Fostering Essential Dispositions in Young Children

Example of how the video might be used during a training

Provide participants with a link to the video and ask them to view as part of their pre-work. Ask them to complete the worksheet and bring it with them. Then, during the session, choose a few segments to watch more closely based on training goals. Or, if time allows, show the entire video during the session, pausing after each segment to discuss.

- Begin by having each participant reflect about their own early childhood and identify one memorable experience that they now believe contributed to their personal development of an essential disposition. Pair them up and invite them to share their stories. Provide an opportunity for a few people to share with the large group. Emphasize the importance of our early experiences and interactions with others on the development of our current dispositions.

- Divide the participants into small groups. Assign each group one of the dispositions in the video. Have them:
  - review their notes then discuss with others in their group the points most interesting to them
  - brainstorm a list of strategies that providers could use to support children’s development of that disposition
  - create a poster that emphasizes their main points on large paper and post them up on the wall (provide markers and let them be as creative as they wish)

- Do a walk-about and give each group time to spend at each poster reading and discussing the implications for practice. If they come up with additional ideas, have them add to the list.

- After everyone has reviewed the posters, have them work individually, or in classroom teams to create action plans identifying the ideas that they will implement when they return to their own settings.

- Close the discussion by inviting each participant to quietly reflect on their own current dispositions. Then engage the whole group in a discussion about the impact that adults’ own experiences and strengths might have on their ability to foster these characteristics in young children.