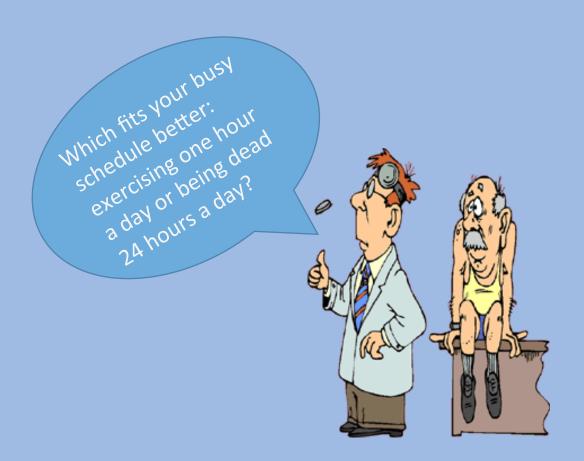
Reflection on Leadership Academy and Job Embedded Project



Connie Casha CEELO Leadership Academy August 2015

What I Did and Why

- Focused on improving positive outcomes for children with special needs by providing increased access to inclusive learning environments
- Developed stronger relationship with IDEA 619 preschool coordinator and consultants
- Encouraged the dialogue between general education preschool staff and special education preschool staff at the school level to think about how their programs could work together
- WHY- to support all children entering kindergarten ready to learn

What did I accomplish?

Raised awareness regarding:

- lack of inclusive opportunities provided in school districts
- lack of information on how to provide inclusive opportunities
- lack of communication between general education and special education staff at the local level regarding how to best serve children with disabilities in general preschool settings

Collected baseline data from five school districts interested in working with the state to develop and pilot a plan to support collaboration and inclusion within their school district

How do I know?

Developed partnership with five school districts willing to partner with the Department of Education to develop a state wide plan for supporting collaboration at the school level for increasing inclusive opportunities for all preschool children.

Received inquiries from an additional six school districts regarding how best to serve children with disabilities in inclusive settings.

And

I still have a job!

What leadership skills did I develop? What skills do I need to develop further?

- New ways for looking at and defining problems
- Process for developing strategic plan-focused on outcomes
- Systems Thinking Strategies
 - Changes perspectives to increase understanding
 - Recognize that a system's structure generates its behavior
- Belief in myself
 - Well Behaved Women Rarely Make History-Laurel Thatcher Ulrecht





 $B_{\text{-team}}$

What's next for me and the Job Embedded project?

• Work with my colleagues in IDEA 619 and the five school districts to develop guidance for all school districts to use to increase

access to high quality early childhood programs for

all children.

Develop a plan to disseminate this work statewide.

- Continue to improve communication and collaboration at the state level.
- Continue to reach out to Leadership fellows for support and camaraderie.

