



Weaving a Tapestry of Talent:

*A Collaborative
Approach to ECEC
Community Partnerships*

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4-C: Community Coordinated Child Care- Kendra Nenia,
DeKalb County ROE- Samantha McDavid

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Innovation in Action Reaching the Workforce
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**Let us introduce
ourselves!**



Our Objectives:



Benefits

Understand the benefits of inter-agency collaboration in the ECEC community.



Potential Partners

Identify potential partners and networks for collaborative initiatives among ECEC stakeholders



Action Plan

Develop action plans to build collaborative partnerships for workforce development in your own communities



How it all started...

- The ECACE was a catalyst for our connections
 - We all said, "YES!"
- We all have a common goal



My pleasure!

Let's meet & talk.

I'd love to!

YES!!

YES!

That sounds like my professional goal too!

Yes!

Let's meet this week.

When can we start?



Benefits of Inter-Agency Collaboration



How it is benefiting our agencies & us:



Build on natural **connections & strengths**

- Our organizations have differing capacities.
- We are all contributing to a common goal.
- Increasing interactions between ECE and Public Education
- Alignment between agencies



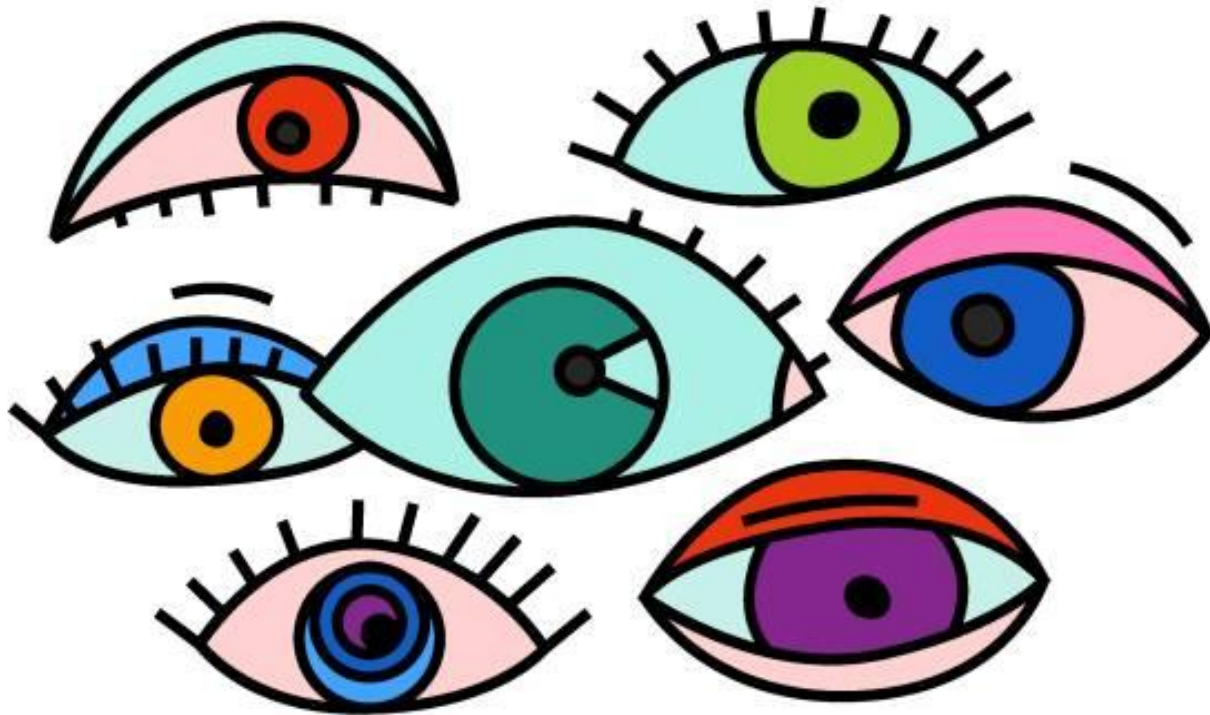
How it is benefiting our agencies & us:

Knowledge:

- Sharing and receiving
- Open to ideas and conversations
- Positively pushes us to think non-traditionally



How it is benefiting our agencies & us:



Opportunities to...

- Identify community *and* agency needs
- Grow our assets
- Deepens our connections



How it is benefiting our agencies & us:

Community Support- we share & celebrate successes



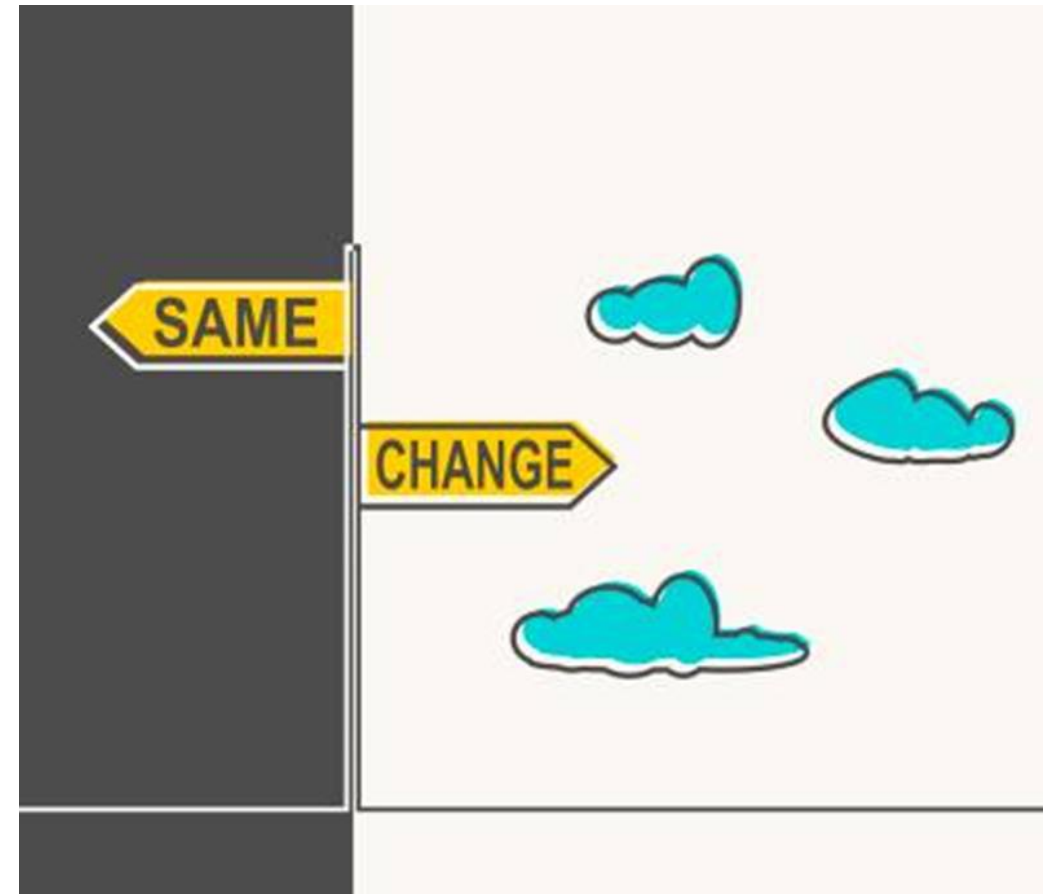
We are...

- Networking
- Building relationships
- Mutual encouragement
- Nurturing our coordinated & collaborative approach
- Growing & maintaining a continued awareness of community resources

What we're hoping for the future

Hopes:

- Continued collaborations
- Increase professionalism of ECEC
- Spread more awareness about ECEC & EC in Public Ed
- Increased advocacy for ECEC professionals



Identifying Potential Partners

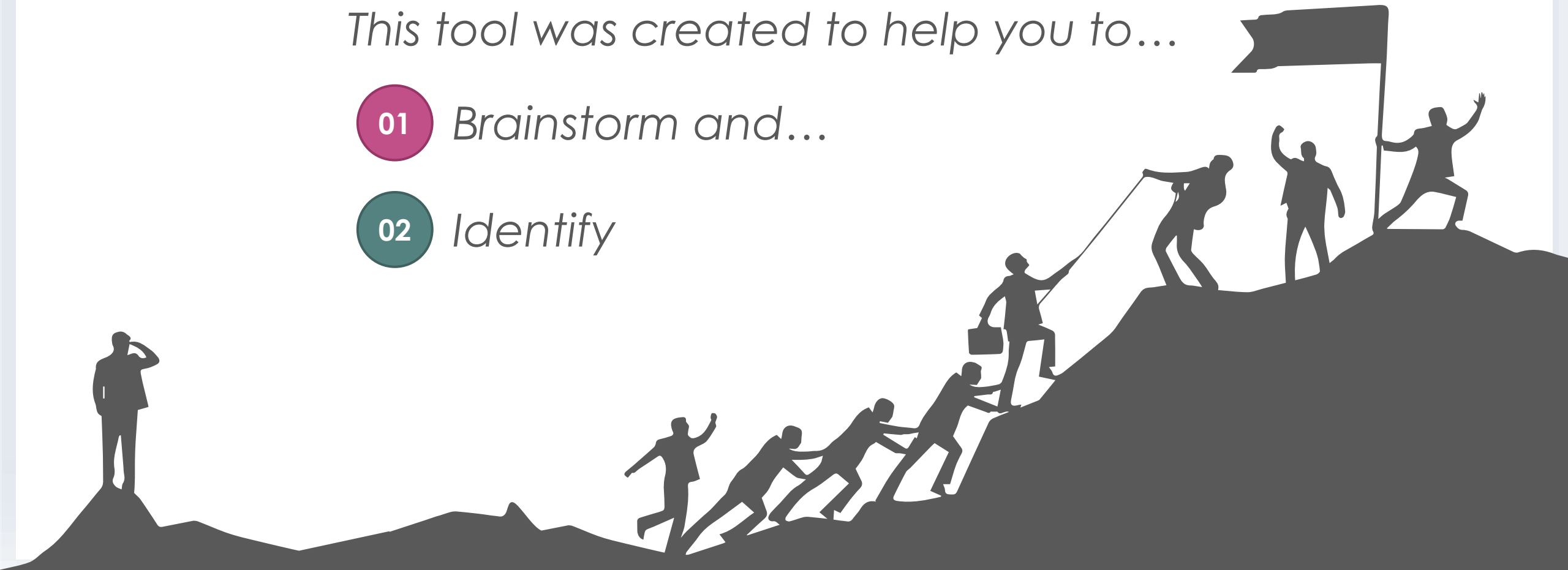


Key Partner Identification: Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce Pipeline Development Tool

This tool was created to help you to...

01 *Brainstorm and...*

02 *Identify*



Key Partner Identification: Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce Pipeline Development



You will start by answering:

1. What Partner/Organization do you represent?
2. What work has already been done in your community regarding the ECEC workforce pipeline development and to what extent is your organization already engaged in this work?



Key Partner Identification: Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce Pipeline Development

3. Below identify other local priority key partners that generally have goals to support ECEC workforce development and may already be engaged in the work. *Priority Key Partners should include Child Care Resource and Referral Agency, Birth to Five Illinois Region, Community Colleges, and Universities.*

Priority Key Partners	Main Contact	Already Engaged (Y/N)



Key Partner Identification: Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce Pipeline Development

4. Now identify other potential partners who have a vested interest or benefit from engaging in ECEC workforce pipeline development. Briefly listing the benefits to the potential partner will help communicate why their perspective is valuable. *Potential Partners may include Regional Offices of Education, Early Childhood Collaboratives, Early Childhood Education and Care Organizations, School Districts/High Schools, Career and Technical Education programs, and Economic Development groups.*

Priority Key Partners	Main Contact	Benefits



Key Partner Identification: Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce Pipeline Development

5. Next, identify any other possible partners who are important to your local/regional work. Consider community leaders/organizations that may have aligned values. *Consider Chambers of Commerce, Large Employers, etc.*

Priority Key Partners	Main Contact	Benefits



Key Partner Identification: Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce Pipeline Development

The final question:

6. Lastly, identify the goal or community impact of collaborating to increase the ECEC workforce pipeline will have for your community.



It's your turn!

- Please get in groups of 2 or 3.
- Use the tool provided to think about potential partners in your communities.
- We scheduled 10 minutes.



Action Plan:
Making it
Happen



Building Collaborative Partnerships Brainstorming Worksheet



Step 1: Community Needs Assessment

What are the biggest challenges facing the early childhood workforce in our community?	Who are the primary stakeholders affected by these challenges?	What existing resources and training opportunities are available for early childhood educators in our region?	What gaps exist in professional development, certification, or degree programs for early childhood educators?
	Daycare providers, parents, ROE, CCR&R, workforce boards	I-learning/Gateways Local CCR&R On-line webinars	



Step 2: Identifying and Engaging Key Partners

Who are potential partners that can help address workforce development needs?	How can we initiate engagement with these partners? What communication strategies should we use?	What shared goals or mutual benefits could motivate collaboration?
<p><i>Local daycare centers and early learning programs</i></p> <p><i>K-12 schools/ROE</i></p> <p><i>Workforce development boards</i></p> <p><i>Local and state agencies</i></p> <p><i>Nonprofits and advocacy organizations</i></p> <p><i>Businesses and employers</i></p>		



Step 3: Establishing Clear Goals and Objectives

<p>What are our institution's goals for supporting early childhood workforce development? How do our goals align with the goals of our community partners?</p>	<p>What specific, measurable objectives can we set?</p>	<p>How will we evaluate success? What metrics or benchmarks should we track?</p>
	<p>Increasing program enrollment, creating new certificate programs, launching scholarships</p>	



Step 4: Developing Accessible and Flexible Educational Pathways

How can we provide credit for prior learning, multiple entry points, or professional experience?	What barriers prevent early childhood educators from pursuing further education, and how can we address them?	Are there local businesses, nonprofits, or government programs that could provide support, including scholarships or tuition assistance?
	Money. Time, Travel, Health, Child care, Other supports	Community foundations, Altrusa, Kiwanis, Lions Club, Larger area employers



Step 5: Implementing Professional Development & Mentorship Programs

How can we connect students with experienced mentors in the early childhood field?	What professional development opportunities should we offer?	How can we create meaningful hands-on learning experiences, such as apprenticeships or internships?
	Workshops, continuing education, leadership training	



Step 6: Strengthening Career Pathways & Job Placement Support

<p>How can we collaborate with employers and other stakeholders to create strong career pathways for graduates?</p>	<p>What job placement or networking opportunities should we develop?</p>	<p>How can we align our programs with state licensing requirements and career advancement opportunities?</p>	<p>Where can we leverage collaboration for advocacy efforts to help increase funding for ECE workforce development?</p>
	<p>Career fairs, Job boards, Meet and greet event</p>		



Step 7: Developing a Sustainable Collaboration Model

How can we formalize partnerships?	What structures already exist for ongoing collaboration and feedback among stakeholders? What additional structures do we need to create?	What communication channels and opportunities can we develop to ensure ongoing interaction and discussion?	How will we measure and communicate the impact of our efforts?	What strategies or structures can ensure long-term sustainability of partnerships and collaborative activities, regardless of changes in institutional staffing?
MOUs, advisory councils				



It's your turn!

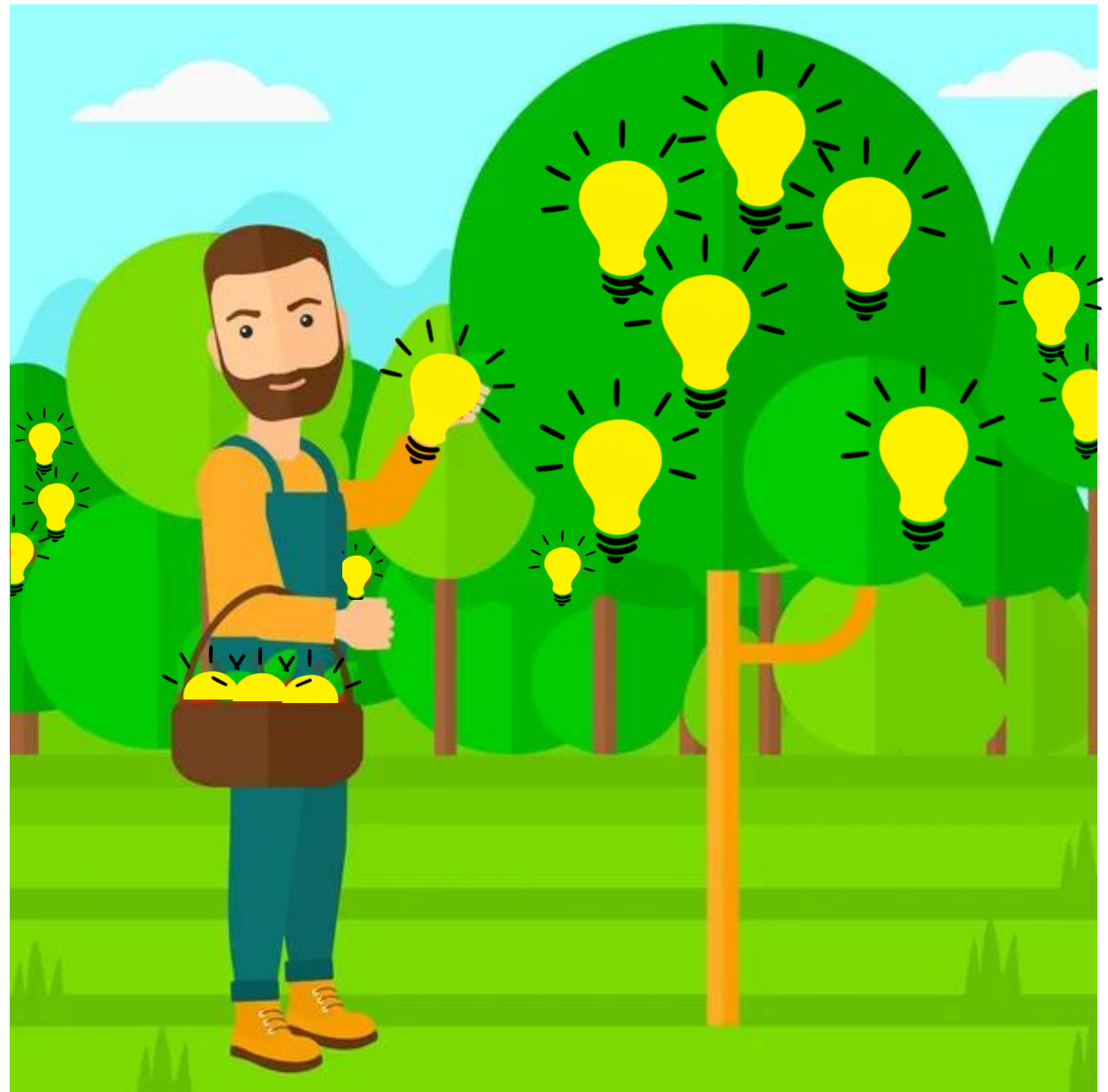
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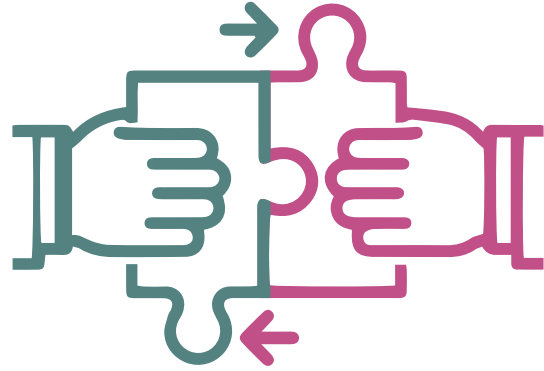


Let's harvest your bright ideas from the brainstorming session

What epiphanies did you have?
Did anything new come to mind?
What are you going to do next?

We'd love to hear!!





THANKS

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR US?

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