

Teaching in the Neighborhood

July 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 on **Friday, July 29, 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 Curriculum for Young Children. 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

Next topic - in September:

Supporting Young Children's Well-Being (date and time TBD)

Teacher Communities of Practice will be resuming in September. We are switching to a cohort model so you can make deeper connections with each other, and are very excited about launching these groups. Look for more information and a link to sign up coming in August.

Rethinking "No thank you"

TEACHER TALK!

When a child engages in challenging behavior, you might be tempted to say **"no thank you!"** While those words are polite and appropriate in some situations ("No thank you, no dessert for me today"), they can be confusing to children during a moment of challenging behavior.

Instead of "no thank you" try...

- Speaking in a **firm, yet kind, tone.**
- Stopping dangerous behavior clearly and calmly: **"Stop - that's not safe."**
- **Saying what TO do.** "Sit right down." or "Walk slowly."
- Using "Actually". **"Actually,** you can build with the blocks."



Want to read more? [Check out this blog post.](#)

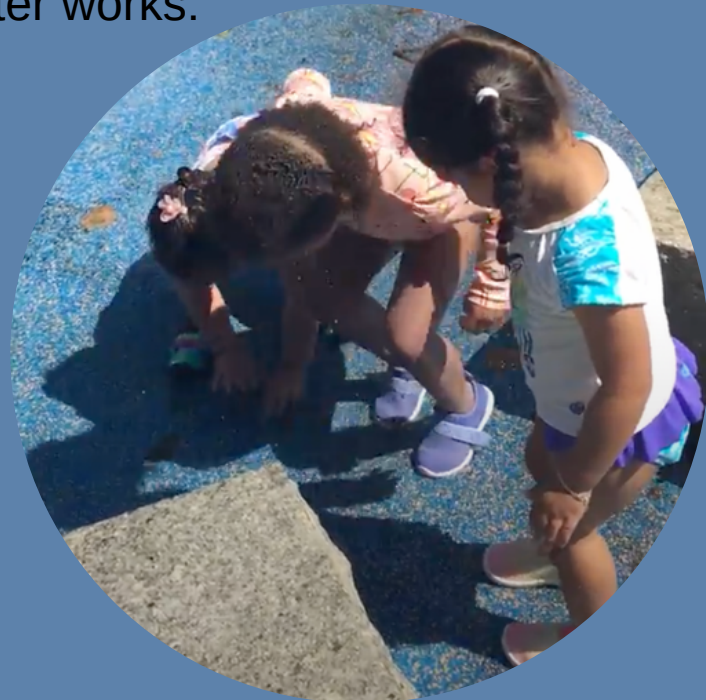
Catch yourself using "no, thank you"?
Challenge yourself to try another approach.

Great ideas from great teachers

Experimenting in the sprinkler park

It's hot out there! Ellis teachers are beating the heat by heading outside to play with water. At the sprinkler park, children don't just cool off - they get to be scientists and research how water works:

Three children noticed wet leaves on the ground on the side of the sprinkler pad. One child squatted and picked up a large leaf from a puddle. She shook it and wet another child with the spray. The other child stopped, also squatted and picked up her own leaf. They dipped their leaves and shook them at each other.



As the children observe and experiment with the leaves and water, they are scientists - learning about cause and effect and the properties of materials. Although the children aren't speaking during this interaction, they are collaborating and communicating non-verbally about their discoveries. Young children are are capable, powerful researchers of their world!



MORE THAN ONE WAY TO EXPLORE WATER

You don't have to go to the sprinkler park to play with water. Here's another idea from Ellis - these teachers mixed small amounts of water and paint, stuck a craft stick in them and froze them. Children were able to explore the melting while creating!

What are the children in your class researching?

share your observations with us: mbaker@neighborhoodvillages.org