Mentor Minute

Celebrating Success



"The best partnerships aren't dependent on a mere common goal but on a shared path of equality, desire, and no small amount of passion."

Sarah MacLean

As the school year comes to a close, it is important to take the time to celebrate success. From the progress a teacher has made from the start of the school year (or over several years) to our own growth as mentors and evaluators in meeting each a teacher where he/she is in order to help facilitate that progress; all movement forward whether big or small deserves celebration! These celebrations often lead to reflections on our year and create a visual picture in our mind of how we want to start our next year anew. How then can we guide our teachers at year end or what strategies might we use?

- Actively listen (Be present) in our last conversations of the year with teachers
- Encourage teachers' reflections of their growth and the "why" growth occurred
- Acknowledge teachers' hard work in words, emails, cards, etc.
- Support teachers' strengths and encouraging their leadership in those areas
- Create a "Top Ten Lists" of teachers' accomplishments or what stands out (Maybe start a list of 5 and then invite the teacher to add 5 more for themselves)
- Encourage teachers to be an informal observer of your children to celebrate how much they have grown this year
- Intentionally notice and point out tangible evidences of teachers' growth (lesson plans, displays on the wall, progression in children's work and leadership and collaboration with other children in the classroom.
- Encourage teachers to reflect on the value of having a vision of what is important to them to start the year and have a plan in place to begin at the start of the new school year (It's so much easier to start from day 1, than to try and implement one month into school)
- Encourage teachers to take time to rest, rejuvenate and recharge over the summer by going outside, enjoying nature, going on a picnic, reading a good book, or reconnecting with a friend for lunch

