

Becoming a Workforce of Everyday Scientists: Frontline Staff in Agencies and Tribes



Child Welfare
Virtual Expo

Andrew Yost | Dana Weiner



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Become An “Everyday Scientist”

What is an everyday scientist?

- A person who is curious, resourceful, and experimental.

How do I become an everyday scientist?

- Develop questions that can be answered using data and evidence.
- Identify reliable and valid data sources.
- Understand action implications of the answers to our questions.
- Incorporate tests using practice improvement cycles (Plan-Do-Study-Act).



Interact With Data and Evidence

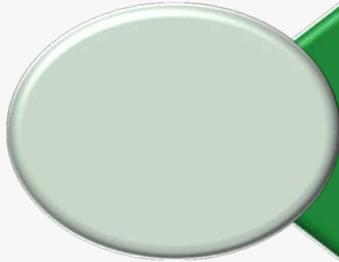
Critically
consume

Collaboratively
interpret

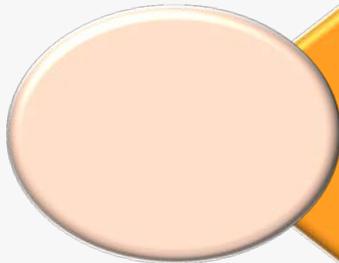
Responsibly
produce



Potential Challenges



Data might differ from our beliefs, values, or experience.



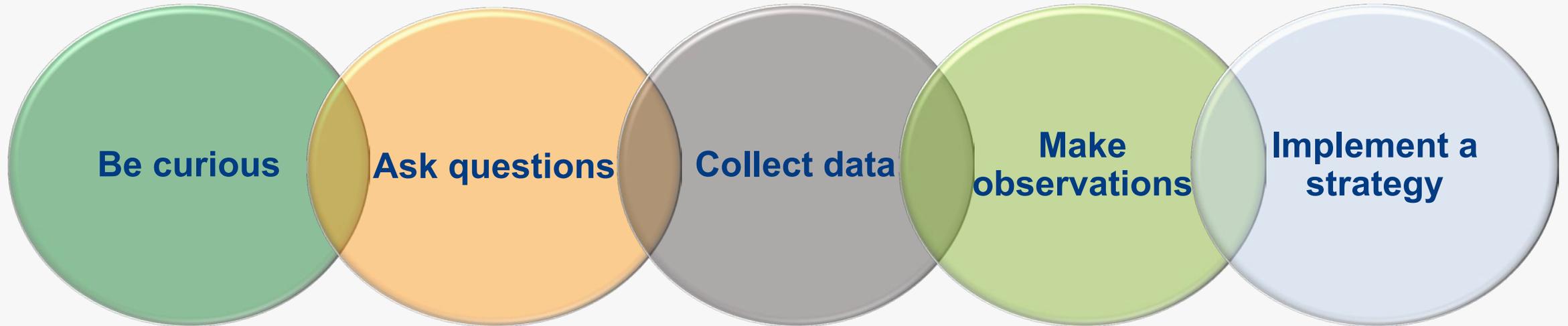
Data might not be clean and comprehensive enough for analyses that would answer our questions.



Implementation of changes can be slow, complex, and incomplete.



Everyday Scientist



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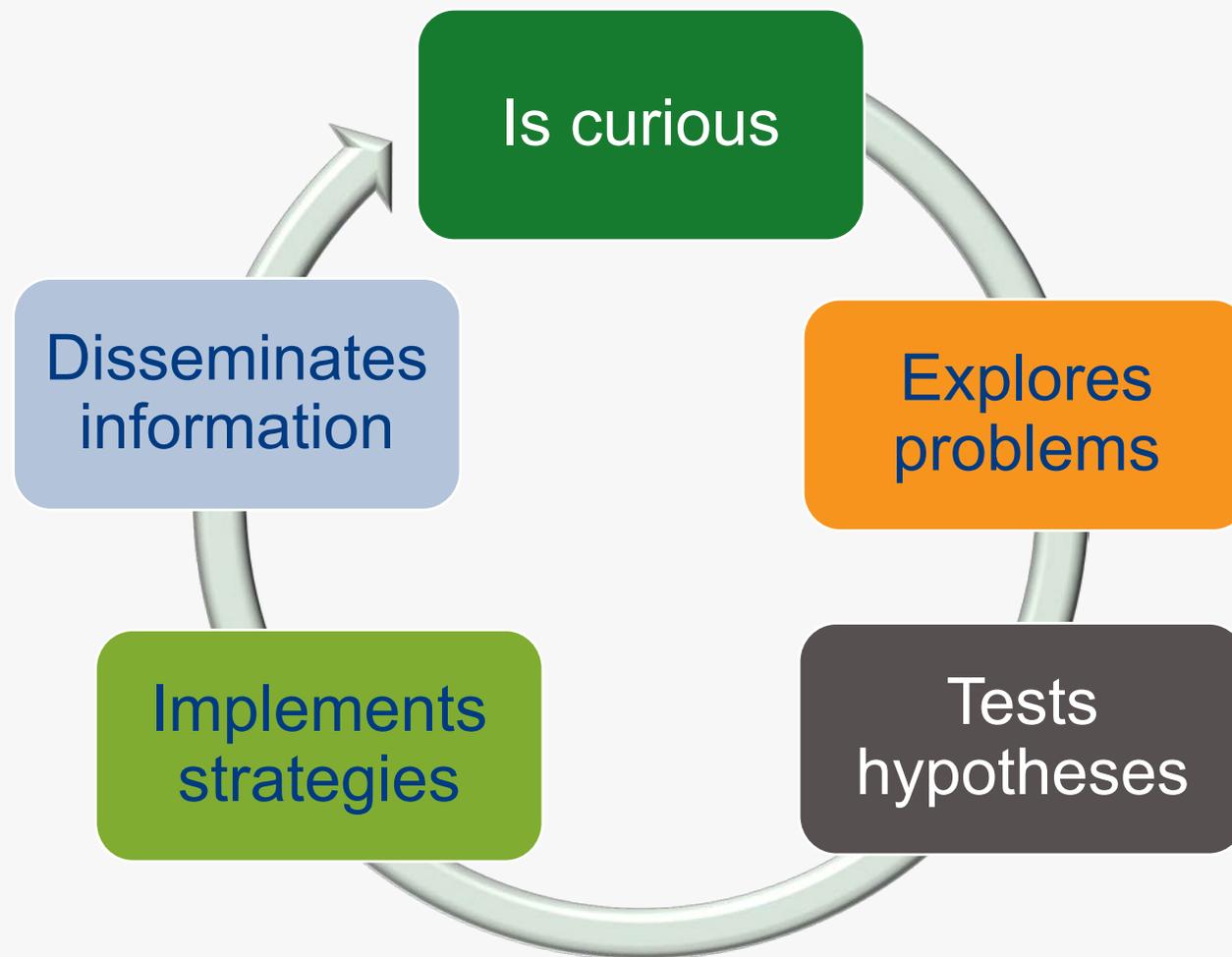
**Alisa Lee | Michaela Guthrie | Jennifer Benefiel
Vanessa Amburgey | Anita Barbee**



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Characteristics of a Scientist



What Can We Do to Become Everyday Scientists?

Exercise
curiosity

Collect and
enter data

Try strategies

Share
discoveries



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Worker's Role in Building Knowledge

Know the strengths and weaknesses of the service provided.

Understand families' journeys and how your role impacts them.

Be good stewards of data and contribute to the knowledge base.

Think about changing practice to improve outcomes.

Learn the specifics of Indian Child Welfare Act cases and tribal requirements.



Encouraging System-Level Change

Assess
challenges
within the
system.

Be
purposeful,
brave, and
reflective.

Share
information
and data.

Give
feedback to
leadership.

Research
different
approaches
to practice.

Understand
federal laws
and
regulations.



Encouraging the Use of Data

Use informal Plan-Do-Study-Act process.

Make changes to engagement techniques and strategies.

Give child welfare professionals tools and knowledge.

Make the connection between documentation and data.

Use data in court reports.



Final Thoughts

Have a 360
impact on your
system.

Be the voice of
advocacy for
families

Use data in
practice and
make data-
informed
decisions.

Continue to learn
about how to best
serve families.



Up Next!

Thank you for your participation today!

Please explore the Virtual Gallery and chat with the speakers in the Networking Lounge.

The next session will begin at 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time.



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