

### Complaining Self

**Self:** What was I thinking? The politics in education will never change.

**Self:** I was hoping the focus would shift to the needs of the child.

By entering interactions attributing positive intent instead of judging the situation as bad, we lay the groundwork for teaching moments and goal-achievement. This promotes safety, connection and problem-solving in the classroom.

## Positive Intent Embeds Problem-Solving in Your School Family

The following structure, ritual and routine help children internalize problem-solving as a lifelong skill as we utilize the Skill of Positive Intent to create teaching moments and the Power of Love to see the best in others.

### Structure: Celebration Center

The purpose of this center is to celebrate children. Celebrate events of change such as losing a tooth, welcoming a new sibling, an older sibling's graduation or a great grandmother's birthday. Celebrate children's efforts in academics and efforts to be helpful. Celebrate things the children suggest and that are important to them. The Celebration Center is a way for children to honor each other, their achievements and their commitments. It is not a place to give rewards for special events or good behavior.

#### Younger Children

The Celebration Center for young children often consists of a special celebration chair and a prop box. I suggest using a chair the children have painted and decorated themselves. The prop box contains items that support the celebration and remains beside or beneath the chair. One teacher kept a large wooden tooth necklace in the celebration prop box. A child who had lost a tooth would sit in the celebration chair wearing the tooth necklace as the class sang the Tooth Song.

##### Tooth Song

*Sing to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell"*

You lost a tooth.

You lost a tooth.

You are growing day by day.

You lost a tooth.

New ones will grow.

New ones will grow.

You lost a tooth today.

And new ones will grow!

#### Older Children

Children in older grades can help decide what will constitute their Celebration Center, what they would like to celebrate and how they will go about celebrating. A fourth grade classroom