

Teaching in the Neighborhood

September 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 website! Check it out for sign-up links and past newsletters
<https://www.neighborhoodvillages.org/teachingandlearning>

Teacher Inquiry Groups start in October - last chance to sign up! See the flyer attached or our website to sign up.

New Teacher workshops are back! Thank you to everyone who joined *Supporting Young Children's Well-Being* on September 23rd. Next workshop is *Classroom Environments and Materials* on October 28th. Sign up on our website above.

Shout Out!

Congratulations to those educators at EBSOC, Ellis, and Horizons that participated in the first round of coaching!

You rock!

One educator shared "A great opportunity that allows you to gain knowledge and put it into practice."

Are you interested in coaching? Let us know!



Fair Doesn't Mean Equal:

Individualizing Supports for Children

Children are unique! Yet offering individualized supports for a child can be tricky. You might get questions like: "Why does Xavier get to sit on your lap?" "Why does Jamaica always get the pink fidget?" **Remember: equity doesn't mean everyone gets the same thing.** Equitable classrooms are places where it is safe for everyone to seek and receive what they need. Here are some ways to talk to curious kids about friends who need a little more of your attention sometimes:

- **Encourage empathy.** "Xavier is feeling sad today, so I'm giving him a hug until he feels better. That's what he needs right now" Even the youngest children will often respond with concern and gestures of friendliness.
- **Address the feeling of injustice** by pointing out everyone has different needs. "You don't need a fidget right now. This is what Jamaica needs right now."
- **Encourage children to be helpers.** "María looks upset. What can we do to help her feel better?"

TEACHER TALK!



Anti Bias Lens: This approach can normalize talking about how everybody is different, and has their own strengths and challenges. Check out this amazing film: <https://www.antibiasleadersece.com/>

Great ideas from great teachers

Gardening with Young Children



September is harvest time at Epiphany Early Learning Center, where gardening is a core part of the curriculum. Spending time outdoors, digging in and feeling the soil, tasting a fresh tomato, smelling herbs... children benefit in so many ways. Nature soothes the nervous system, helping children regulate and relax. They learn about science and the natural world, move their bodies, learn and use new vocabulary, and collaborate together as they work on a shared task like planting new seeds or harvesting fresh vegetables. And of course, being a part of growing healthy food makes young children more interested in trying and tasting.

In Epiphany's greenhouse all children 12 months and older participate in weekly gardening sessions year round. Some produce even gets used by the school chef in the children's lunches! Families also have a chance to bring produce, and even seedlings, home.



MORE THAN ONE WAY...

You don't need a big outdoor space or a greenhouse to make gardening available to children. Poke some holes in the bottom of a plastic bin, fill with soil, and invite the children to plant seeds they find. What do you think will happen?

How do you garden in your classroom or school?

share your ideas with us: mbaker@neighborhoodvillages.org

Teacher Inquiry Groups 2022-2023

Want to share ideas and learn with educators across the Neighborhood? Join our teacher inquiry group!

What is an inquiry group?

A teacher inquiry group is a group of teachers who come together to ask questions, share ideas, reflect on teaching and learning, and support each other in their work with children and families.

Who can join?

Any educator at EBSOC, Ellis, Epiphany, Horizons, or Nurtury

When and where does the group meet?

On Zoom, monthly from October-May on Tuesday mornings 10-11am. We will work with your supervisor to arrange classroom coverage.

What will we do?

Share ideas, check in about classroom dilemmas, and help each other reflect on and plan for next steps in curriculum and teaching.

Will I get PD hours?

Yes! You will receive a certificate for 8 hours of PD and some other fun treats. **Plus - it's FREE!**

Use the QR code below or [click on this link](#) to apply today!



Questions?

email Megina Baker: mbaker@neighborhoodvillages.org