Section 6

Making Suggestions

Open suggestions...

* are expressed with invitational, positive language and voice tone
* offer choices to encourage ownership
* are often expressed as a question [or include a “tag question”] to invite further thinking
* are achievable--enough to encourage but not overwhelm may provide information about the mentor’s thinking and decision- making

### Possible suggestions stems

* + One thing I’ve learned/noticed is...
  + A couple of things to keep in mind...
  + From our experience, one thing we’ve noticed...
  + Several/some teachers I know have tried a couple of different things in this sort of situation and maybe one might work for you...
  + What I know about is....
  + Something/some things to keep in mind when dealing with...
  + Something you might consider trying is...
  + Sometimes it’s helpful if...

Try following a suggestion with a question that invites the teacher to imagine/hypothesize how the idea might work in his/her context.

* + How might that look in your classroom?
  + To what extent might that work with your students?
  + What do you imagine might happen if you were to try something like that with your class?
  + Which of these ideas might work best in your classroom (with your students)?