

Innovation 101

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Children's Spirituality Research & Innovation Hub

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Six questions to explore

- Nothing's working – now what?
- What makes something innovative?
- How will we know if our innovative idea is successful?
- What prevents innovative ideas from getting off the ground?
- How can we share ideas and collaborate with each other?
- Has anybody else tried this approach?



Nothing's working – now what?

Learn more about

- Contemporary family life
 - contexts
 - needs
 - hopes
- New ways of making connections

Set aside problematic assumptions

- In-person better than virtual
- Classes should be primary form of CE
- Age-graded better than multi-age and intergenerational experiences



Nothing's working...new ideas about children

- Their spiritual development
 - Ethical responsibility
 - Moral reasoning
 - Identity formation
- Their learning process
 - Teacher as facilitator (not conveyor of knowledge)
 - Moving away from highly structured, main point approaches
 - Joining in meaningful shared explorations (rather than entertaining)



Nothing's working... collaborative process

- Acknowledge frustration, struggle with change
- Work together to explore ideas and potential practices
- Seek out others' models and ideas as inspiration
- Imagine small steps that 'fit' with your context, structure, and mission



What makes something innovative?

- Identifiable change from previous approach
- Based in current scientific thinking
- Relational rather than content-driven
- Exploratory rather than didactic
- Side-by-side (partnering) with children



How will we know if our innovative idea is successful?

- Setting goals
- Developing assessment tools
- Gathering data
- Reflecting on data
 - personally
 - communally
- Making adjustments



What prevents innovative ideas from getting off the ground?

- Unconscious assumptions and habits
- Distrust of collaboration (proprietary feelings)
- Contextual resistance
 - Everybody's got their own idea they want to implement
 - People don't like change
 - Organizational (structural) impediments



How can we share ideas and collaborate with each other?

- Creating collaborative networks
- Joining others for collaborative reflection
- Working with the Hub



Has anybody else tried this approach?

- Previous Hub projects
 - Holy Listening
 - Embodied Prayer
 - Storybooks
- Upcoming Hub projects
 - Guided Meditation
 - Character Values
 - Repeats of
 - Embodied Prayer
 - Storybooks

