



MIND in the Making

Learning Communities— An Emerging Phenomenon

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An Online Conversation with

Ellen Galinsky

Naomi Karp

Heather Vaughn

Laura Earley

Deanne Marein-Efron

Early Childhood Investigations

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A Learning Journey— Discovering Learning Communities

A Learning Community is a group of people who come together to learn with and from each other and then seek to act on what they learn. Their reason for being is ongoing inquiry for the sake of improvements.

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A Learning Journey— Discovering Learning Communities

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is ongoing inquiry
for the sake of improvements.

POLL QUESTION ONE

Common Characteristics of Learning Communities

1. Learning Communities have the power to bring new players together.

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Common Characteristics of Learning Communities

1. Learning Communities have the power to bring new players together.

Heather Vaughn,
Coordinator of the **APS Early Childhood Office** (Albuquerque, NM)



1

Common Characteristics of Learning Communities

2. Learning Communities do not shy away from reaching those who are most in need.

2

Common Characteristics of Learning Communities

3. **Learning Communities** focus on learning from and with each other. They have replaced the notion of learning from an expert (“the sage on stage”) with a belief that there is expertise in everyone.

3

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3. **Learning Communities focus on learning from and with each other. They have replaced the notion of learning from an expert (“the sage on stage”) with a belief that there is expertise in everyone.**

Naomi Karp,
Members in the Making in Arizona
(Arizona AEYC)



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Naomi Karp, cont'd

	<h3>Habits of a Systems Thinker</h3>	<p>Seeks to understand the big picture</p> 	<p>Observes how elements within systems change over time, generating patterns and trends</p> 
	<p>Recognizes that a system's structure generates its behavior</p> 	<p>Identifies the circular nature of complex cause and effect relationships</p> 	<p>Changes perspectives to increase understanding</p> 
	<p>Surfaces and tests assumptions</p> 	<p>Considers an issue fully and resists the urge to come to a quick conclusion</p> 	<p>Considers how mental models affect current reality and the future</p> 
<p>Considers both short and long-term consequences of actions</p> 	<p>Finds where unintended consequences emerge</p> 	<p>Recognizes the impact of time delays when exploring cause and effect relationships</p> 	<p>Checks results and changes actions if needed: "successive approximation"</p> 

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Naomi Karp, cont'd



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Common Characteristics of Learning Communities

4. Learning Communities focus on active learning that is experiential and includes engaging participants in a process of self-reflection and self-discovery, leading toward action.

4

Common Characteristics of Learning Communities

5. Learning Communities are using new media in creative ways.

5

Common Characteristics of Learning Communities

6. **Learning Communities are not just using the curriculum they are handed—they are actively creating new curricula based on child and adult development.**

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7. **Learning Communities focus on *assessment*, but tie assessment to children's development.**

Laura Earley,
**Los Angeles Universal Preschool
(LAUP)**



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Laura Earley, cont'd

- Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)
- CLASS and the synergy with *Mind in the Making*
- Participants—Lead Teachers from 8 Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) sites
- Monthly meetings to discuss one chapter at a time from *Mind in the Making*
- Group discussion about that chapter and any implications related to CLASS
- Related goals set on an individual basis through the coaching process and individual monthly site visits



Common Characteristics of Learning Communities

7. Learning Communities focus on *assessment*, but tie assessment to children's development.

7

Common Characteristics of Learning Communities

8. Learning Communities have reframed *teaching* as teaching AND learning together.

8

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8. Learning Communities have reframed *teaching* as teaching AND learning together.

Deanne Marein-Efron,
Kids' Corner Day Care Center
(Washington, D.C.)



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Deanne Marein-Efron, cont'd

- Early childhood educators, parents and administrators learn from infants, toddlers and preschoolers by viewing videos of the children as they eat, play and listen to stories at home and in daycare.



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Common Characteristics of Learning Communities

- 9. Learning Communities
connect policy to practice.**

9

Common Characteristics of Learning Communities

10. Learning Communities continue—they have strategies to “pay it forward”

POLL QUESTION TWO

10

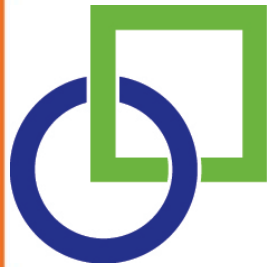
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What works and what doesn't work in a Learning Community?

Round table discussion

POLL QUESTION THREE & FOUR

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Families and **Work** Institute

familiesandwork.org

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