

## Poem on Teachers and Instructional Coaching in Pre-K

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Teaching young children is a beautiful dance.  
A story of love.  
Of patience and boundless creativity.  
Where every new idea is magic,  
And the Tooth Fairy is real.

As teachers, we pay attention to the big and small things.  
Like the developmental range of a young child.  
And what's behind a tear or a smile.  
There's no one-size-fits-all remedy.  
It's both a science and art-filled melody.

Teachers deserve coaching with intention and care.  
And relationships built on trust—to help teachers dare,  
To open up and seek feedback.  
To set and own their goals.  
To be agents of their growth.

Together, we can make a plan,  
That helps us achieve what we set out to do.  
In a timeframe that's right for me and you.  
Where PD goals and observations connect,  
While teachers can practice and reflect.

Coaches should provide feedback in a space that is safe,  
With a tone that's empowering and full of grace.  
And where perspectives and strengths are valued in great lengths.

We can all agree –  
With such busy days,  
It's what teachers deserve.  
It's what teachers need.

Because what teachers really want is to create joy.  
Joyful learning full of intention and play.  
And materials with pictures and messages  
That create a sense of belonging each day.

For all children. (And teachers!)  
Who want to be seen.

For dual language learners  
Who want to be heard.

Together, we can help teachers grow,  
Leveraging the skills that they already know.  
Together, we can guide young minds,  
Setting them on the path to shine.

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This poem—shared in a June 22 webinar hosted by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation—was created using quotes from teachers and coaches that informed Teachstone’s work to create a new instructional coaching tool for pre-K teachers. We used ChatGPT to summarize these quotes, which we then turned into the following poem. View the webinar at <https://usprogram.gatesfoundation.org/early-learning-webinar>.