

In my experience with education, which hasn't been long, I've realized that collaboration is extremely VITAL! As a new teacher I have had to rely on and bounce ideas off of others who have more experience in the field than I do. Being fresh out of college when I started teaching, I felt almost invincible. I was ready to conquer and be the queen of my classroom. I soon realized that it wouldn't be that easy, I needed the guidance of those who knew more than me. You can have all the education in the world, but having your own classroom is a whole different ball game. Professional learning networks are extremely helpful to all teachers, new or experienced. As a new teacher, I may have ideas that are new and different, while experienced teachers could have ideas that have worked for years. Either way, success in my classroom has only been possible with the aid of various professional learning networks. I am thankful to be a part of Classroom 2.0, the Facebook group Positively Pre-K, PLC in my school and also Solution Tree's PLC. Classroom 2.0 is a place where educators can observe and participate in conversations and network about implementing different technologies and media into the classroom. Our classrooms need to be accessible to the 21st century student and this network is a great place to get ideas for that! The Facebook group I am a part of, Positively Pre-K, has been a place where over 70,000 Pre-K teachers from across the world can collaborate and help one another out. I get so many ideas for activities, projects, and ways to integrate various techniques into my classroom from this group. I have found these facebook groups to be very reassuring. I had a rough first year and to be able to see other educators and hear their stories of how they work in their classroom was extremely helpful! My district and campus are big supporters of PLC or Professional Learning Communities. We participate in a PLC every Tuesday. Over the summer, I had the chance to attend the PLC conference where

thousands of educators met in San Antonio and we got to learn and support one another in various breakout sessions. As I said, my district loves PLC and because of that every week we get an hour to meet with our grade-level team and our support staff to collaborate and help one another. We review data and how we are teaching certain things in order to give all of our students the best chance of success. I love this time so much, because as a semi new teacher now, I am still learning daily! Not only that, but we love to review our data and see the growth in our students each week. This is going to sound bad, but when I started teaching, I was told to "steal whatever you can " which meant that if something is working for another teacher, use it, whether that is a resource, a way of teaching, or even a certain lesson. Obviously, take the ideas and make them yours but this has been something that has helped tremendously. I am lucky to work in a school with 7 other Pre-K teachers, which is rare, so we get to collaborate all the time. By using this network, we have been able to create small group rotations for our lower students, integrated learning time, and also are in the process of creating hands on learning rooms within our school. Without the use of all of these networks, I fear I would be stuck in a sea of confusion or be questioning why I am even in this field, however that is not the case. I am more confident in myself as an educator and as a colleague.

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Solution Tree <https://www.solutiontree.com/our-solutions/plc-at-work>