



Buffett
Early Childhood
Institute

at the University of Nebraska

Development of an Instructional Toolkit through Research Practice Partnership

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Start early. Start well.

Instructional Toolkit

Curriculum, Assessment, and Standards

- Guide what to teach
- Tell what is important for students to know
- Describe content and processes
- Provide a sequential plan for instruction
- Support evaluation of child outcomes

Focus on what the teacher does

Essential Child Experiences



Focus on what the child experiences

Foundational Workshops

Essential Child Experiences

1. Cultural, linguistic, and personal relevance
2. Language-rich communication
3. Cognitive challenge
4. Collaboration among peers
5. Child decision-making and planning
6. Exploration and innovation



Learning Assessment

Workgroup members...

- Provided richer descriptions of the 6 essential child experiences
- Reported greater comfort levels associated with integrating the experiences in learning settings



Research Practice Partnership (RPP)

- What is an RPP?
- RPP at the Buffett Early Childhood Institute



Image from the University of Delaware.

Research Practice Partnership

- Focus on a problem of practice
- Long-term commitment
- Mutualistic relationship
- Generation of original analysis



Community of Practice

Structure

- Shift from workshops to community of practice
- 16 teacher/leader pairs from 4 districts, 6 childcare, 1 family care
- Meet 1.5 hours 1X/month March-December 2022
- Supported by BECI staff

Brave and Courageous Norms

adapted from Cobb/Krownapple & Glenn Singleton



LISTENING - Listen to understand, not to respond.



EMPATHY - Try on new perspectives. Stories shared here stay here.



OPENNESS - Take some risks and practice vulnerability.
Keep an open mind.



PATIENCE - Go slow to go far.



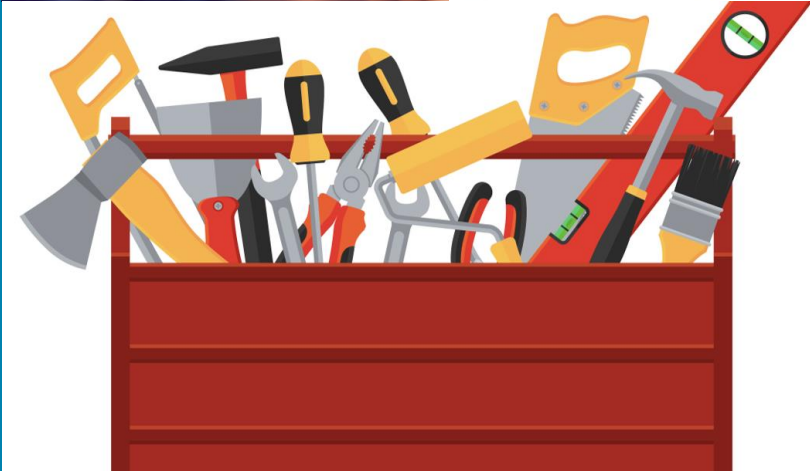
ENGAGED - Be present, mentally and physically.

Created by mim studio

Community of Practice

Intention:

- Developing an instructional toolkit
- Connecting workgroup members' goals and the 6 essential child experiences

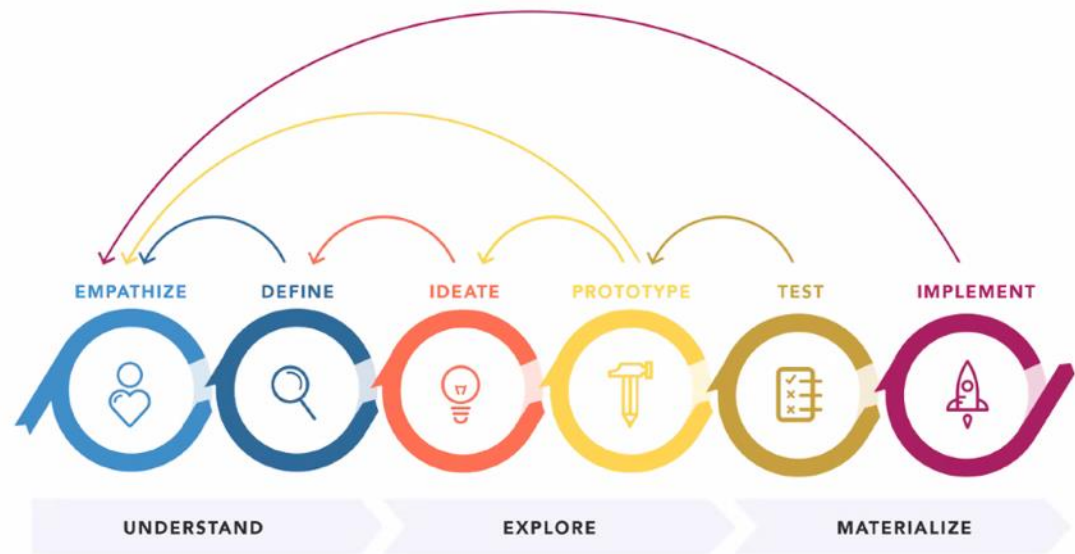


Toolkit

- Foundational professional learning workshops (facilitation and participant materials)
- Essential Child Experiences descriptions
- Collection of connected resources (literature, online videos, vetted resources, etc.)
- Case studies
- Sample lesson plans and materials
- Video exemplars
- Self-assessment protocol
- Coaching protocols
- Instructional Playbook
- ????

Workgroup Member Engagement

- Journals
- Discussion board
- Affinity groups



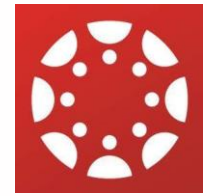
The Design Thinking framework by Nielsen Norman Group.

Conclusions

- Supporting teacher practices that intentionally center and leverage children's experiences
- Utilizing RPP framework to elevate the voice of early childhood practitioners in research.
- Practitioners bring forth crucial knowledge and experiences



Acknowledgements



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NU CONNECT



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A screenshot of a course page in the NU Connect system. The page title is 'Essential Child Experiences for Learning and Development' for course 'BECI 002'. The left sidebar contains navigation links: Account, Dashboard, Courses, Calendar, Inbox, History, and Help. The main content area features a purple graphic with a network of white dots and lines, and the Buffett Early Childhood Institute logo. Below the graphic is a list of course components: 'Start Here', 'Workshop 1', 'Workshop 2', 'Workshop 3', 'Workshop 4', and 'Community of Practice'. On the right side, there are buttons for 'View Course Stream', 'View Course Calendar', and 'View Course Notifications', and a 'To Do' section showing 'Nothing for now'.



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