

Improvising Teacher Professional Learning: Lessons from Camp Yes And

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Purpose

This workshop addresses the need for effective, practical, and engaging professional learning experiences that support teachers to integrate academic and social-emotional learning for ALL students.

Overview

"Life-changing and inspiring. I feel renewed creatively and emotionally." What school leader wouldn't want to hear teachers describe their professional learning experiences in this way? This hands-on workshop explores the use of improvisational theater methods in teacher professional learning. Participants will learn practical, fun, and effective strategies, along with lessons learned from directing Camp Yes And, our Indiana University summer camp that combines improv-based instruction for youth with autism and educator professional learning. Learn the magic that prompted a 25-year veteran teacher to exclaim: "Positive results immediately. Wow! I already wish I had done this years ago."

Learning Outcomes

As a result of their participation, school leaders will be able to:

- Describe ways that improvisational theater aligns with research around designing effective professional learning for educators
- Describe ways that improvisational theater aligns with best practice for instruction of students with disabilities, including Universal Design for Learning and instructional scaffolding
- Facilitate improvisational theater exercises that 1) develop a climate of trust and support among faculty and 2) address Indiana's academic standards and social-emotional learning competencies

Facilitator Bio

Jim Ansaldo, PhD, is a Research Scholar at the Center on Education and Lifelong Learning, Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, Indiana University Bloomington. For 20 years, he has conducted research, supported school change efforts, and facilitated teacher professional learning around applied improvisation, culturally responsive practice, curriculum design, problem solving, and reflective communication. Jim is a founder and co-director of Camp Yes And, an improv summer camp for teens on the autism spectrum and educators (<http://yesand.indiana.edu>).