Handout 16

Helpful Language to Use in Coaching Conversations

From *Systems for Change in Literacy Education: A guide to Professional Development*
By Carol Lyons & Gay Su Pinnell

1. It’s wonderful to step into this classroom and see . . .
2. I noticed that . . .
3. The learners were (engaged, working, etc.) except or . . . Why do you think that was happening?
4. What were you hoping would happen when?
5. When I was watching, I was excited about . . .
6. What has happened lately that you felt really excited and pleased about?
7. They were enjoying . . .
8. What let you know they were understanding?
9. There were really learning actively when . . . Does that fit with your sense of what was going on?
10. Can you help me understand what was happening when . . .?
11. What are your priorities for these learners?
12. What do you want these learners to be able to do in (time period)?
13. Did they perform as you expected today?
14. Tell me more about (learner, event, book).
15. I was listening to the respectful way children talk to one another. What did you do to help achieve this?
16. You seemed concerned about (event, child, time, etc.). Can you talk about it?
17. I thought (learner) was (attitude, behavior, etc.). Is that right? Can you tell me more?
18. How can I help?
19. They were (behavior). Is that typical?
20. You (action). Can you talk about your decision?
21. Was this a typical (morning, reading group, lesson, PLC, etc.)?
22. Something I learned from you today....
23. What are your next steps?
24. What do you need from me?
25. What did you learn from the lesson today?