Making Young Children’s Thinking Visible through Building a Classroom Community

Sharon Morgan
Director of Early Childhood
Office of Curriculum and Instruction
Oklahoma State Department of Education
Sharon Morgan
Director of Early Childhood
#OkEarlyEd

sharon.morgan@sde.ok.gov
405.522.3241
405.209.3722
@jskamorg
Alignment to Learning Forward Standards

• The new education law, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), redefines professional development with a purposeful influence from Learning Forward.

• Learning Forward, a national association recognized as leaders in professional learning, has established standards for professional learning that set a high bar for quality learning experiences.

• This session aligns to the following standard(s):
  Professional learning that increases educator effectiveness and results for all students…
  • occurs within learning communities committed to continuous improvement, collective responsibility, and goal alignment.
  • requires prioritizing, monitoring, and coordinating resources for educator learning.
  • uses a variety of sources and types of student, educator, and system data to plan, assess, and evaluate learning.
  • applies research on change and sustains support for implementation of professional learning for long term change.
  • Aligns its outcomes with educator performance and student curriculum standards.
A classroom community


It is important because
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

• Verbal Abuse
• Physical Abuse
• Sexual Abuse
• Physical Neglect
• Emotional Neglect
• Witness IPV
• Substance Abuse in Home
• Separated/Divorced Parent
• Family Member Incarcerated
• Family Member Mentally Ill or Suicidal

https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/index.html
Protective and Compensatory Experiences (PACEs) (Morris, Hays-Grudo et al., 2015)

- Unconditional Love
- Having a Best Friend
- Volunteering
- Having a Mentor
- Being Part of a Group
- Clean, Safe Home with Enough Food
- Being Physically Active
- Good School
- Having a Hobby
- Have Rules and Routines

http://www.opsrfoundation.org/presentations
“Young children experience their world as an environment of relationships, and these relationships affect virtually all aspects of their development.”

“Children who develop warm, positive relationships with their kindergarten teachers are more excited about learning, more positive about coming to school, more self-confident, and achieve more in the classroom.”

Building a Classroom Community: The Morning Meeting

“Morning Meetings set the tone for respectful learning and establishes a climate of trust that encourages children to take risks.”

“The Morning Meeting addresses two human needs: the need to feel a sense of significance and belonging and the need to have fun.”

“Morning Meeting merges social, emotional, and intellectual learning.”

-The Morning Meeting Book
The Morning Meeting

- Greeting
- Sharing
- Group Activity
- Morning Message
The Morning Meeting: Greeting

- Sets a positive tone
- Provides sense of belonging
- Helps learn names
- Practice in hospitality

*Eye Contact

Friendly Tone

Students must use...

Names

engageok ON THE ROAD
The Morning Meeting: Sharing

- Develops communication skills
- Gain knowledge of others
- Practice speaking in a group
- Strengthens vocabulary skills
- Encourages reading and writing success
- Builds confidence
- Promotes empathy
The Morning Meeting: Sharing

Sharing….
All students need a chance to share.
Students use clear voices and stay on topic using details.

Audience….
Use appropriate audience skills.
Respond with an appropriate question or comment if called on.

A Morning Meeting in 5th Grade
“Children often ‘act out’ or engage in other challenging behavior when they don’t have the language to communicate their needs. They have been repeatedly frustrated in getting their needs met, and/or are experiencing chronic stress and trauma at home.”

“Getting to know the children in your classroom, their interests, their passions, and their pet peeves has powerful and long lasting benefits for children.”

(Purposeful Play, p. 108)
The Morning Meeting: Group Activity

- Encourages a sense of community
- Active participation
- Encourages cooperation and inclusion
- Allows for varying abilities
- Reinforces learning
The Morning Meeting: Group Activity

1. Introduce
2. Model, practice, reinforce
3. Repeat activity, gradually releasing control

Games
Mystery Number
Match-Up
Headbands
Act It Out

Songs, Chants, or Poems
Sing songs that reinforce content
“Stated simply, young children learn best in an interactive, relational mode rather than through an education model that focuses on rote instruction.”

The Morning Meeting: Morning Message

- Share and discuss upcoming events
- Transition into the class day
- Reinforces language and math skills
- Could include calendar activities, class jobs, lunch menu, or other daily routines
Dear Class,

Today is Monday, ______ 25, 2016

The leader is ____________. She is ___________ years old. Her favorite color is ___________ because ____________________________.

We are learning about plants. Plants have ________________, __________, and _____________.

Mrs. Morgan
**The Morning Meeting: Morning Message**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduce tasks</th>
<th>Vocabulary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Response Question</td>
<td>Review of learning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Good Morning, Journalists!

During our writing period today, we need to complete the preparation for our interviews so we will all be ready to record soon. We will talk about the following questions in our meeting today. Bring your thoughts.

- What is the purpose of our interview?
- How can we prepare for an interview?
- Write an interesting, useful, and appropriate interview question below:
“Teachers who create caring relationships with children make a tremendous difference in those children’s lives.”

(Purposeful Play, p. 109)
Two Stars and A Wish
Resources

ACEs Study
https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/index.html

PACEs PowerPoint
http://www.opsrfoundation.org/presentations

Young Children Develop in an Environment of Relationships - Harvard University
http://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/8-things-remember-child-development/

http://developingchild.harvard.edu/science/key-concepts/executive-function/
Resources

Morning Meeting Resources
https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos/classroom-morning-meeting
https://www.responsiveclassroom.org/what-is-morning-meeting/
https://www.responsiveclassroom.org/keeping-morning-meeting-greetings-fresh-and-fun/

Play in the Classroom
“Purposeful Play” by Kristine Mraz, Alison Porcelli, and Cheryl Tyler