



Directors Guide

Being an Early Childhood Director is hard work! Engaging with teachers, families and children, we are juggling so much each day.

Some of the best lessons I have learned from my years in the field are this:

- Lead with compassion: For example, I saw you coming in late today. Is everything OK?
- Use the word "We" in as many places as you can when you are talking to parents or when you are talking with each other. For example, we have a great school and we have a great team. We have great ideas! Use we not I have a great school, I have great staff.... Language matters.
- Ask before you assume. For example when a teacher puts out an activity and you are not sure if you liked it. Ask them to tell you about the activity they put out. "What were you hoping to accomplish with this activity, or can you tell me more about the activity you put out this morning?" Be careful of the words that you use. Which words have less judgment?

Those are the ones we are aiming to use!

- Listen more than you talk.
- Make time for social conversation, it matters and it's important! Ask teachers how they are and then truly listen.
- Turn off your cell phone when you are talking with staff! Be present!

Being a leader is hard work, yet being a leader with a collaborative team makes it a whole lot easier! Create a team that is with you in practice, theory and compassion.

Together you can create an amazing experience in your school!