

Professional Development Description

Name of Entity: Judi Dodson MA, Bridges to Literacy

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Summary of Services provided: I believe that school consultation that creates trusting relationships with teachers and administrators can be effective in turning school achievement around. My work includes blended models of consultation and professional development including in person PD, webinars and via Skype. In addition I believe that a blended model of coaching – in person and via Skype and email can create the regular and personalized support teachers need to follow-through with the successful implementation of effective instruction.

I have been successful in creating trust as teachers work together as teams to analyze and interpret data and plan effective instruction that can close the achievement gap. Emphasis on teachers understanding the why of instructional practice makes a difference in implementation that works. My work with teachers places an emphasis on the development of literacy fluency from speaking and listening to reading and writing – with an emphasis on the role of oral language development and its connection to reading comprehension and writing.

I believe that intensive and targeted instruction is critical to closing the achievement gap. I also believe that achievement can be accelerated and enhanced when the social and emotional needs of children are considered and addressed at the same time as academic needs. The development of self-esteem and a love of learning add to achievement. I believe that school can still be a joyful place for students and teachers and we do not have to compromise that quality as we enhance achievement for our students who struggle.