To teach with intention, teachers . . .

1. Create a learning environment rich in materials, experiences, and interactions
2. Encourage children to explore materials, experiences, relationships, and ideas
3. Converse respectfully, reciprocally, and frequently with children
4. Consciously promote all areas of learning and development
5. Know the content (concepts, vocabulary, facts, skills) that make up each area of learning
6. Know and use general teaching strategies that are effective with young children
7. Match content with children’s developmental levels and emerging abilities
8. Are planful, purposeful, and thoughtful
9. Take advantage of spontaneous, unexpected teaching and learning opportunities
10. Carefully observe children to determine their interests and level of understanding
11. Adjust their instructional strategies to work with different individuals and groups
12. Neither underestimate nor overestimate what children can do and learn
13. Challenge children to question their own thinking and conclusions
14. Scaffold learning, with careful consideration of introducing new materials and ideas
15. Reflect on and change teaching strategies based on children’s responses