

Insights for New Directors: Tiamoya Lee

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My name is Tiamoya Lee. I am the Head Start and Early Head Start Director, with Gulf Coast Community Services Association in Houston, Texas. When I first came into Head Start as a new director, I really wish that someone would have let me know that there's going to always be change. Although you may come to a point where you think you've got things down pat, there may be some change in regulations, or that your organization wants to move to another level. Or just go to another level of innovation. And so, there's going to be constant change. And when you work with children and families, you need to expect that. So, just be very flexible and open to tackling whatever comes their way.

What inspires me to do this work is really looking back at what we've accomplished, as a program. For the last three years, I've really started to put together a list of all the things that we've done, and we've accomplished, as a program. And so, when I have those tough times, I take a look back at all of our accomplishments and it really helps me to move forward. And look to what are we going to do, and what can we accomplish more. How can we go to the next level.

And then also, just really keeping a close connection with our parents and our families -- really hearing their stories. Really connected to our policy council, and some of our Parent Committee parents. Because, they really, really can talk to you about what they've seen, and the growth that's happened in their family, with their children. And so really having that connectedness with them, and speaking with them -- and then, looking at our accomplishments, is something that really keeps me getting up in the morning.

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