

1. Create “benchmarks” throughout the year. There is no point in closing the barn door after the cow is out.
2. Design activities that are accessible to students of all cultural and language backgrounds and to those with physical and learning disabilities.
3. Develop youth leadership. It begins with responsibility for self and develops into mentoring and coaching others.
4. Drill and kill instruction is not for after school, fun disguised learning is.
5. Emotional safety means that kids can make a mistake and not be ridiculed.
6. Ensure that allocated space supports the learning objectives and activities planned.
7. Establish your criteria for success before you ever begin. Otherwise, how will you know when you have arrived?
8. Even Michael Jordan had a coach.
9. Every stakeholder, including the young people, need to know where you’re going. It’s easier to stay on the road when your destination is clear.
10. Everyone, including the kids, needs to know what the outcomes you expect are. There are no surprises.
11. Expand the school day, provide opportunities to learn through different modalities and intelligences.
12. Fail to move forward! Give students the chance to do things over until they get them right.
13. Frameworks and standards, both in academic and the different enrichment programs need to be available to staff.
14. Gather and track information that is both quantitative and anecdotal.
15. Get out of the site! Take a field trip to places where students can expand their horizon or may bring cheer to the elderly.
16. Has your “First Aid Kit” been replenished? Are these kits placed in accessible locations?
17. Has your principal visited the program today?
18. Has your site director been checking the school premises after a transition takes place?
19. Have a craft sale of students’ work, a stage presentation of a play, dances and songs!
20. Have a plan to diversify your funding. Work the plan!
21. Have a strong field team and a strong management team who will interact and problem-solve together while representing the interest of the students they serve.
22. Have class meetings in which students can talk about what is important to them.
23. Have newly hired staff shadow a veteran staff for a least three days before they start to work with children.
24. Have you invited classroom teachers to speak in your class or even just pay a visit?
25. Have you shared evaluation reports with site staffs and classroom teachers?
26. Hire for attitude and train the rest.
27. Hire staff that reflects the racial, ethnic, linguistic, gender and community characteristics of your students.
28. How can adults get on your campus? Is there a single point of entry?
29. Begin each day with a grounding experience--become present right here, right now!