

Teaching in the Neighborhood

April 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

Welcome! Our Early Childhood Coach

Hello! I am Pamela Thompson and I am so excited to be offering coaching supports to educators and programs in the Neighborhood. You may have seen me recently as I visited programs. I have been involved with young children and their educators for over 15 years. I have been a teacher, supervisor, program director, and most recently a coach with Head Start. I will be available to support you in growing your teaching practice! Please feel free to reach me at pthompson@neighborhoodvillages.org or (617) 297-8416.



Professional Pathways

The Professional Pathways resource **helps early educators connect with higher education courses** to advance their careers.

Professional Pathways supports INDIVIDUAL EDUCATORS to:

- Find courses at the college of their choice, to advance their careers
- Connect to resources and support to be successful
- Start a new career in early education and care

Please visit our website to find out more:

www.eecprofessionalpathways.com

or email Sarah at ssian@neighborhoodvillages.org

Teacher Communities of Practice



Preschool Group:
Tues May 3 1-2pm
**new day and time!*

Monthly Zoom call and an online space (Padlet) to share ideas and ask questions.

Infant Group (Wed):
May 4 1:30-2:30pm

Join any time - new members are always welcome!

Toddler Group (Th):
May 5 1:30-2:30pm

Zoom meeting ID: 957 066 6212
Passcode: 830019

padlet.com/neighborhoodvillages/infantteacherscop

padlet.com/neighborhoodvillages/toddlerteacherscop

padlet.com/neighborhoodvillages/preschoolteacherscop

TEACHER TALK!

Moving away from 'Good Job'

Our use of 'Good Job' can make children more dependent on approval from others, rather than building their confidence. [Read more here!](#)

Tips to turn it around:

- *Be specific in your feedback:* "You used both hands to cover your paper in blue paint!"
- *Focus on what children are doing, not the outcome:* "You are working so hard together to build that ramp."
- *Switch to 'Thank you for...'* When a child does something you appreciate, try saying 'thank you for putting your coat away'.
- Or ask a question instead! *How did you balance all of those blocks? That looks tricky!*

Great ideas from great teachers

Highlighting excellent teaching happening in the Neighborhood this month!

Loose Parts Play

At Ellis Early Learning, teachers are offering **loose parts** to their toddler classes for open-ended exploration and play. Instead of a teacher-directed activity where each child makes the same product, in loose parts play children take the lead to explore the materials, figure out how they fit and work together, and make discoveries. On the left, children explored pipe cleaners, cardboard tubes, wooden spools. Below, they used foam tubes and balls to create ramps and pathways.



What loose parts do you have in your classroom or center? Have you tried setting up an invitation with loose parts, then observing what ideas children have with the materials?

When children explore loose parts through open-ended play, they are learning LANGUAGE, SOCIAL SKILLS, SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY, MATH CONCEPTS, and fostering their CREATIVITY.



Give loose parts play a try!

Try starting a loose parts collection in your classroom. Invite families to contribute materials, and display them in containers so children can see what is available to create and explore.



Ideas? Questions?

send them to Megina Baker: mbaker@neighborhoodvillages.org