****Communities of Reflection and Practice**

**What Is a Community of Reflection and Practice (CORP)?**

“A community of practice is a group of people who share a concern or passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly over time.” (Wenger, McDermott, and Snyder, 2002)

Your instructor may divide you into groups to collaborate, discuss, and reflect. Sometimes these groups have other names, such as learning groups. In EarlyEdU courses, CORP groups commonly view and comment on each other’s videos in the Coaching Companion or other video-sharing platform.

**How Can CORP Members Provide High-Quality Feedback?**

**Make Objective and Specific Observations**

Support your comments with clearly articulated detailed and behavior-specific observations that are anchored to the practice.

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| **Be Objective** | **Not Subjective** |
| Based on fact | Based on opinion |
| Includes specific behaviors or actions | Emotional reaction to behaviors or actions |
| Is what actually happened | Personal thoughts about what happened |
| **Be Specific** | **Not General** |
| Describes discrete behaviors | Overview statements |
| Includes teacher or child actions | Tied to actions |
| Provides a description of facts | Descriptions of the overall classroom atmosphere |
| *Example:* Ms. Jones turned toward Sam, got down on his level and made eye contact to listen to what he said. Sam responded by continuing to explain what he was thinking and he moved closer to Ms. Jones. | *Example:* I liked the way she helped Sam. He was really happy.  |

**Provide Feedback**

Consider yourself a *coach* to your peer, qualifying your comments with *I*-statements. Provide well-reasoned, positive, and constructive comments with specific examples from the video. Provide a helpful hint if possible, too.

**Focus on Interactions**

Look especially for high quality interactions:

* What did the teacher do?
* How did the children respond?
* How did the teacher follow up?

**See Multiple Perspectives**

Help individuals see multiple things happening in the recordings. For example, if an observer is very focused on one child’s challenging behavior, help him to notice what other children are doing or how the teacher responds. There is a lot going on in a classroom at any given moment, and there is always something positive to point out in each recording!

