

What It Is

- ▶ Invite understanding of one another, and seek consensus around “what is going on here.”
- ▶ Deepen knowledge, shared meanings, and collaborative problem solving.
- ▶ Embrace learning as a social process.
- ▶ Enable power sharing within a safe environment where participants feel confident to share ideas.
- ▶ Value all participants’ contributions for shared knowledge building.
- ▶ Promote and build reciprocal relationships of mutual respect to improve co-construction.

Why It Matters

- ▶ The meaning of evidence, interactions, and language are always contextual.
- ▶ Clarity of purpose and communication across the system are improved by learning from and with one another.
- ▶ New understandings for change can develop via co-constructed collaborations.
- ▶ Engagement and commitment to action are enhanced by co-constructing learning.
- ▶ Relationships are strengthened through co-construction.

How I Do It

- ▶ Build shared language and meanings.
- ▶ Check for understanding and agreement.

- ▶ Listen, notice, and monitor one’s own impact.
- ▶ Deliberately build community and trust through the process of co-construction.
- ▶ Use tools such as the inquiry spiral to co-construct shared understanding and discuss concepts at a deeper level.
- ▶ Value others’ perspectives and knowledge, including learners and their families.
- ▶ Create opportunities for others, including those not usually heard, to contribute in meaningful ways.

Key Challenges for Me

- ▶ Working through the tension between “being asked and wanting to tell” versus co-constructing
- ▶ Dealing with agenda-setting dilemmas
- ▶ Needing more time to reach solutions and actions
- ▶ Living with the discomfort inherent in co-construction
- ▶ Changing how strategies for problem solving and decision-making are undertaken

What I Should Notice

- ▶ What knowledge is at the table? Does it include learning principles, literature, theories, and research findings?
- ▶ Whose voices are heard, and whose are missing?
- ▶ What opportunities are there for co-construction?
- ▶ How do leaders co-construct (share power) with teachers and other stakeholders?