

Guidance For Conversations with Intent Facilitators

Thinking Alone: Questions to Ask of Yourself Prior to Your Facilitation

[From *Professionalizing Early Childhood Education as A Field Of Practice: A Guide To The Next Era*, S. G. Goffin, 2015]

- Are you ready to be part of the solution?
- What is your commitment to personal change?
- What is your openness to changing ECE as a field of practice?
- What are you most afraid of losing?
- BE HONEST! If you're feeling uncomfortable, you're on to something!

Remember: Your Role as Facilitator of a Conversation with Intent

1. Stay connected to the purpose of conversations with intent.
 - a. The conversation is NOT about coming up with answers OR finding agreement.
 - b. Dialogue is your primary purpose and Dialogue is about shared reflections and inquiry.
2. Invite participants to be curious – to listen, respect, and suspend. Allow differing views to live side by side. This isn't easy!
3. Encourage participants to develop awareness of their internal responses.
4. Remember to be neutral in your role. Avoid participating in the conversation. Be comfortable with silence. This isn't easy either!
5. Be prepared for discomfort – yours and/or participants. Take a break if the "temperature in the room gets too warm."
6. Allow sufficient time for exploring questions – though it's also okay to ask participants if they're ready to move on to another question.
7. Focus participants on what's possible. Redirect conversations blaming external forces. Focus on what the field can do differently.