

Not Much of a Conversation?!

c. 1999, Barry Sweeny

BEGINNING TEACHERS DON'T ...

- Want to look dumb, silly, or immature
- Want to ask too many questions
- Want to bother their mentors or other experienced teachers too much
- Know all the questions that they should ask

BEGINNING TEACHERS DO WANT TO ...

- Focus on demonstrating what they can do well
- Be as independent as possible
- Show they are open to & expecting to learn
- Make a difference in the school & in the lives of their students



MENTORS DON'T WANT ...

- Their intern to think it looks like they really need help
- To be critical or discouraging
- To look like a "Know-it-all"
- To do too much
- To do too little, but are unsure of how to strike a balance
- To "dump" their years of experience without regard to the intern's interests, needs, or readiness to learn

MENTORS DO WANT TO ...

- Make their many years of experience available so the intern can avoid trial & error learning and lots of mistakes
- Provide timely, high priority assistance and information
- Be positive and supportive
- Be collaborative
- Be respectful of the intern's training and prior experiences
- Assume the best of others.