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?