

Sample Focused Mentoring Activity

Focus Area(s): Learning Environment Date:	
OBJECTIVES/ GOALS OF THE MEETING: Creating a positive learning environment	ALIGNMENT TO STANDARDS Ohio Standards for the Teaching Profession: 5, 6 RE Mentor Standards: 3, 4, 5 Other:
Introduction: Schedule a time to have a conversation with the resident educator. Use the content in the Mentor REfresh, Mentor REnew and Mentor Toolkit to create a professional discussion about best practices focusing on learning environment. Example: "So, tell me about the expectations and routines that you have established in your classroom." Resources: Mentor REfresh, Mentor REnew, Mentor Toolkit	Common Language/ Terms/ Acronyms: Collaboration: To work cooperatively with another

<p>Activity Description/ Conversation Questions/ Content</p> <p>Facilitate a discussion about classroom routines and classroom expectations. Ask the resident educator to share some of the successes that he or she is having in the classroom. Emphasize that setting a positive, safe and stable environment is essential in maximizing the use of time and creating a positive learning space. Share methods of establishing routines and expectations. For example, including students in the process of establishing routines and expectations by asking them to write a "code of conduct" for the class gives the students ownership of the expectations. This makes students accountable for the standards of behavior. Discuss the processes for how to establish routines and good habits. Posting schedules, assignments and expectations are good reminders.</p> <p>Ask the resident educator to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-identify areas of strength. • Share ideas about the skills necessary to be successful in establishing a positive environment. • Give concrete examples that support a sense of positivity and fairness in the classroom. • Take notes during the conversation so he or she can use them to reflect, set goals to improve daily professional practices. <p>Mentors should share ideas, actions and strategies with their resident educators that support growth in establishing a classroom environment of respect and accountability. They also may possibly share new instructional techniques, intervention strategies or even effective behavior management strategies. Having protocols and clear guidance creates an environment that is fair and just.</p> <p>Ask the resident educator if he or she need supports. They may need ideas, materials or tools that could impact the success of their students or make the classroom environment and instructional practices stronger.</p>
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Consider taking notes to use in future professional dialogues

Reflection and/or evidence of learning:

The resident educator self-identifies strengths.

The resident educator is creating a positive and effective learning environment.

The resident educator has clear and reasonable expectations for students.

Reflection Questions:

- What is the big idea you are taking away from our conversation today?
- What do you feel is the most important aspect in establishing a positive classroom environment?
- Are the classroom routines and expectations meeting the needs of learners?
- What is something you do in your classroom that promotes the respect of all students from the teacher and classmates?
- How do you establish an environment of fairness?
- Are fair and equal always the same thing?

Follow up:

At the next resident educator/mentor meeting have a conversation about best practices and the impact that focused mentoring has had in developing classroom management skills. Discuss why including the students in establishing a code of conduct or the classroom expectations is so powerful.

Schedule opportunities for the resident educator to observe other classrooms.

Notes: