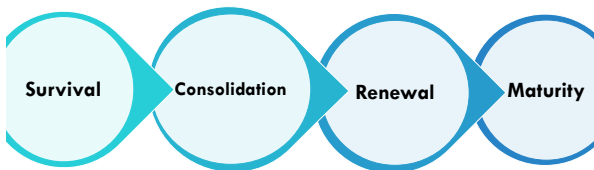
Were in another field before working in early childhood?

**HITTING A
"BEND IN THE ROAD"**



STAGES OF TEACHER DEVELOPMENT

(KATZ 1972, 1995 & 2005)





AS I LEARN, I...

Learn about myself

Uncover beliefs about teaching & learning

Identify strengths & areas to grow

AS I LEARN, I...

Learn about teaching & learning

Learn new research, theory, application

Observe impact on practice

AS I LEARN, I...

Focus on...

Learning new materials & strategies
Adopting new roles & relationships

What are my hopes,
fears and burning
questions?



Create a partnership that helps children learn

Build a nice relationship with our math coach

To feel more confident in teaching math and using math concepts during play time

We ♥ Math!

Children will apply math thinking skills to more than just math

feel more confident in teaching math and using math concepts during play time

Help parents to feel more confident about teaching math at home in meaningful ways

Make math a more "automatic" part of our daily curriculum

Kids feel confident in math

To be successful in adapting activities for children of various ages

FEARS

Juggling/balancing everything
more work/paperwork

That the activities sent home will go unused

children will know more about math/numbers than me

That something I do is hindering learning

That the activities planned will be impractical to do
Language barriers

????

Will it be fun and engaging and fruitful for the preschoolers with severe behavior problems?

will there be enough time for...???

How can we use the math assessment data to better serve our children & families?

How to make connections to K-6 math

What if I can't answer all the kids' questions

how will I get parents involved?

WHY ASK ABOUT HOPES, FEARS AND BURNING QUESTIONS?



AS I PRACTICE, I ...

- Learn about myself
- Deal with disequilibrium
- Raise questions & doubts
- Own my own learning

AS I PRACTICE, I ...

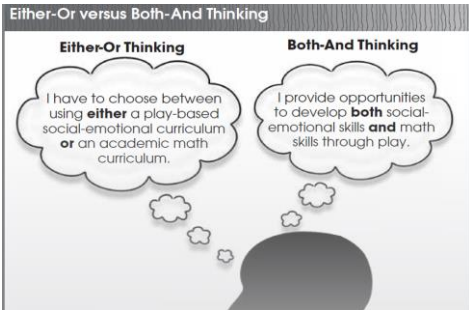
- Learn about teaching & learning
- Try techniques adapted to children's responses
- Link assessment & observation to practice
- Integrate into curriculum

AS I PRACTICE, I ...

- Focus on...
- Practicing new material & strategies *in context*
- Attending to group & individual needs & responses

Dealing with dilemmas





Source: The Thinking Teacher, p.74

AS I SHARE & MODEL, I...

- Learn about myself
- Expand professional identity
- Develop leadership & communication skills

AS I SHARE & MODEL, I...

Learn about teaching & learning
Hone knowledge by describing & demonstrating
Develop new strategies & specialties

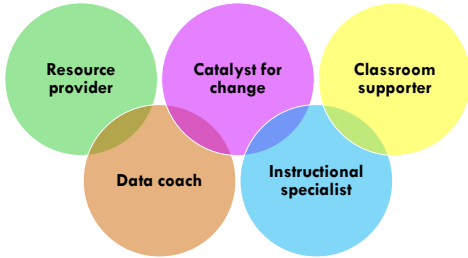
AS I SHARE & MODEL, I...

Focus on...
Forming a learning community
Developing leadership
Mentoring others

SHARE & MODEL



TEACHER LEADERSHIP ROLES INCLUDE...



TEACHER LEADERSHIP POLL

How many of you have encouraged teachers (or been encouraged as a teacher) to...

- Present an idea at a staff meeting
- Mentor a new staff person
- Lead a portion of a family event
- Present at a conference
- Strategize together to solve a problem facing the program

AN EMOTIONAL JOURNEY

- *I don't always know the answers*
- *I want more structure*
- *I feel conflicted about priorities*
- *I am nervous about presenting*
- *I'm excited about the children's responses*



HOW CAN I SUPPORT TEACHER GROWTH?

When Teachers are Learning

- Pay attention to stages
- Identify communication & learning styles
- Help teacher apply training
- Use assessment to support learning
- Model (for example: interactions with children around content)

HOW CAN I SUPPORT TEACHER GROWTH?

When Teachers Practice

- Set aside time for reflective conversation
- Support adaptations based on children's responses
- Link assessment and teaching practices
- Model strategies and techniques
- Partner in problem solving

HOW CAN I SUPPORT TEACHER GROWTH?

When Teachers Share and Model

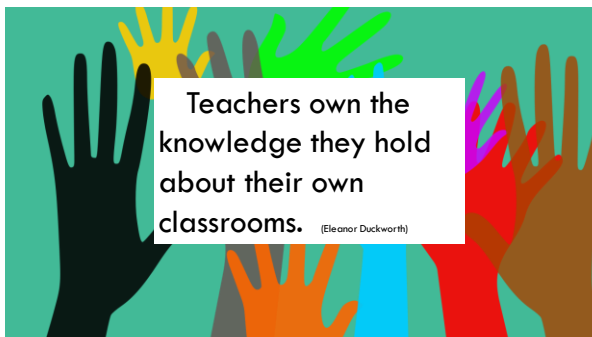
- Identify and describe teacher growth
- Identify promising practices
- Encourage sharing in program and across programs
- Suggest formats and provide coordination for formal presentations





Teachers

- need time
- deepen their knowledge through repeated exploration
- are inspired by inquiry



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Our book, The Thinking Teacher, is available from Free Spirit Publishing and Redleaf Press

