



learn

practice

share &
model

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

Sandy Heidemann
Beth Menninga

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Reflections on Beginning My Teaching Journey

If you are new to the classroom, use this form as a way to document your current experience. Fill in as much information as you can. Plan to revisit what you have written at the end of your first year to make additions and to reflect on your year. If you are an experienced teacher, think back upon your first year of teaching to complete this form.

I first knew I wanted to become a teacher when . . .

During my first year of teaching, I felt . . .

A memory that stands out from my first year of teaching is . . .



During my first year of teaching, I learned that young children . . .

Here's what I learned about myself as a teacher . . .

After my first year, I decided to stay in early childhood education because . . .

| Three Phases of Teacher Learning | | |
|---|---|--|
| Teachers Learn | Teachers Practice | Teachers Share and Model |
| <p>About themselves: Identify and adjust beliefs about teaching and learning Identify strengths and areas for growth</p> | <p>About themselves: Deal with disequilibrium Raise more questions Take ownership for own learning</p> | <p>About themselves: Expand professional identity Develop leadership and communication skills</p> |
| <p>Gain knowledge about teaching and learning: Learn new research, theory, and application Consider how this affects own practice (for example: assessment, parent engagement)</p> | <p>Deepen content knowledge: Try techniques, observe children's responses, adapt Link assessment data and observations to practice Integrate knowledge into curriculum</p> | <p>Further deepen content knowledge: Hone knowledge by describing and demonstrating Develop new strategies, specialize</p> |
| <p>With others: Develop new roles and relationships Try new ways of interacting Use mentoring and supports from others</p> | <p>With others: Attend to group and individual responses Attend to context Partner with other adults Use mentoring and supports from others</p> | <p>With others: Share informally and formally in many ways Become a teacher leader Use mentoring and supports from and provide mentoring and supports to others</p> |
| <p>Potential dilemmas: Facing conflicts with core beliefs Experiencing disruption</p> | <p>Potential dilemmas: Struggling with application at a deeper level Struggling with integration Feeling disequilibrium</p> | <p>Potential dilemmas: Finding confidence to share with others Determining how and what to share</p> |
| <p>Focus: Learning new material and strategies Coping with how that feels</p> | <p>Focus: Exploring what children know and can do, how they respond, and what it means for own teaching practice</p> | <p>Focus: Forming a learning community or community of practice to support continued learning and practice</p> |

Trying a New Strategy*

What?

What do you plan to try?

What do you think will happen?



So What?

Did anything unexpected happen?

What worked? What didn't?

How do you know?



Now What?

What do you want to change?

What do you want to repeat?

Do you need more information or resources?

* The "What? So What? Now What?" model is from Terry Borton. *Reach, Touch, and Teach: Student Concerns and Process Education* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1970): 94–98. Used with permission of McGraw-Hill Education. From *The Thinking Teacher: A Framework for Intentional Teaching in the Early Childhood Classroom* by Sandra Heidemann, Beth Menninga, and Claire Chang, copyright © 2016. This page may be reproduced for individual, classroom, or small group work only. For other uses, contact Free Spirit Publishing Inc. at www.freespirit.com/permissions.

How Are You a Teacher Leader?

Teachers can take on several roles as teacher leaders:

- ▶ resource provider
- ▶ instructional specialist
- ▶ classroom supporter
- ▶ data coach
- ▶ catalyst for change

Look over these roles and answer the following questions as you think about the kinds of roles you play at work. You may not even realize how influential you are as a leader.

Which roles have you played in the past?

What did you enjoy about these roles?

What was difficult?

What would you like to do next?

My Journey

How have you changed as a teacher?



What has changed since you began teaching?

Describe how you began as a teacher:

