Integrating Project Learning into the Early Childhood Classroom

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Project-Based Learning

- Guiding question(s)
- Student-directed learning
- Learning integrated through all academic areas

 Meet state and district standards through hands-on learning

Project-Based Learning

- Parent/community involvement
- Culmination of learning
- Field visits



Degree of child initiation and decision making in different approaches to teaching

Single
Concept
Teacher
instructs,
determines
content;
single skills,
or concepts

Integrated
Concepts
Teacher
instructs,
determines
content,
integrates
skills and
content

Units
Teacher
instructs,
determines
content; unified
exploration of
several content
areas on a narrow
topic

Thematic
Teaching
Teacher
instructs,
determines
content;
or child initiated,
learning
experiences
integrated over a
broad topic

Teacher
Directed Inquiry
Thematic
approach with
teacher directing
and planning indepth research
and exploration
by children

Projects
In-depth investigation;
may be child or teacher
initiated, research
focused on finding
answers to student
questions, direction
follows children's
interest

Less child initiation and decision making

More child initiation and decision making

Helm & Katz. Young Investigators: The Project Approach in the Early Years. Teachers College Press, New York, November, 2000.

- Administration initiated
- Short introduction PD
- Online resources provided
- Teachers were welcome to do their own research

Year 1 Projects

Severe Weather
Famous Historical
Figures

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Single Concept Teacher instructs, determines content; single skills, or concepts

Integrated Concepts Teacher instructs, determines content, integrates skills and content Units
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More child initiation and decision making

- BECI-Superintendent's Plan
- In-depth Professional Development





Professional Development Plan





Year 2 Fall Project









Spring Project









Year 2 Reflection

Invited parents to project culmination

Allowed for more student choice

Integrated learning into all subject areas

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Projects
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Less child initiation and decision making

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More child initiation and decision making

Kindness

Musical Explorers

- Kindness
- Musical explorers





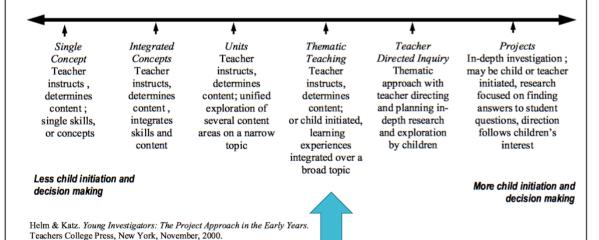
Year 3 Reflection

New grade configuration

Took a step backwards

Teacher directed

Degree of child initiation and decision making in different approaches to teaching



Goals

