



# The Fine Line

DESIGN THINKING FOR DEVELOPING PROFESSIONALLY

## INSPIRATION FROM THE NATIONAL PASTTIME



With summer in every educator's sights, national league baseball is just getting into the "swing" of things. Whether it is warm summer nights filled with innings of competition or sun-baked days of four-year old tee-ball, complete with dandelion-picking, there are some great opportunities for reflecting on developing your craft as a design thinker and educator.



- Like baseball, our "season" is long!
- Every day is "game day."
- When do we pro's get to practice? Test new ideas?

## Making Plays

## SUSTAINING DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE "SEASON"

It's not uncommon for a little leaguer, running to third, to get called out for, what?! Not tagging up! Oh, the horror!

Trade umpires for evaluators and educators find themselves having to showcase their skills under bright lights, with little room for mistakes or their "stats" will fall.

So, how do educators apply key components of design thinking such as ideation, prototyping, testing and refinement to our pedagogy without racking up a losing record?



Wins (38%) Losses (62%)

## COACHING YOUR DESIGN

Educators feel testing ideas can spell disaster in a culture of accountability. Add in the fact that it seems like a revolving door of new ideas thrown at the profession from umpires, coaches, managers, teammates, and fans! This fear of failure should not dissuade us.

- Ideation:** We have tons of ideas to facilitate change, but less of the rest.
- Testing Ideas:** Instead, we may continue an arbitrary practice over and over, yet be overly cautious about testing new ideas.
- Prototyping:** Even if we discard the arbitrary, we might struggle with developing a prototype and allowing the time needed to refine the idea.

## WHAT WOULD COACH SAY?



In a recent article entitled "Lifeworthy Learning" in the March 2016 Educational Leadership, David N. Perkins says, in regards to the learning that kids need today but in a context of the testing reality "many schools have taken big steps without any decrease in performance on conventional measures. And we can't afford to stay stuck in the "current reality" if its not what our learners really need."



## TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A 7TH INNING STRETCH

So what are some new ideas you want to test? If there are too many, that's a good thing! Afford yourself a little pause and fearlessly try some new prototypes.

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