

Creating a Caring Community

Tools for Learning Leaders

The First D.R.O.P. – Self-reflection

This form can help education staff focus on creating a caring and equitable learning environment. By reflecting on everyday practices, educators can effectively create a caring community in center-based classrooms, family child care settings, socialization spaces, and homes. Caring behavior is like a drop of water that ripples out as education staff establish positive relationships with every child in their care. The children begin to feel safe and secure knowing adults have their best interests at heart, and the ripple continues.

Educators can complete the form alone and discuss their responses with a colleague or a learning leader. For more information on the questions listed below, refer to the handout, *Creating a Caring Community Tips for Educators*. Education leaders are encouraged to provide positive feedback when using D.R.O.P. strategies in the learning environment.

Educator: _____ **Observer:** _____

Program: _____ **Date:** _____

In the past week, how have I...	Examples	Ideas for the future
Designed a caring and equitable environment?		
Responded to individual needs?		
Organized awareness activities?		
Promoted and encouraged a sense of community?		



National Center on
Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning