

Lindsey Arhart

March 4, 2010

Section 1

K-4 Cognitive Development

Deciduous Forest Reflection

For this lesson plan I was presented with a challenge. Not only was this my first third grade Methods of Cognitive Development lesson plan but also the teacher requested that I do it on a subject I didn't know much about. Though it was difficult at times this lesson plan would really help me when I am become a future teacher, because it helped me realize that at times I will be teaching things I am not comfortable with. The first task of my lesson plan I believe wasn't as successful as I had hoped. I passed out KWL sheets in hope that the children would fill out the K or W, but the students were rather confused on what to write down. I also figured out the most of them didn't even know what a deciduous forest was (my focus on my lesson plan). The next part of my lesson wasn't much of a success either. The students had a lot of difficulty reading my web from the back of the classroom, taking notes as quickly as I requested, and paying attention all proved to be problems. There are many things I could have done to make my lesson plan go smoother, yet I feel there were some things that went well about the web construction. The students were pretty enthusiastic when I was telling them the information about the deciduous forest, I was able to teach all the information necessary when the students were quiet. To assess my students I used authentic assessment to determine their understanding of the different stories of a deciduous forest. This part of the lesson also made me have some mixed feelings. It was bad because some students

where stressing way to much about remembering all the facts I taught them, and it was successful because the students listened to my instruction throughout this activity. The final task was to finish the L part of the worksheet. Out of the whole lesson plan, I believe that this was the most successful part. The students where able to answer the “What did they learn” part of the worksheets and provide three good facts.

Since the children where going to be learning so much I decided to make more objectives. My first objective is if the students are able to indentify a deciduous forest. I feel this objective was achieved, because the students were authentically assessed to gather their knowledge about deciduous forest. The evidence that this objective was achieved is shown in the student’s pictures of the deciduous forests. Another objective that I believe was almost a success was when the students had to fill out the KWL worksheet. Like I stated above the student’s couldn’t move past the fact that they didn’t know anything about deciduous forest. At the end though, the children were able to show their best ability of completing a KWL worksheet, the evidence is under the “What did you learn” question and the three to five facts that each student included. Another objective that I believe was achieved was the children’s ability to construct and apply information to the web. When the student’s constructed the web with me there was plenty of information that the student’s had to copy down. All the students were able to write down what I had written down, even though; there was a lot of information. A final objective that I believe was achieved was when I asked the students to construct a picture of the deciduous forests. This was an authentic assessment to determine how much information the students have retained. The evidence that this objective was achieved is

in the student's drawings, each child was able to recognize the five layers of the forest, plants, and the animals that live in the forest.

As I have stated above my lesson didn't go as planned but I think that is all apart of learning to teach. The first thing I would change is making more of a "hook" when I begin teaching children. In the beginning of the lesson I need to grab my audience's attention. I think I would also change the KWL worksheet to WL worksheet. Since the children haven't even heard of the deciduous forest they couldn't fill out the "Know" part of the worksheet. Another thing I would change about my lesson plan is the students involvement, for this lesson plan the students where sitting and coping notes for a long period of time. Finally, if I was to change this lesson plan I would ensure that the students have more time to analyze what I was teaching them. To let the students have more time to think, I would make a copy of my web for each student.

To conclude, I have learned many knew things about my students from this lesson. I have learned a lot about the different personalities in the classroom, such as what students want my attention more, what students need help with spelling, and what students need a break during a lesson to refocus on the task before them. From this lesson I will be able to apply it to my next lesson to ensure that every student is having an equal opportunity to learn.