

## Key Takeaways

- Ask more questions, give fewer answers
- Increase questions on how children know things rather than on what they know
- Focus on learning by experiencing and doing
- See mistakes as opportunities

## Episode Notes

This episode features a wonderful conversation centered around STEM, Instructional Support, and Equity. It also includes some fun activities to engage with your students for Halloween!

our amazing guest, Dr. Lourdes Norman-McKay talked about how women and underrepresented groups often hold back in fear of making mistakes. **Can you relate to this, or do you recognize this hesitancy in students you teach?**

### Halloween Activity

Lourdes' idea around this curiosity box included items such as Pumpkin guts, egg yolks, Jello, Marbles in dish soap, etc. A user from our Community also recommended Spaghetti noodles with oil!

- Have your students stick their hands into the box, without being able to see the items and describe how it feels.
- Ask questions such as "do you like it or not like how it feels? Why do you or don't you like the way it feels?" By using just their sense of just touch, what can they explore and learn? What conclusion can they come to?
- Have them make a guess and ask them about the traits that made them come to this conclusion. "How do you know it's pumpkin guts?"
- Then have the next student try and ask them if they agree or disagree with the previous student who felt these items? What can they add to the description given by the other students?

A quote Laurdes shared that really stuck with me is **"You aren't trying to expedite an answer, you are trying to shape a process in a human being"** At this early age, you want to bolster not only the process but confidence in their abilities. By exploring how to come to these hypotheses and prompting these thought processes, you're shaping the way they solve future problems!

**How can we encourage children to respect everyone's viewpoint in the classroom?** Be sure to let them know that there isn't just one answer to a question, encourage them to take risks! Their curiosity, confidence, and ability to express their ideas are skills they will need in order to be successful in their lives and future careers.

### Learn more about promoting equity in critical thinking skills:

- [How to Help Girls Avoid the Trap of Perfectionism](#)
- [How Do Integration and Connections to the Real World Contribute to Concept Development?](#)
- [The Impact of Creating an Emotionally Supportive Learning Environment in Math Classrooms](#)