

Momentum turns a mob into a community that transitions efficiently together.

The Momentum Leader clusters early adopters around a focal point.

Random activities.

Individuals or small groups engaging in random or disruptive activities.

Focal point.

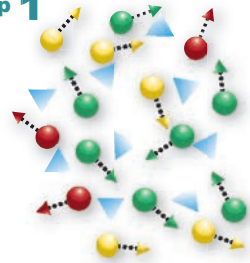
Find unity in the children's interests and form clusters. Or direct children's attention to a planned focus or routine.

The early adopter.

At this moment, the child appears focused on the momentum leader or the focal point.

The child may be seamlessly cleaning up or transitioning on their own. The child should not be kept waiting.

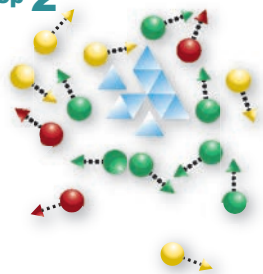
Step 1



The mob.

- Have you ever been in this classroom?
- You can't plug children into something that isn't actually happening.
- Even if children hold the same materials, are they in sync?
- Observe what several children need and think of a way to achieve it as a group.

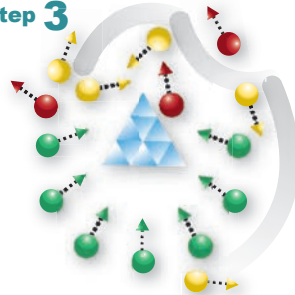
Step 2



The Momentum Leader creates a focal point attracting early adopters.

- Position materials centrally.
- Entice with curiosity. • Offer pleasing familiarity.
- Orient early adopters in a cluster around the focal point.
- Maintain pacing that respects the early adopters and keeps them engaged.
- Have an appetizer.
- Address groups and name children in pairs.
- Use group language. "We, us, let's all, together!"
- Resist addressing individual needs, but seek ways to help clusters of children together.
- Make sure children have materials they need to cooperate with instructions immediately.
- Store materials in a way that promotes independence.

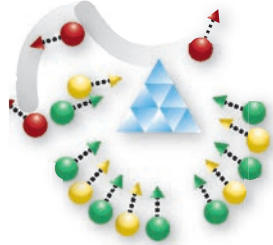
Step 3



Next, the Enlightened Shadow focuses attention on late adopters.

- Turn children to be fully facing the focal point.
- Stay out of the middle.
- Don't block view of the focal point or of peers.
- Use group language.
- Use a whisper voice.
- Whisper questions that could be "self talk", such as "What are they doing?"
- Use a sliding point to help individuals reference the group.

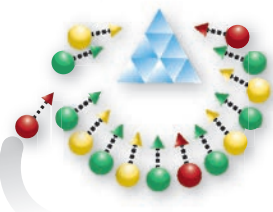
Step 4



The Enlightened Shadow addresses the needs of reluctant adopters.

- Watch for children who are disconnected.
- Weave them into the group before they disrupt.
- Offer extra warmth and support..
- Use a whisper voice.
- Stay low and behind this child. Stay out of the middle.
- Point your child towards the activity hub.
- Say "This is what the group is doing now."
- Use a tone of curiosity to model questions like "Oh, what is that friend holding?"
- Use "gluing" to keep a reluctant child at your side while you help late adopters plug in first.
- Don't solve directly if you can reference someone/something to help the child get unstuck.

Step 5



The Enlightened Shadow keeps a watchful eye for children who choose to leave the group or become distracted.

The two roles of Momentum Leader and Enlightened Shadow may also be the alternating roles of one teacher, nimbly changing hats as situations demand:

- When the group needs momentum, become the Momentum Leader.
- When the group is on a roll but a minority are disconnected, switch to the role of Enlightened Shadow.

The Enlightened Shadow connects individuals to the momentum of the group.

The late adopter.

At this moment, the child does not naturally and independently match what the group is doing, but can likely rejoin with a quick intervention.

The child may need frequent quick reminders, help with a stuck zipper, or a quiet sliding point to orient them to the focal point.

The reluctant adopter.

At this moment, the child appears unable or unmotivated to quickly reconnect to the group. The child may be avoidant, overwhelmed, demanding, disruptive or have a deficit of self-help skills that require a great deal of 1-1 support.

The child may struggle with negative group feelings, sensory overload, a deficit of self-help skills, or they may be unsettled by transitions, verbal instructions, or overwhelmed by social demands.

The Enlightened Shadow.

This quiet coach helps individuals weave connections between other children and materials, and hook back in when they have lost connection to the group.