

Figure 8.3 Sandra and Andy's Initial Conversation

Sandra: You've shared your frustrations with the new standards. How about if we think through what we might work on during our coaching cycle? What are you working on in literacy? Maybe we can start there?

Andy: Sure. We are working on phonemic awareness, I've been teaching the students rhyming words, and we've been doing it with songs and poems. I'm also about to start a unit on reading informational text. I have a great collection of beautiful nonfiction books that the kids love.

Sandra: Great, that sounds like two good options.

Andy: But what I really need help with is making the case for play-based kindergarten. The principal doesn't seem to value what I do, and I'm not about to make my kindergartners start writing paragraphs.

Sandra: I understand that you are frustrated. Is there an area in your teaching that excites you? Where is there potential for you to grow?

Andy: That's a good question. I have been thinking about building more opportunities for my students to be curious and question. I love the book *A Place for Wonder* by Georgia Heard, and I'm interested in working some of her ideas into my classroom.

Sandra: That would fit really well with your nonfiction unit. And the kindergarten standards (*refers directly to the standards*) do mention understanding and using question words. We may even be able to weave that into your work with phonemic awareness, too.

Andy: That's good to know. I do think this is an area that I'm interested in. Let's go for it.