Effective Strategies for supporting families in the war zone of poverty

1. Connect through Oral Culture
   - Build relationships
   - Share info about yourself
   - Put info in a “story” format
   - Repeat info and give reminders
   - Give many opportunities for hands-on learning
   - Incorporate music into learning

2. Practice Strengths Perspective
   - Look for the strengths in people/families
   - Find ways for people to shine
   - Practice empathy (instead of sympathy)

3. Focus on enrichment and core-skills versus remediation
   - Growing up in poverty = less exposure to language, reading, learning opportunities, travel, etc.
   - Connect people to hands on learning opportunities
   - Teach and Model Print Skills: reading is a core skill needed for success

4. Influence motivation by creating shared meaning
   - Motivation differs between social classes
     1. Find out what motivates a person
     2. Connect that to what you know will help the person move forward

5. Foster belonging
   - Humans have a fundamental need to identify with others and feel a sense of “BELONGING.” ~ Kenneth Burke Theory
     - Disclose Info about yourself: Help people see how you are more “like” each other than different
     - Build Resiliency: Treat people special

6. Build Assets and Social Capital
   - Asset Theory: The more assets one has, the more likely they will succeed (bootstraps)
   - Social Capital Theory: Knowing the right people increases success (mentoring, relationships)

7. Build a full resource backpack
   - Poverty is complex; a collective effort is needed
   - Who in your community is PAID to help? Who wants to help because they CARE?