

EXPANSION & GROWTH STARTING IN PRESCHOOL

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Lakewood, Colorado

Van Lunen "Blue Thunder" - July 2015



WHAT I DID:

Bethlehem Lutheran School had been looking for an Early Learning Center (ELC) Administrator for five years. The staff was very welcoming and they were craving guidance and direction! I had a number of goals coming into this new organization:

- * Not to make dramatic changes the first year
- * Build relationships and trust
- * See and experience their existing programs, instead of following my personal agenda
- * Evaluate and determine the needs of the staff and the program
- * Expand by filling classrooms and adding an additional classroom

WHAT DID I LEARN?

Coming into an established school as a new leader, I learned the importance of creating a team! From the first staff meeting, relationships were being created and, in many cases, mended. We worked on creating a team that focused solely on benefited our program in order to keep personal agendas at bay. I also learned that there is value in not making immediate changes to an organization, just because there were things that had worked for me in the past. There is importance of evaluating the needs in your school, church and community before taking action. It is crucial to take the time to listen to what your families needs are.

POSITIVE OUTCOME:

Bethlehem Early Learning Center continues to thrive and grow. We will continue to work together as a team, so that we can provide a loving, caring and Christ-centered program for our families. We are taking the next steps to continue to lead our Church and School in the right direction through a Strategic Plan beginning June 1, 2015.