Little things that may make a BIG difference!

When asked what they appreciated about their mentor teachers, student teachers responded in the following ways:

* ***“I appreciated being introduced by my mentor teacher to the other teachers and support staff.” “I liked it that my mentor teacher introduced me as an intern teacher. She made me feel like another teacher in the classroom.”***

Have you introduced your teacher intern to your colleagues? Do you introduce the student to parents that visit the classroom? How will you introduce your teacher intern to your own students?

* ***“I loved it that my mentor teacher gave me my own desk/work area in the classroom.” “My mentor teacher gave me copies of the different texts used. She also made sure that I received a copy of staff notices, etc.”***

Does your teacher intern have his/her own space in the classroom? This sends the message that you recognize he/she has important work to do too. Does your teacher intern get a copy of important notices so that he/she can be informed?

* ***“I liked it that my mentor teacher invited me to attend the school activities. I knew I was always welcome to join!”***
* ***“At the beginning, my mentor teacher gave me very specific daily responsibilities. She made sure I knew what was expected and then left me to do it.”***

Have you identified some very specific activities or tasks your teacher intern could do the first week? Have you given him/her the specifics so that it can be completed successfully?

* ***“I like how my mentor teacher demonstrated a LOVE for teaching, learning and the students. He didn’t spend our planning time complaining about district expectations, students, parents, or colleagues.”***
* ***“I like how my mentor teacher gave me the freedom to be a student as well as a teacher. I was allowed mistakes and my mentor teacher helped me learn from them by giving me constructive suggestions.”***
* ***“I liked how my mentor teacher talked with me about everything she was doing. She had experience and was willing to share how that shaped her instruction.”***
* ***“I like how my mentor teacher valued my opinions and ideas and was willing to let me try new things.”***

Are you willing to let the teacher intern try a new strategy or different approach? Are you willing to collaborate in the planning so that it can be successful?

* ***“I like how my mentor teacher left the room on occasion. It took a lot of trust on her part and I learned the most about classroom management while she was gone.”***
* ***“I like it that my mentor teacher encouraged me to try new things, but also to ask for help. I didn’t have to feel badly asking for her opinion.”***
* ***“I loved it that my mentor teacher shared beyond his classroom experiences. He told me how he worked to balance family and career, parent concerns and classroom planning, etc.”***