

Celebrating & Concentrating PROFESSIONAL PLANNING TOOL

Focus on Next School Year's Professional Teaching and Learning Opportunities!

Adapted from Cult of Pedagogy's The Gut-Level Teacher Reflection Tool <https://www.cultofpedagogy.com/gut-level-reflection-questions/>

No matter how much experience and expertise we develop in our teaching practice there is always ways to keep getting better (DARN!!!). Because the work of being a teacher has so many dimensions, it is easy to get overwhelmed. Take time before you leave for summer break to take stock of FIVE teaching priorities. Reflect and connect to what happened for you and your students this year. Use the planning tool below to CELEBRATE "What's Working for Learning" as well as CONCENTRATE as we look forward to summer's "lazy learning" and next year's opportunities. Consider these five early learning ESSENTIAL teaching priorities, using the templates that are provided below, to take notes on things that give you positive feelings (+), growth opportunities (Δ), or challenges (-).

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|--|---|---|
| <p>Let's start with First Things First...Learning Environment! Look around your classroom (or picture it in your mind). What parts of your room make you feel excited for your students? Any areas that need a "redo" or "up-do"? What parts of your classroom make you most proud? <i>Need Early Learning Resources in this Area?</i> Pk3TeachLeadGrow.org's Learning Environment Videos and Learning Environment Quick Notes</p> | | |
| + | Δ | - |
| | | |
| <p>Onward to Classroom Culture for our kiddos! We all know how important respectful talk, active listening, and high expectations are for creating a comfortable, safe, and exciting learning space. What are current ways that you visually, verbally and non-verbally set the stage for students to feel super comfortable to become can-do kiddos 😊? <i>Need Early Learning Resources in this Area?</i> Pk3TeachLeadGrow.org's Classroom Culture Videos and Classroom Culture Quick Notes</p> | | |
| + | Δ | - |
| | | |

Management of Learning matters A LOT!!! Classroom management is a critical part of any learning environment but it is essential in the early learning classroom to maximize shared and individual learning opportunities. What works in your management toolkit? What approaches need to be spruced up a little bit? What is NOT working at all (right now)?

Need Early Learning Resources in this Area? Pk3TeachLeadGrow.org's [Classroom Management Videos](#) and [Classroom Management Quick Notes](#)

| + | Δ | - |
|---|---|---|
| | | |

Large Group, Small Group, and Centers...it's ALL about Engagement! Open up your classroom door (either physically or mentally). Scan your classroom learning structure, paying attention to how the room is organized for large group, small groups, and centers. What learning activities give you a lift, a feeling of pride or satisfaction? Which parts of your room make you feel frustrated or even embarrassed for lack of "learning energy"?

Need Early Learning Resources in this Area? Pk3TeachLeadGrow.org's [Classroom Instruction Videos](#) and [Student Intellectual Engagement Quick Notes](#)

| + | Δ | - |
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Learning, Learning Everywhere! What does formative assessment look like in your classroom? What are your approaches for learning about your students in “real time”? Take stock of your current approach for collecting student data and using it to support learning, learning everywhere!!!

Need Early Learning Resources in this Area? Pk3TeachLeadGrow.org’s [Classroom Assessment Videos](#) and [Classroom Assessment Quick Notes](#)

| + | Δ | - |
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Look at the Professional Practice “buzzwords” in the left-hand column. As you read each one, do you have a positive or challenged feeling? Two blank spaces have been left for you to add your own “buzzwords” or terms that have impacted your work.

Need Early Learning Resources in any of these “buzzing areas”? Check out all the different resources at [Pk3TeachLeadGrow.org](#)

| Early Learning Buzzwords | + | Δ |
|---|---|---|
| <i>Technology</i> | | |
| <i>Play-based learning</i> | | |
| <i>Trauma-informed practices</i> | | |
| <i>Social-emotional learning</i> | | |
| <i>Partnerships with Families</i> | | |
| <i>Teacher Leadership in Early Learning</i> | | |
| <i>Collecting and Using Student Data</i> | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Now that you have taken stock of your teaching/learning year, determine some priorities and action steps for next year (*It is JUST TWO-THREE months away! Time goes fast!!*) **For each of the five areas above identify one or two priorities with aligned next steps.** They may be positives into which you want to put more energy, negatives you want to correct, or ambiguities that need more investigation. Then, jot down a concrete plan to address each priority. Think big, develop specific steps and have fun imagining what these priorities can “look and sound like” for you and your students in the new school year ☺!

| Teaching Areas | Priorities | Action Plan Steps |
|---------------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Area 1: Learning Environment | | |
| Area 2: Classroom Culture | | |
| Area 3: Classroom Management | | |
| Area 4: Learning Engagement | | |
| Area 5: Learning Assessment | | |

Have a GREAT SUMMER BREAK...See you back in August 2019!!!