

Finding The Gem In Every Child

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Authentic Interactions Inspire Learning

- The context for learning happens within interactions with others
- The deeper the interaction the more relevant and lasting the learning.
- Relationships are the container for learning
- Practice interaction, not reaction

Build Authentic Relationships

- Practice building TRUST
- Practice INQUIRING into others - It's an attitude!
- Practice "GEM FINDING" - Find what works in every child
- Practice providing AFFIRMATION based on the "Silver Rule"

GEM FINDING

- Each child is unique and special
- Focus on 'What Works'
- Help them become everything they already are
- Your own inner light will reflect their sparkle

FOCUS ON 'WHAT WORKS'

- S - STRENGTHS
- I - INTERESTS
- P - PASSIONS

The "Silver" Rule

Do unto
others how
they would
like to
receive.

The Language of Learning is Love

- Words of Affirmation
- Quality Time
- Receiving Gifts
- Acts of Service
- Physical Touch

*Gary Chapman- The Five Love Languages
for Children*

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Identify and pick one child in your class or program that you find challenging to work with. Complete as much of the "WHAT WORKS" CHILD PROFILE below as you can. (See pg. 71 for "What Works" Child Profile reproducible form and further information).

WHAT WORKS' CHILD PROFILE child Name: _____

STRENGTHS	INTERESTS & PASSIONS	Favorite Activity, Center, Jobs	Areas & Demonstrations of Success
<p>Unique Ways of Being Human Social, Emotional, Physical, Cognitive, Language, Self Expression</p>	<p>Ways of Being Smart Verbal/Linguistic, Logical/Mathematical, Visual/Spatial, Musical, Kinesthetic, Interpersonal, Intrapersonal, Naturalist</p>	<p>Motivators Love Languages, Reasons child willing to change, make mistakes & take risks</p>	<p>Strategies Known To Work</p>

To retrain ourselves to focus on what works we must become "Teacher as Researcher".

Consider possible ways to gather and find out more information about what works for this child.

- 1). Observe by watching and listening to children as they engage with materials and people.
- 2). Facilitate and interact with children as they work and play using verbal and nonverbal techniques.
- 3). Interview family members in person, by phone or send questionnaires or a "What Works" Child Profile sheet home for families to complete about their child.
- 4). Interview any other adults who, currently or in the past, have worked or cared for this child (Ex. child care providers, other teachers, special service providers, special ed teachers, language specialists, OTs, PTs ...).
- 5). Ask the child these questions.
- 6). Ask the child's best friend.

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'WHAT WORKS' CHILD PROFILE

(See pg 24)

Child Name:

Date:

STRENGTHS	INTERESTS & PASSIONS	Favorite Activity, /Center/Job	Areas & Demonstrations of Success
Unique Ways of Being Human	Ways of Being Smart	Motivators	Strategies Known To Work
Social, Emotional, Physical, Cognitive, Language, Self Expression	Verbal/Linguistic, Logical/Mathematical, Visual/Spatial, Musical, Kinesthetic, Interpersonal, Intrapersonal, Naturalist	Love Languages, Reasons child willing to change, make mistakes & take risks	