Connect, Inspire and Empower Through Sticky-Note Storytelling

Dr. Barbara Sorrels
Great Leaders

- Who are great leaders that have inspired you?
- What are they like?
What is the primary role of a director or administrator?

- Motivate
- Inspire
- Coach
- Lead
- Guide
- Hold Accountable
What was found to be the number one characteristic of great leaders?

- Personal charisma/dynamic personality
- Humility/self effacing personality
- Broad vision
- Sincere tyrant
The Big Picture

- Connect
- Inspire
- Empower
Connecting

- People are wired for relationship
- The essence of connection is trust and understanding
- Genuine connection requires a certain level of vulnerability
Inspire

- Latin word meaning to breathe or blow into or upon
- Leaders inspire by breathing life into people and organizations
- What are some characteristics of people who have inspired you?
Characteristics of those who inspire

- Optimism
- They are truly good at what they do
- Resilience
- Perseverance
Empowerment—a dance between a director and the staff

- **The director**
  1. Willingness to relinquish control
  2. Understanding

- **Staff**
  1. Self awareness
  2. Personal reflection
  3. Personal goals
The Value of Sticky Note Story Telling

- It provides a structure for personal reflection, connection and growth
- Facilitates personal reflection which is the basis for personal growth
- Lays a foundation for reflective practice
Materials

- ½ sheet of poster board per person
- Small post-its (2 x ½ inches)
  - 50 yellow
  - 15 pink
  - 15 blue
  - 15 green
Step 1

- Using the yellow pad of sticky notes jot down one event, person or circumstance that has had a significant impact on your life. Put one thought per note.
Examples

- People: parents, family members, friends, pastors, teachers, coaches etc

- Events: happy or sad moments—moving, getting a dog, divorce, going to camp, death of family member

- Circumstances: Conflict with parents, health issues, learning disability

- Achievements: Things you have done that brought enjoyment, pleasure and recognition
Step 2

- Reflect upon the people, events or sticky notes and identify any that you perceive as being negative or painful. Transfer every negative or painful event to a pick sticky note and discard the yellow one.
Starting the Institute of FMB

Starting Parkridge Camp

financial struggles

Bob's Accident

Bob's Accident

Ashley

Seminary

Dad's Alzheimer's

Dad's Alzheimer's

Teaching at OSU
Step 3

- Find the earliest memory you have and place that sticky note in the top left hand corner of the poster board. Place the remaining sticky notes in chronological order, integrating the pink and yellow notes.

- When you reach the bottom of the column or recognize a new theme or phase of your life, start a new column.
Step 4

- Evaluate the events of your life to identify the distinct phases or “chapters.” Create a title for each chapter of your life and write the title on a blue sticky note and place it at the bottom of the appropriate column.
Jeannie Miley

Endurance

Guatemala

Scrapbooking

Courage Under Fire

The Absent Minded Professor
Step 5

- What have I learned through the events, people and circumstances of your life? Look at your life chapters and try to identify 1 or 2 insights or life lessons you have learned at each phase. Write these lessons on green sticky notes and place them at the bottom of your chapter titles.
Smart
Understanding the nature of children is the key to quality teaching.

Rejection of the FMB

Facing the Giants
Creativity and courage are born in the heat of suffering.

Courage Under Fire
We have to be willing to face our demons if we are to grow.

Self awareness is the key to growth as well as understanding other people.

Endurance
God is faithful.

Family is my source of happiness.

Dream's happen if you are willing to work hard enough.

My gift and calling is starting new things.

Trip to Guatemala

The Absent Minded Professor

Some true.
Areas of Impact

- My self esteem and identity
- Family relationships
- Relationships with others
- My strengths and weaknesses
- Character qualities that are important to you
- Values that are important to you
- My hopes and dreams for the future
What does this mean?


- How has my history influenced my decision to care for and teach children? To become a leader of an ECE program?

- What strengths do I bring to the child care setting? What weaknesses?
Reflection

- How has my history influenced my philosophy of what it means to be a teacher? What it means to be a director? My philosophy of education?
- How has my history influenced how I relate to children? To parents? To my staff?
Reflection

- What losses have I suffered and how does it impact who I am, what I do in the work place and how I view children? My staff? Parents?

- What are areas both personally and professionally that I would like to grow?

- What do I need to help me reach my goals? What do I need from my co-workers to help me meet my goals?
Making Change Happen

- Set some goals for the next 12 months regarding personal and professional growth.
- Identify resources, materials and equipment you might need to accomplish those goals.
- Set a target date for reaching those goals.
- What do you need from your director to meet your goals?
- Discuss your goals with your employees or director.