Section 7

Non-Judgmental Response & Mediational Questions

**Non-judgmental responses** help to...

* + build trust
  + promote an internal locus of control
  + encourage self-assessment
  + develop beginning teacher autonomy
  + foster risk-taking

Possible examples:

* + Identify what worked and why

*I noticed how when you the students really...*

* + Encourage

*It sounds like you have many ideas to try out. It’ll be exciting/interesting/great to see which works best for you.*

* + Ask the teacher to self-assess

*How do you think the lesson went and why?*

* + Ask the teacher to identify his/her role

*What did you do to make the lesson so successful?*

* + Listen
  + Ask sincere questions
  + Show enthusiasm for and interest in the teacher’s work and thinking

*I’m interested in hearing/learning more about... I’m really looking forward to...*

**Mediational Questions** help the colleague... HYPOTHESIZE what might happen ANALYZE what worked or didn’t IMAGINE possibilities

COMPARE & CONTRAST what was planned with what ensued

Some mediational question stems include...

* + What’s another way you might...?
  + What would it look like if...?
  + What do you think would happen if...?
  + How was...different from (like)...?
  + What’s another way you might...?
  + What sort of impact do you think...?
  + What criteria do you use to...?
  + When have you done something like.... before?
  + What do you think...?
  + How did you decide... (come to the conclusion)?
  + What might you see happening in your classroom if?

Article found at <http://newteachercenter.org/blog/phases-first-year-teaching>

**Mentor Teacher Checklist for Assessing Skills in Developing Positive Relationships with Interns**

How well am I prepared to do the following with my intern?

* + Modeling appropriate teaching behavior and develop creative, reflective, and engaging teaching strategies?
  + Providing a rationale for the teaching decisions I make.
  + Demonstrating a positive, professional attitude in dealing with students, colleagues, administrators, and parents.
  + Demonstrating effective communication skills.
  + Establishing clear expectations.
  + Establishing trust with my intern.
* Demonstrating positive regard for the intern.
* Willingly share my classroom and students.
* Willingly invest time and effort in establishing and developing a positive working relationship.
* Being a good listener and exhibiting patience with the professional development of my intern.

Adapted from “Working with Student Teachers—Getting and Giving the Best” Michael A. Morehead, Lawrence Lyman, and Harvey C. Foyle, A Scarecrow Education Book, 2003.