

Podcast series

Leadership in Focus

Episode 4 – Creating conditions for learning to thrive

Discussion guide

The School Leadership Institute's Leadership in Focus podcast series shines a spotlight on school leaders and explores the key issues and challenges they face. This episode explores how leaders help create the conditions for learning to thrive in their schools.

[Episode 4: creating conditions for learning to thrive](#)
26:54 mins

Speakers

- **Joanne Jarvis:** SLI Director and host of the series
- **Chris Booker:** retired principal, life member of the NSW Primary Principals' Association, Fellow of the Australian Council for Educational Leaders
- **Corinna Robertson:** principal, leading SLI's work on middle leadership

Discussion points

For individuals

- Chris Brooker highlights the interpersonal qualities that are important for leaders to demonstrate on a daily basis. Consider a leader whom you consider to be effective in the role. What interpersonal qualities do they demonstrate? What do these qualities look like in your own practice as a leader?
- List practical, everyday ways that you can help create a positive culture for learning in your context.
- Chris Booker explains that school leaders need to demonstrate curiosity and excitement for learning, not just talk about it. Outline examples of ways you can 'walk the talk' as a leading learner of your school.

- Corinna Robertson describes developing 'a culture of collective efficacy' with the executive team of a school at which she was a new principal. How do you demonstrate efficacy as a mindset? How can you contribute to a culture of collective efficacy? Chris Brooker highlighted practices that team leaders could enact to be effective. Which ones resonate most with you and what practices might you like to strengthen as a leader of a team?

For teams

- Joanne Jarvis refers to Ken Blanchard's quote, 'In the past, the leader was a boss. Today's leaders must be partners with their people. They no longer can lead solely based on positional power.' Discuss this view in relation to leaders of schools.
- Reflect on the ways that effective leaders demonstrate distributive leadership in ways that build capabilities of the team and enable interdependency to thrive. What does this look like in your own team? What practices could be strengthened to enable your team to thrive?
- The podcast covers moral purpose, commitment to action, relational trust, and deep educational expertise. How do these core principles help school leaders to create the conditions for teacher and student learning to flourish?

For your reference

[Australian Council for Educational Leaders](#)

Byrk, Anthony S & Schneider, Barbara:
[Trust in Schools: A Core Resource for School Reform](#)
Educational Leadership, March 2003
Full article available online