

## **Ingham Impact Episode 44 – Together We Persevere**

[Cheryl Lewis] Like other teachers around the world, we've had to become super creative and rely on what's out there in the world. Definitely being creative about books and songs and curriculum and ideas, just sharing them. Which is what's fabulous about this kind of learning. I like to be creative and do things that are different. [Wendi King] I work with a population that is very hands-on that really needs to see a lot to learn a lot. So we thought. They came in yesterday and everything went off without a hitch. Like literally I tell Mrs Winslow: "The thing I did wrong was underestimated My children." They totally get it. They go to their spaces. They keep their distance. They have baskets at their seat. They have an extra mask. They have sanitizer. They have a stress ball. They have everything they might need right there. [Jamie Yeomans] There's a lot of kids not getting preschool right now. Who maybe would have normally. So I do think we kind of fill that void a little bit. We want to really empower parents. You are the first teachers. Let's not make it overcomplicated. 'cause a lot of families are overwhelmed right now. [Cheryl] Mental, socioeconomic, job loss, housing; the real things parents and families were dealing with and we all you know needed to address that. Check in with the families. First few is like how are you doing? You know, how are you doing? [Dione] There's a big advantage to like not having to fight with car seat straps and children who don't want to get ready or eat breakfast and the continuity is nice, at least having some socialization with faces that are familiar is really really great. [Wendi] I would put us against any grocery store any restaurant. That if people really wanted to be safe, they could come and visit SAIL. Don't really! But you could, 'cause we are really, I think, doing that great of a job. So I'm really proud of the students. [Jamie] We're kind of experimenting and sharing what's working, what's not working. We have found that sharing time is really important. That's something that we didn't do it with our face to face groups that we've added to the virtual groups, which is kind of fun. And I know, Cheryl, she just kind of jumped in. She was the first one with enough courage to jump in and do it. [Cheryl] Books, electronic books, videos, sing songs, movement, so we get some more movement ideas and then we collaborate, all my coworkers. We're here for families and children, so whatever we can do to support them.

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