

# Teaching in the Neighborhood

June 2022

A monthly dose of teaching ideas, updates, and inspiration for teachers across the Neighborhood EBSOC, Ellis Early Learning, Epiphany Early Learning, Horizons for Homeless Children, Nurtury

## Upcoming Workshops and News

**New Teacher Workshops:** Join us this Friday, June 24, from 9-10am either in-person at Horizons or online via Zoom for a FREE hybrid workshop for new teachers. Our focus will be on Observation, Documentation, and Assessment. This is a monthly workshop series for any teachers new to the Neighborhood or anyone who is interested in the topic of the month. Email Megina to sign-up and receive the Zoom link:

[mbaker@neighborhoodvillages.org](mailto:mbaker@neighborhoodvillages.org)

Upcoming topics - dates and times coming soon:

Curriculum for Young Children (July 2022)

Supporting Young Children's Well-Being (August 2022)

**Teacher Communities of Practice** are on summer vacation! Stay tuned for new options starting in September.

## Strong Teaching Teams...

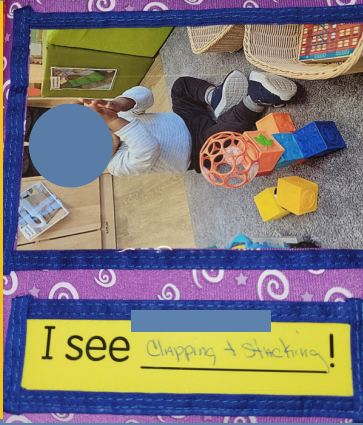
TEACHER TALK!

- **Know and trust each other.**
  - Have you had time to get to know your teaching partners?
- **Communicate.**
  - Do you have daily and weekly routines for communication about responsibilities, curriculum, and children?
    - *A morning huddle/check in?*
    - *A weekly team planning time?*
    - *A monthly longer curriculum planning session?*
- **Share responsibilities fairly and clearly.**
  - Do you know who does what job each day?
  - Do you have a daily or weekly chart with jobs/roles that you can rotate?
- **Give and receive feedback respectfully.**
  - Try saying "I'm sharing this because I care about you and about our team." Acknowledge that everyone is complex, and that you have both in some ways contributed to the problem.
- **Stay flexible.**
  - Great planning helps, but plans change! People get sick. Flexibility is key.
- **Ask for support when they need help.**
  - Do you know who you can talk to if you need support in your team?

**Think of a moment when your teaching team felt strong. What worked well for your team in that moment?**

# Great ideas from great teachers

EBSOC and Horizons teachers recently participated in workshops on Supporting Young Children's Well-Being. Check out these amazing strategies they shared:

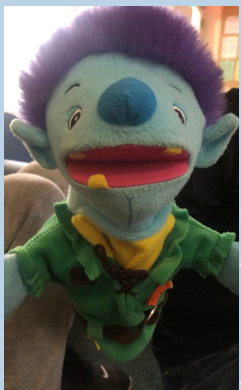


Leona, a toddler teacher at Horizons, sends a simple cloth book back and forth to families. The teachers add a picture, then invite the family to write in what they see happening. The family takes a new picture and sends back to school. This is a great example of reciprocal family communication, where teachers and families learn from each other.

The Toddler 1 team at EBSOC Marion St. makes transition times into opportunities for playful learning. While Juana and Cony finish preparing breakfast, Natalie gets right at the children's level and sings an engaging song in Spanish - supporting the children's bilingualism and preventing challenging behavior, because the children are engaged, singing, and laughing together with their caring teacher. Music is a powerful tool to ease transitions and turn stressful moments into joyful ones.



The Toddler 2 team at EBSOC Marion St. noticed a child having a hard time on walks. He loved this puppet (his favorite colors!), so they decided to take the puppet along in the class backpack and use it as a playful tool to reengage during tough moments. It worked! A special object or toy can be so helpful when a child is experiencing big emotions.



Blanca, an infant teacher at EBSOC, is intentional about supporting infants as they transition to the toddler classroom. She explains, "We try to give them more independence before they move on, so it won't be a shock when they go to a new classroom. Like switching to a sippy cup, then a regular cup, with our support." Gradually transitioning to a new routine with familiar teachers before the move can help a child feel more confident and successful when they move on.

**How do you support young children's well-being?**

send your ideas to Megina Baker: [mbaker@neighborhoodvillages.org](mailto:mbaker@neighborhoodvillages.org)