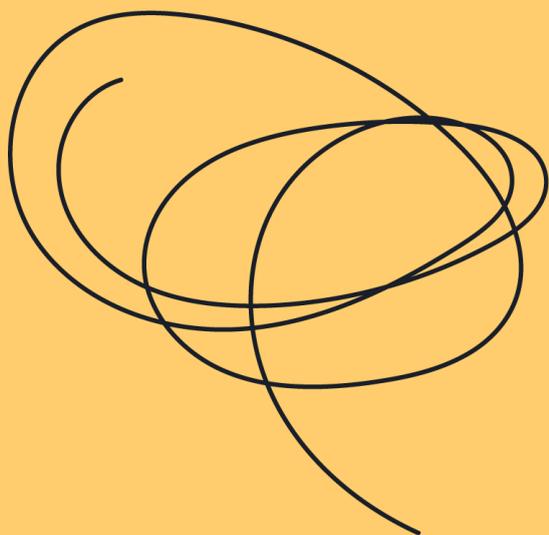


Tools for Gathering Best Practices



Intention

Tools for Gathering Best Practices offers a framework and practical questions for school teams to spot, celebrate and share their best practices both internally and externally. It is an important part of the whole process to stop and notice and celebrate together. And we hope it becomes a natural part of every school culture.

Introduction

*"Creating a feeling of celebration helps meet people's needs for inclusion, innovation, appreciation, and collaboration ."
(Judith E. Glaser)*

WHY IS IT WORTH TO COLLECT GOOD PRACTICES AND CELEBRATE SUCCESS?

An important task of the school team is to consistently highlight and communicate their good experiences, both internally and externally.

Sharing good practices:

- helps people notice success and reinforces the mindset of progress
- helps to use the experience of its experts and learn from others
- creates a learning culture in the organization
- increases people's motivation, satisfies the need for competence and increases self-respect and satisfaction
- improves and strengthens relationships and the feeling of "we" and showing appreciation to each other
- improves the perception of efficiency and effectiveness

ALL SITUATIONS ARE WORTH CELEBRATING!

For example:

- where something was successfully implemented (even very small things)
- if something made a difference for someone
- if the actions are in line with the organization's values
- when something truly extraordinary has been achieved
- if any activity/work has produced consistently good results

Different Levels

Collecting and sharing good experiences could take place on several levels in many different ways:

- **At the level of an individual:** everyone regularly reflects on their activities, points out their successes and thereby increases their satisfaction and the ability to rely on successes.
 - This level can be recalled in reflection meetings.
- **Among the school staff:**
 - successes have a common place on the wall that everyone can add to, the culture of the teachers' room: *If you have something good in class, come and share it with everyone in the teachers' room;*
 - starting meetings by sharing the past week's celebrations and successes in a circle;
 - sharing successes regularly (e.g. 2 times a year) using the World cafe method.
- **In each class or learning group:**
 - successes have a common place on the wall in the classroom (wall art);
 - creating class routines to share successes;
 - regular use of reflection methods, reflection cards, sentence starters or inspiration questions.
- **At the school-parent level:**
 - start parents' evenings with circles (focus on the good and the progress): *"Something positive I have noticed about my child...";*
 - collecting individual observations on post-it notes.
- **At the school-wider community level: share success stories:**
 - at meetings;
 - joint events;
 - through the school webpage or social media platforms.
- **With other schools that joined the model:**
 - annual meeting;
 - joint FB group.
- **With other schools, with parties interested in education:**
 - newspaper articles;
 - school webpage or social media platforms.

Some Inspirational Questions to Use

The following questions can be put on posters in the class, in other rooms, used in student diaries, as cards, as sentence starters in meetings, etc.

QUESTIONS TO CELEBRATE SUCCESS:

- What did I learn about myself today?
- What good aspects of myself did I show today?
- What activity am I proud of today?
- How did I help others today/what did I do for others today?
- What strengths did I use today?
- What did I feel confident about today?
- How did I overcome the obstacles I encountered today?

QUESTIONS ABOUT LEARNING, DEVELOPMENT:

- What was challenging for me today?
- What was exciting?
- What do I want to do differently next time?

GRATITUDE QUESTIONS:

- What am I grateful for about myself (this week)?
- What am I thankful to others (this week)?
- What is it that allows me to be here today and do what I do?

All these questions can be used in different time frames (today, this week, this hour, this month).