1. Chapter 13 is *Extending the Language Arts Curriculum*. Because learning is a social phenomenon, children learn from those around them: parents, siblings, peers, teachers and other adults. When one becomes a parent, one becomes a teacher. Students provide the strongest link between the school and the home. Because parents do not always have the financial resources to subscribe to a variety of magazines, a classroom teacher may recycle current issues of magazines by sending them home with a student. Opening the classroom to volunteers from the community is important, but assistance is becoming more difficult to obtain. Inviting guest speakers is still another way to link the classroom with the community. Demonstrating genuine and sincere caring for and interest in students must be an essential element of every teacher. Orderly classrooms with set classroom management procedures are critical to keep students on task and prevent the frittering away of precious minutes for discipline or transition between learning activities. The Internet can be a vast sea of information or a vast waste of time.

2. "Teachers need to try to envolve all parents in the schools" (p.552) I chose this quote because I agree with it. I never heard of parent volunteers or anything before this class. Dr. Walker frequently mentions how parent volunteers helped him. I think it is a great idea, however I believe that in this day and age it will be very difficult to find parents who aren't working during the day already. But if there are available parents, I think they would make a great asset to the classroom.

3. We played Math-Pass and Word-Pass. I think they are both great, educational games that students will benefit from. They will learn along with having a great time. We also mentioned the 'Popcorn' game which I have played before. It is fun but makes the students pay attention.

4. The puppets I thought were a great idea. You do not really see puppets all that much, but I think the students can greatly benefit from them. I thought it was a great idea to even have the students pick a story they wrote to narrate using the puppets.

5. No more RDE'S!! Yay! I am very glad they are over, but at the same time I learned a lot from them. I feel the RDE's made me read the chapters, which I usually do not. I thought I really benefited from doing the RDE's.

Comments

1. A fine summary. I agree with your selected words, "Orderly classrooms with set classroom management procedures are critical to keep students on task and prevent the frittering away of precious minutes for discipline or transition between learning activities." We must be aware of time-management skills and never allow time to be wasted in the learning environment.

2. Everyone can request parents/guardians to assist in the classroom. Just be sure to inform your principal of your intentions first. If this group is unwilling to assist, try grandparents or retired people in the area. This cadre of people can really make a difference in the focused learning of your classroom.

3. Pass games are productive and fun learning.

4. Puppets also add to the learning environment and often are very motivational.
5. I am glad that the task of reading and responding to the RDEs are over with, too. However, like you, I felt they were worthy elements of learning. I used to use them with my elementary students and found them worthwhile.

Thursday, 06/19/2008 11:39 AM by Jennifer

1. Excellent summary, I especially like when you mention that when one becomes a parent, one becomes a teacher. This is extremely true. As a parent you are your child's first teacher and will continue to be throughout life.

2. I agree when you say it is difficult to find parent volunteers in this day and age. Dr. Walker speaks of his volunteers and he was very fortunate to have them, but in reality, it is hard. That's why I think senior citizen volunteers prove to be an excellent idea or classrooms.

3. I liked the math and word pass as well. These activities would have been very useful to me in my student teaching. I wish I had this class before I student taught because of all the useful ideas I have gained from it.

4. I like the idea of puppets as well. I think it helps students who are shy to have something to hide behind but also gives them a way to become more comfortable speaking in front of other children.

5. I share your excitement about the RDEs as well. I never read a textbook cover to cover and for this class I actually had to. I am glad though, because I learned so many valuable things from the book that can be put to good use in the classroom.

Thursday, 06/19/2008 2:20 PM by Melissa

Chapter 13 is about how to extend the language arts. It is important for teachers to set up home-school links for students because it helps improve literacy and language skills as well as intensifies students' interest in books. Farris suggests starting a family literacy program, encourage parents to have their children engage in ten-minute reads a day, sent home recycled current magazines and newspapers, have parents help with activities like tracing their family tree, and keep parents informed about what is going on in the classroom. All of these things will help engage students in the language arts outside of school. Also, Farris suggests recruiting volunteers like senior citizens and guest speakers. Senior citizens can help by telling stories, writing stories with students, and being pen pals with students. Teachers should expand their classroom experience through orderly classrooms with set management procedures, affective transitions between lessons, enticing classroom appearance, small group instruction, literacy center, writing cents that captive students, email buddies, and teleconferences with other classes in different schools.

"Family is the root of a child's early literacy experience" (pg 551). Every class I have ever taken about education has stressed this point. As teachers, we need to incorporate the families as much as possible. With their help, you can help enforce information both at school and at home.

I loved the transforming frog. I thought it was not only cute, but a great way to help teach students about the transformation from tadpoles to frogs.

I am not going to lie, I am kind of sick of free writes. Yesterday I got the point and today it just felt like overkill to me. I would have much rather used that class time to go over something that we have not covered yet.

I am glad someone allows Dr. Walker to share their literature units with us. I feel less stressed out seeing one put together.

Thursday, 06/19/2008 11:39 AM by David

A fine summary that includes the main ideas from the last chapter. "Senior citizens can help by telling stories, writing stories with students, and being pen pals with students." Yes, these are super words to remember. I have seen many teacher utilize the retired community to assist in the classroom. This collaboration is to the delight of students and the senior citizens, too.
2. Yes, the best teachers nurture the home/school connection for the betterment of optimal learning.

3. Yes, the puppets are fantastic motivational devices. Many companies are making transforming puppets due to the popularity of the Transformers.

4. I am sorry that you felt that the free write practice was not worthy learning. I asked you all to explore this most difficult aspect of writing so a deeper understanding of the importance of preparing the students for this kind of experience can and will be done prior to presenting them with such an abstract task.

5. I am pleased that you felt Lisa sharing her draft of the literature unit helpful. Remember to thoroughly share examples with your students as they will appreciate these hard copies, too. If you review your past blog entries, you will see a wealth of knowledge, learning, and growth; wonderful work.

Ashley Post on June 17 2008 (permalink)
Created on Tuesday, 06/17/2008 6:16 PM by Ashley

1. Chapter 13, the last chapter in Farris, talks about extending the curriculum. The outside world helps a child develop further than they would just based off the classroom setting. It all starts with the family. We know how important it is for parents/caregivers to read to their children. It says on pg. 551, "When one becomes a parent, one becomes a teacher". How true this is. As soon as our children are born, we as parents should begin reading to them or at least introduce them into books. Even by using picture books and making up your own stories will open up and develop a whole new world for the children. Once the children are in school, it is up to the teacher to come up with ways to involve the parents as much as possible. Parental involvement is so important yet it is rarely seen through schools. Having a classroom volunteer(s) is an excellent idea. Dr. Walker talks about parent volunteers all the time and I think that is next to the best invention ever. Not only are you getting the parents involved in what the children are doing but it's also helping you out as the teacher. Teachers only have two hands and there up against 50 if the size of the classroom is 25. Even if it's just one more set, those extra set of hands for the teacher are great. Parent volunteers aren't the only ones who can do this. The book says that the older generation is also helpful. The older generations come from many experiences and it also keeps their aging minds young. Guest speakers coming into the classroom gives the children a chance to listen, ask questions, and understand what the outside world is like. Have bankers, doctors, hardware store owners, come in and talk about what they do. Young children always have all kinds of ideas what they want to be when the grown up. This is the perfect opportunity to have them get a glimpse into many job titles. Have fun with your classes. Make the environment an exciting place to learn. There are so many opportunities for these children to grow. With activities, learning centers, projects and the internet, children are able to open up all kinds of doors for themselves.

2. "Experienced teachers agree that the first week of school sets the tone for the year" (Pg. 563).

I agree with this statement. I'm sure teachers become aware of this as they teach over the years, however, I think this is something that should be told to future teachers as well. I'm not saying that we don't know this already but as a reminder I think we should be told to be aware it. If the classroom is complete chaos from day one, the likelyhood that the classroom will be chaotic throughout the year is almost guaranteed. If from the beginning we make our classrooms friendly, loving, and interesting, but also have rules that are understood to be followed, the classroom should hopefully, but not always, run smoothly.

3. Thank you Lisa for the opportunity to actually SEE a literature unit. Having examples are always nice in class because I know for me personally I am a visual learner. I always like to see what is expected of me so that I know that I am doing the assignment/project correctly. I'm sure everyone will do just fine.

4. The puppet show was fun today with Dr. Walker. I think this a great idea for our students. It said in Farris that puppet shows were an awesome addition to the classroom because it allows students to come out of their shells. The students can be someone/something else other than themselves and it gives the child a chance to have fun. I
loved the variety of puppets.

5. Well HURRAY! The RDE's are finally complete. While having an RDE every night was a bit rough, I felt as though I learned a lot. We had to actually read the text to post our blogs and unlike most, I believe this text was outstanding. There is a lot of important information that can be taken with us when we get into our own classrooms. The RDEs were also helpful because it allowed us to say things that weren't always able to be brought up in class (for time purposes). Everyone was able to put out their feelings and overall, I really enjoyed reading and blogging about the text.

Comments

1.) Nice to the point summary.

2.) I agree as well. All of my experience so far has proven that statement.

3.) I am sure you will do fine as well. I was happy to see one put together.

4.) Every child I have ever met gets so excited about the prospect of puppets. I have already started a small collection myself.

5.) Hurray is the perfect ending statement:)

Tuesday, 06/17/2008 6:28 PM by Jennifer

1. Your summary is a good learning experience for all. I esp. like your words at the end, "With activities, learning centers, projects and the Internet, children are able to open up all kinds of doors for themselves." Let's always open up the doors of learning and show the students how to unlock these doors for themselves, too.

2. First impressions are vitally important. Students want to know they are safe and that learning will be conducting in an orderly, planned manner. Be sure to set high expectations and demand excellence not only in academics but in behavior, too.

3. I agree, it was nice that Lisa provided us with a sample draft of the literature unit. Best of luck as you complete yours and use the unit in the future.

4. Puppets are a delightful addition to the learning environment. Here again we motivate students to learn and create and perform.

5. I agree, Hooray! If you review your past blog entries, you will see a wealth of knowledge, learning, and growth; wonderful work.

Thursday, 06/19/2008 10:33 AM by DAVID

Christine (permalink)
1. Chapter 13 tells us how to extend the language arts curriculum. Children learn from the people around them. Teachers need to involve the community into the classroom. Literacy begins at home so bringing the family into the teaching of language arts can be a great benefit to children. All parents should be given the opportunity to be involved in the school and teachers need to find creative ways of involving them in the learning process. Parents can support their children by doing ten minute reads at home, making use of recycled issues of magazines or newspaper subscriptions sent home by teachers. Senior citizens are great volunteers for the classroom because of their ability to enrich the curriculum by sharing life experiences, telling stories, talking about historical events, and sharing old photographs and newspaper clippings. Having guest speakers visit the class one at a time is found to be more effective than having them all at once, such as for a career day. Guest speakers should be from the community the children are from so the information they receive is relevant to their lives. The language arts curriculum can be extended with the use of the internet. Web quests, search engines and language arts websites are some of the resources available for teaching and learning about the language arts.

2. “Family is the root of a child’s early literacy experiences.” (pg 551) This is such a basic quote but so true. As teachers, we have to make sure that we communicate with parents about how important it is to read with their children at home.

3. I liked how this chapter talks about search engines for kids. The chapter lists websites such as Yahooligans and Ask Jeeves for Kids. I did not realize that these websites were out there but now that I know I am definitely going to check them out.

4. This chapter also provides internet resources for language arts. There is a list of children’s authors with their website addresses and some information about the site. I think this is a great list to keep for the classroom.

5. I feel that the RDE assignments have been very beneficial to me. We often don’t read a whole textbook or even use them at all sometimes but I am glad that I have read this book. Since I will be student teaching in the fall, I think this book will come in good use for me to refer back to.

Comments

1. I thought you had a very organized, complete summary.

2. Very true. Many children may have never even been read to, so it is very important to let the parents know the importance of reading. And if the parents do not listen, at least the students will get enough of it in school.

3. It is great to have kid-friendly websites.

4. I also think the internet resources for language arts are very beneficial for us.

5. I wrote almost the same thing. I usually do not read, but in this class we had to and I truly was not bored with the information. I learned lots of valuable tips.

Tuesday, 06/17/2008 7:18 PM by Samantha
the students are able to practice their listening skills. Thank you notes afterwards are always a nice touch and good practice for the students.

2. The home/school connection is a vital one in nurturing learning. I have seen many effective educators use two-way communication via classroom agenda notebooks, Friday Folders, newsletters, phone calls, and emails to build trust and bonds that are good for the students.

3. A good knowledge to have, just remember that evil can still be seen through the children's search engines. Teach students what they should do when the view nasty material that they now is not right for their eyes or minds.

4. Use the text resources and also my fac/staff Web site Walker Web.

5. I look forward to seeing an email cross my laptop from you as you explore your student teaching experience. Inform me of how you are using the lessons learned from both this class and the fine arts class. I will learn, you will reflect, and I will be able to share your stories with my current students so everyone may learn, too. If you review your past blog entries and will see a wealth of knowledge, learning, and growth; wonderful work.

1. I think your summary included all the important parts of the chapter.

2. I think this was one of the most important quotes in this chapter!

3. The internet can be so helpful for children- but also so dangerous!

4. This book provides so many great resources!

5. I agree completely, this is the most I have ever read a text book in college!

Lisa (permalink)
Created on Tuesday, 06/17/2008 3:51 PM by Lisa

1. Chapter 13 starts off by talking about the importance of parental involvement in improving their child’s literacy abilities. Research shows that without parent involvement, the student’s overall progress will not improve. Teachers should try to involve the parents as much as possible. As an example, the teacher can send home a chart and a parent initials that the child has read at least ten minutes that night. It is important to get the students involved in the community. Senior citizens are becoming classroom volunteers more often. This can benefit both the senior citizens and the classroom students. Farris tells us that an essential element of a teacher is to truly care about the students needs and to be willing to go over and beyond the minimum requirements. The internet can be used in several ways when teaching. Both students and teachers can use the internet for research and projects.
2. “Demonstrating genuine and sincere caring for and interest in students must be an essential element of every teacher.” (562) I think that this quote is very true because it will show if a teacher does not want to be there. The students will be able to know and so will the other facility. This is a job where a lot of work is done on free time and teachers have to be willing to do that.

3. I like how the book not only gave a list of useful websites, but also gave us a blurb about what each website is like. This will be helpful when looking for a specific topic or lesson plan.

4. I think that it is a good idea to involve the senior citizens in the school. This is a way to help give senior citizens something to do in their day and the students will be able to get more one on one attention in the classroom.

5. I liked watching the puppet show today. All of the puppets were very quite and creative. I have heard great things about using puppets in the younger grades. They always seem to like it.

Comments

1. I liked how you talked about what research says in your summary.

2. True. I think most teachers enjoy doing things for their children even outside of the classroom.

3. I also liked the list of children's authors. This is a good resource for literature units.

4. I didn't realize how much senior citizens could bring to the classroom until reading this chapter.

5. I thought the puppets were really cool. Even when my classmates and I made puppet shows last semester I got a lot from them. I guess they can be great for any age.

   Tuesday, 06/17/2008 6:42 PM by Ashley

   1. Nice summary! Getting our parents involved is a big priority! The chart example is a good idea. Parents may not have a lot of spare time to do many other things but reading to their children for ten minutes will make all the difference.

   2. Agreed! Nothing gets past a child. It's one thing if you're having a not so perfect day, but to show absolutely no enthusiasm for your job, that is not acceptable. If you don't like teaching, get out. Someone who really likes their job and really wants to be there will already have a glow about them.

   3. The blurbs always help. Would you go to a website without knowing a little something about it. It helps to read a blip about a site to know whether or not it is going to contain information that is relevant to what you're doing.

   4. Who says grandma can't come into help? I think this is a lovely idea. It helps to keep the ageing...young.

   5. The puppet show was fun. Too bad we didn't have more class time to make our own puppets. Maybe that's what Teaching Fine Arts will be used for :o)

   Tuesday, 06/17/2008 4:42 PM by Christine

   1. Your summary is concise and clear. I like the inclusion of the words that Farris states, "Farris tells us that
an essential element of a teacher is to truly care about the students needs and to be willing to go over and beyond the minimum requirements." We must care and go beyond the spectrum of what is considered normal work to meet the best interests of all of our students.

2. Yes, the best teachers devote their lives to the calling of the profession.

3. This text is superb and should be used as a resource. You may also use my fac/staff Web site, Walker Web, for Internet searches and online references.

4. I have seen many successful teachers using retired people and grandparents to assist in the classroom. This is a good element for everyone involved.

5. Puppets add a magically fun aspect to the classroom. Most students love the use of them which builds motivated learners. Make them or buy them, either way they are clearly useful learning aids. If you review your past blog entries and will see a wealth of knowledge, learning, and growth; wonderful work.

zoe (permalink)
Created on Tuesday, 06/17/2008 9:43 AM by Zoe

1. Chapter 13, "Extending the Language Arts Curriculum," discusses the importance of education not only in the classroom, but in the community and home as well. The first section of the text is about family literacy. It is extremely important that parents and families encourage and support literacy and the language arts in their children. Teachers should try to involve parents as much as possible by providing activities and books for parents to share with their children in the home. A ten minute read is a popular suggestion for parents of young children. Because not all families have the financial resources and/or knowledge to help their children, it is imperative that teachers provide as much help as possible, whether it be sending home reading materials, or suggesting exercises that can be done with students. Classroom volunteers can also play a key role in enhancing students' experience in school. Because of the increasing number of working men and women this is sometimes difficult, but senior citizens may be available and happy to volunteer, visit, or do activities with students. Asking people from the community to speak to the class is also a great idea, because it strengthens the community while teaching the students. Being a teacher is not an 8am-3pm job, it requires extra time and effort beyond the classroom if you want to be successful and effective. Teachers need to sincerely care and show interest in their students, classroom, and curriculum. Some factors that affect literacy development in a school include: strong leadership by the principal, orderly classrooms, effective classroom management, effective time use, collaborative effort among teachers, and effective home communication. The text offers several suggestions as to what a teacher can do to improve literacy and better teach the students, such as the use of literacy centers and teleconferences. The last section of the text discusses the use of the internet with regard to language arts. The internet is a tool that can be extremely useful, or a huge waste of time. It is critical that teachers encourage the proper use of the internet to fully benefit the students.

2. "From the standpoint of the child, the great waste in school comes from his inability to utilize the experience he gets outside of school in any complete and free way" -John Dewey (pg. 549).

I chose this quote because I think it sums up this chapter extremely well, and I agree with what the quote is saying. In order to make an education relevant, interesting, and worthwhile, teachers must include background knowledge and experience in the curriculum.
3. I think that volunteers and visitors in the classroom are a wonderful idea. It is always nice to have an outside person besides just the teachers of the school talking to the students.

4. I enjoyed using the books on idioms yesterday in class, and I would love to have these in my classroom. It is funny how sometimes we say things, but we don't even know where they come from or what they really mean!

5. I think it is very important to include the community in the school curriculum, especially senior citizens. There are so many older people who would love to be around students, and have so much to share and teach. This is a good experience for both the visitors and the children.

Comments

1. You did a really great job with your summary by including all the important information along with your own perspective as well!

2. I absolutely agree! It is important to know a child's background to try to understand what occurs not only inside of the classroom but outside as well.

3. It definitely is always exciting to see a new face in the room especially for younger children. It also helps them to recognize people in their community along with their roles.

4. Me too! I enjoyed finding out the origin not only of the idioms I didn't know but the ones I did too!

5. In my practicum we had a senior citizen volunteer everyone called "Granny Mae." She was a great addition to our classroom and was a big help! It benefited all of us from the teacher, myself, the students, and even to herself.

Tuesday, 06/17/2008 1:23 PM by Tammy

1. Yes, your summary is complete and all-inclusive. I esp. like the words related to classroom volunteers, "Classroom volunteers can also play a key role in enhancing students' experience in school." I have witnessed many fine teachers using retired people as helpers in the work to assist all students to learn.

2. Yes, the schema connection is vital to locking learning into long-term memory so it can easily be retrieved and applied when needed.

3. Trained help develops new perspectives and can add new eyes for you to see through. Treat them as partners and always have relevant and meaningful duties for them to accomplish as they assist you in helping students to meet their fullest potential.

4. Yes, it is funny how we say things and don't really know where the saying originates or its true meaning.

5. Outside collaborations when they work well are good for everyone involved. If you review your past blog entries and will see a wealth of knowledge, learning, and growth; wonderful work.
1. The final chapter of Farris, chapter 13 which focuses on extending the language arts curriculum. The first part focuses on family literacy where it also states that once a person becomes a parent, they also become a teacher. A ten-minute read is a great way to involve parents in a child's literacy. In this chapter Farris also includes guidelines in using a ten-minute read. In a classroom, it is also important to have volunteers from the community whenever possible. Volunteers may include parents, local merchants, and senior citizens. Next Farris discusses what occurs in the classroom and beyond including factors which make a significant between a successful and an unsuccessful school in terms of literacy achievement. These factors include a strong and determined leadership by the building principal, schoolwide efforts to improve instruction and student achievement techniques incorporated by the teachers, and the effective and efficient use of instructional time. Other factors are the high expectations for student performance and a commitment to excellence, a sense of a professional community, effective home communication, extensive and effective professional development, and specific instructional practices to meet the student's needs. Incorporated in the chapter is also the use of the internet with language arts by using search engines and web sites.

2. "Family is the root of a child's early literacy experiences." (page 551)

-This is a very effective quote because of the important role parents play in building literacy in their child's lives. For myself, I was introduced to reading at a very young age which I am grateful for. My parents always read to me and I learned to read before I enrolled in kindergarten. My entire childhood up until now, I have had an appreciation to books and reading. I feel I have such an interest in books because I was exposed to it at an early age.

3. I enjoyed working with the book on idioms today in our groups. Many of the idioms I have heard of before while others I had no idea about. I really liked that the book showed the origin as well as what the quote meant.

4. I also really enjoyed the free write today in which it came together easier than expected. I haven't finished yet but it was definitely a great way to jot down thoughts and turn them into an expository, narrative, or persuasive paper. I used my free write as a way of venting about what was going on at my job recently. This exercise was also really relaxing and I think it gave all of a chance to wind-down after the day.

5. I can't believe this is our last rde! I'm sure I can speak not only for myself but for everyone in saying that I have never learned so much in such a short amount of time. I really enjoyed the summer session and I feel that I am taking much with me from it. Congratulations everyone on all our hard work! Good luck in everything you do!

Comments

1. You covered the chapter very concisely, and I liked that you included that when a person becomes a parent, they also become a teacher.

2. I think family is soo important, and I have gotten older I have begun to realize and be thankful that my parents were so encouraging and supportive of my education.
3. I wrote about the idiom book as well...it is a great idea!

4. When Dr. Walker first mentioned the free write I was instantly nervous, but mine came together pretty easily as well.

5. No more RDE's!!! :) But I agree that I have learned more than I ever have in such a short period of time.

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1. I loved your summary. I felt that the words that connect what elements factor in to making a successful literacy program were esp. effective, "These factors include a strong and determined leadership by the building principal, schoolwide efforts to improve instruction and student achievement techniques incorporated by the teachers, and the effective and efficient use of instructional time" Use these ideals as a starting point for your literacy program.

2. I agree with your quote and like your schematic connection to it.

3. Idioms are important aspects for developing cultural literacy. ELL students tend to be confounded by the idiomatic expressions because they are culturally-based and usually do not translate into other national-streams of consciousness.

4. I am pleased to read that most enjoyed the free write. Just recall that I set this type of writing later in the class schedule and prepared you for success in a most difficult and abstract form of writing. I aliken it to a trapeze artist working without a net, lots of practice before one begins.

5. Your concluding words are most welcoming and encouraging. If you review your past blog entries and will indeed see a wealth of knowledge, learning, and growth; wonderful work.

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julie (permalink)
Created on Monday, 06/16/2008 8:27 PM by julie
Updated on Monday, 06/16/2008 8:32 PM by julie

1. Chapter 13 talks about the curriculum of language arts in an extended manner. The beginning starts off explaining how parents are teachers and the emphasis placed on literacy in the home is so important. The students themselves are the link from home and school. We do not want them to have such strong feelings of inadequacy like so many do now. There are examples of family activities including tracing a family tree and writing a biography about a family member. I like the idea given of having different children write highlights of things going on in the classroom in a weekly newspaper. There are really awesome ideas for monthly special activities on page 559! You could also have volunteers come in every so often for various happenings the children are involved in. Beyond the classroom itself, it is important to have collaborative effort among teachers. You can have job helpers where each week a child has a different activity they are in charge of doing every time needed for example a weather monitor, a paper passer outer, a mail delivery person, and so on. There are specific guidelines to leading a learning center on page 564. Helpful websites are listed two pages after.

2. "Because learning is a social phenomenon, children learn from those around them: parents, siblings, peers, teachers, and other adults" (p.551). I agree with this quote and realize that children are soaking in knowledge from everyone they come in contact with. We want our students learning and growing positively and should foster good
communication skills with parents, and the students with each other, and by bringing in helpful volunteers.

3. I liked when you described last week about having a good things desk where children write down a good deed that another classmate had done. Promote good citizenship!

4. I had seen the Youtube comedy clip about what a teacher makes in a previous class but I still love it so much! My favorite part is when he makes them write definitely beautiful over and over!

5. I thought the idiom book was so interesting! The one I found was "...make a silk purse out of a sows ear." The quote means to make something beautiful or valuable out of something ugly. I plan on throwing that out in a random casual conversation in the near future.

Comments

1. I like how you only pulled the main points from the story. You also did it in the same order that the chapter covers the topics. This will help us if we want to go back and reread about a topic.

2. I agree with you and this quote. Children are like sponges they observer everything they here and see. That is why reading to them at a young age is very important even if they don’t understand the book yet.

3. Yes I liked hearing about that as well. Hopefully the students will continue to be kind to their classmates even if they are not going to get anything out of it.

4. I have seen it as well, but it was a long time ago so I didn’t remember everything he said. It was good to see it again. I enjoyed it.

5. I liked the book too. I would like to get one to have in my class.

1. Your summary was worded well, and covered all of the important topics in sequential order.

2. I agree, as teachers we need to try and bring the community together, to educate our children. I also agree that children observe and take in everything around them.

3. I think that by the students doing this and not the teacher, they will appreciate it more and strive to get these good deeds as well.

4. I thought it was a very good clip, but it angered me to see the responses.

5. I thought the book was good to, just be careful with the age groups you use them with because younger children may not comprehend the meaning.

1. Your summary is masterful with a good deal of significant ideas presented. I esp. like the words, "Beyond the classroom itself, it is important to have collaborative effort among teachers." In the 21C, the classroom need not be a solitary place, best practices state that teachers should network and learn from one another.
2. Yes, we want to promote the concept of learning is everywhere and to always take advantage of these experiential opportunities.

3. Yes, *Good Friend Awards* can be very effective at building a welcoming learning environment.

4. The video clip was a lovely promotion of "real world" reactions to teachers and to the profession itself. I am happy that Larissa shared it on the blog.

5. Idioms are important parts of cultural literacy and language development. ELL students are especially confounded by them as idiomatic phrases tend to be connected to specific cultures. If you review your past blog entries and will see a wealth of knowledge, learning, and growth; wonderful work.

larissa (permalink)

Created on Monday, 06/16/2008 7:09 PM by Larissa

1. The final chapter in Farris's book dealt with extending the language arts curriculum and ways of expanding teaching into other areas. The first level of extending a child's education begins with bridging the classroom to the home, and the best way to do this is through the students themselves. It is important to bring together the class and the home because research shows that at home literacy activities greatly help and increase children's reading skills. Because in today's society it is sometimes difficult to involve parents in the classroom for a plethora of reasons, some suggestions of how to extend literacy and the language arts to the home and parents/guardians are- arranging for a class subscription to a newspaper, family projects curriculum, providing materials for caregivers at home, provide government information about reading, keep parents informed of class activities through student-produced weekly newspapers, and also as many on-site activities as possible. Another way in which the language arts can be extended outside of the classroom is through involvement with the community. Farris suggests utilizing classroom volunteers such as senior citizens, and guest speakers from the community. Finally, in order for teachers to really create a genuine learning environment for students they need to go beyond the day to day job. Suggestions include- setting classroom management procedures, developing effective transitions between classroom activities, assigning students weekly/daily jobs, setting the tone during the first week of school, using small group instruction, and finally literacy centers offer multiple options for developing the language arts. The chapter concludes with a look at the internet and how language arts can be extended through the use of web quests, search engines, and language arts websites including popular children's literature authors.

2. "In general, parents are proud of their children and want to do more to help them but often do not know how or do not believe they have the time or the means to do so" (p. 558). This quote is something that new teachers need to really understand. It's important to extend the classroom into the home, not only because it enriches the child's education but also by extending the classroom (through all the great suggestions from this chapter) parents will get a better sense of what they can do to help their children. As a future educator, I have to believe every parent/guardian wants to help their child succeed in life and learning, and it is part of our job to show them how they can.

3. I thought the ideas of how to work with senior citizens was really well-written. I remember doing activities in my elementary classroom with a local nursing home, but there were never really any planned activities to do together besides reading a book. The monthly activities on p.559 were really cute fun classroom activities that last the whole year.

4. The websites for this chapter look very useful. I never knew there were search engines designed for kids so that inapropriate material would be screened out. I also loved that different authors websites, alot of times these have great ideas for lesson plans- janbrett.com is one of my favorites!
5. The freewrite exercise in class today was something I hadn't participated in since elementary school and I had forgotten how hard it is sometimes to just sit down and start writing. I ended up writing about a very personal subject that I haven't ever written about before so it felt very freeing to just sit down and write down these feelings with no pressure.

Comments

1. Your summary is again very thorough and worthwhile. I esp. like the words you chose to include, "...important to bring together the class and the home because research shows that at home literacy activities greatly help and increase children's reading skills." Yes, the home/school connection is vital as we attempt to create partnerships where we all are working diligently to best meet the needs of the children.

2. Yes, parents/guardians send us the best children that they have and everyone wants the best learning for their offspring.

3. I have witnessed many successful teachers who planned and effectively used retired people/grand parents as classroom helpers. You will never regret the work that you need to put in up-front because the dividends pay off big time!

4. Yes, there are Web sites that have search engines that are designed for children. Just be aware that any site on the Internet can drag up the evil materials and students must be taught what to do when they encounter "bad" material in their searches.

5. I am pleased that your found the free write to be successful. Just remember to prepare the students for the ambiguity that is present in this activity. Yes, it can be very difficult to free write. If you review your past blog entries and will see a wealth of knowledge, learning, and growth; wonderful work.

Thursday, 06/19/2008 9:05 AM by DAVID

Melissa (permalink)
Created on Monday, 06/16/2008 4:47 PM by Melissa
Updated on Tuesday, 06/17/2008 1:22 PM by Melissa

1. Chapter 13 discusses extending the language arts curriculum throughout the entire community because learning is a social phenomenon where children learn from those around them. Literacy begins with the family. A child's first experiences begin at home with the literacy experiences parents provide their children with. This is why as teachers we must have communication with the parents, letting them know what is going on with their child in school. Research shows that without parental involvement, student achievement will not improve. This can be accomplished in a variety of ways such as letters home, assignment books, or even phone calls or emails. It is also important to provide parents with resources for reading materials or websites and for those who cannot do so because of financial reasons, save old magazines, journals, or print things off so these parents have the same opportunities as those who can afford such things. Since it is hard for parents to volunteer in schools now because of work, senior citizens are an excellent source of volunteers for the classroom. Many enjoy being active and involved with the children and can serve as a great help to the teacher as well. They also serve as a link for the students, and can help connect them with their past experiences. The end of this chapter provides examples of how to incorporate the internet in the classroom through webquests and also helpful internet sites.

2. "Rather than setting aside one day as "Career Day" and bringing in 20 people to speak, it is far more effective to invite one person at a time to speak to the class" (560). I think this is an excellent idea because then children are able to focus on that one career and formulate questions for that career. If there are many speakers at a time, students may lose interest fast or get bored from sitting for too long. They may also be overwhelmed with all the
information they have to take in. The book also suggests bringing in a wide variety of speakers from doctors to garbage collectors, because all jobs have worth and need to take place in order for a community to run properly.

3. I really liked the example of the teacher from the peering into the classroom at the beginning of the chapter. This is an excellent way to keep in touch with students over the Christmas break and she was also considering all of the children because she sent postcards, along with an email, for those students who she knew would not have access to a computer at home. We can never assume that all children have access to a computer at home.

4. The websites at the end of the chapter can be excellent resources when we are out student teaching as well as in our careers. This book definitely is worth keeping because of all of the examples it provides us with of incorporating the language arts into the classroom.

5. I also love the idea of senior citizen helpers in the classroom. I think they serve as a great help to the teacher and also to the students as well. This chapter provides many good examples of how they can work with the students also what the students can do for them, such as the example on page 559 where it goes through each month of the school year.

Comments

1. Your summary of the chapter is stellar. I esp. like the fact that you chose to include, "Literacy begins with the family." Yes it does, and we want to promote this concept and expand its power as frequently as possible.

2. Yes, run the gambit of professions and be sure they truly a range of work/careers are present. Not all roads lead to college and many successful and happy people work without a college degree. However, most today in the 21C have earned a diploma or at the very least a GED! This is important to convey to students.

3. I agree totally, students love to receive mail addressed to them. What a marvelous way to extend the welcoming learning community and at such little expense and time.

4. I am pleased that you see he worth of this fine text. Yes, the Web sites are an excellent resource. You may also continue to use Walker Web, my fac/staff Web site even after your graduate. Once a Walker student, always a Walker student.

5. I have seen several successful teachers utilize retired people very effectively within the classroom. The multi-generational element is a superb force for students to experience. If you review your past blog entries and will see a wealth of knowledge, learning, and growth; wonderful work.

Post on June 15 2008 (permalink)  
Created on Sunday, 06/15/2008 7:04 PM by Kylie  
1. Chapter 13 discusses the extending of the language arts curriculum. Farris offers so many resources on student friendly websites as well as good school to home teaching ideas. Farris recommends teachers to keep in contact over winter breaks by emailing or sending out a simple past card with motivational reminders to keep reading over their time off. Next, Farris discusses the importance of family literacy and that literacy begins at home. Teachers are highly encouraged to promote activities at home in which parents are able to contribute to their child’s literacy success. Research proves that parents are more involved in their child’s life
during their earlier years and continually decreases as their students reach middle school level through high school where there is barely any parent involvement. Farris gives the suggestion of the ten-minute read which is an incentive program based on time read, with a parent, at home. Farris suggests several ideas on how to bring the local community into the classroom including daily subscription to a newspaper or getting senior citizens to volunteer in the classroom. Farris completes the chapter by suggesting great “first day of school” techniques and classroom establishments.

1. “…accompanied by instructional practices that support successful literacy learning. These practices include nurturing lively discussions, immersing children in drama, supporting lifetime literacy efforts, building resilience in literacy learners, and supporting better connections between schools and families” (pg. 562). I choose this quote because it is a great summary of the chapter and it is a simple philosophy to integrate into a classroom.

1. On page 563, Farris says that experienced teachers agree that the first week of school sets the tone for the year. I learned this through my observations two years ago. The teacher raised her expectations of her behavior management plan and almost took it to the extreme the first week. At the end of the year I went back and the student to teacher respect was just astonishing.

1. On page 567, Farris talks about language arts and the internet. The number one rule about using websites is for teachers to get in the classroom early in order to bring up the site BEFORE the students arrive. The reason being is because websites, if one letter is typed wrong, can bring up a different site that intended. I am hinting towards sites that are inappropriate for students.

1. “Students provide the strongest link between the school and the home” (pg. 552). This is another quote that I really liked from chapter 13 text. It is so important to establish a solid way of communication between school and home. I am sure that the form of communication will vary from class to class due to diversity in population. Some suggestions that Farris discusses are letters home, cell phone calls, teacher calls home once a month for update to parent. There many other but I think it is important to “report” bad and good circumstances.

Comments

1. Your summary was easy to read and I got good points out of reading it. I think it is a good idea to remind them to read during time off from school. I also like bringing the community into the school idea. Especially the senior citizens coming in- older people have been through so much and really are wise so it would be silly not to have volunteers come in sometime and either share some type of story from their life or knowledge.

2. Good choice of a quote. I love the word lively associated with discussions.

3. The tone that is set initially needs to be firm, I agree. I hope to have that kind of level of respect going on in my classroom between my children and I, the children with each other and ultimately carries out into environments outside the four walls I will teach in.
4. Good point to make. There is so much out on the internet now, it is a good point that I'll make a mental note to bring it up before.

5. Communication is key everywhere. Reporting good things is something I know I will do and think is as important as letting parents know when something bad has occurred with their children.

Monday, 06/16/2008 3:40 PM by **Julie**

1. I liked how sequential your summary was. You were able to focus right in on the sections of the chapter so that anyone could read this and quickly understand what the author's intent was with the chapter.

2. Good choice on the quote, your right that really did capture the chapter especially the last part with the school-home connections. The idea of discussions and drama in relation I think is also an important idea to incorporate in classrooms as young and early as possible because it is so enriching.

3. I like that you shared what you observed in an actual classroom, it is always more helpful to hear first hand experiences. I have heard that too, you really need to establish authority the first week especially as a new inexperienced teacher.

4. I agree, nothing is more embarrassing as a teacher if you are presenting something and it doesn't go as planned. With technology there are always things that could go wrong, but inappropriate websites the teacher should screen popping up shouldn't be one of them. I didn't even think of this when I posted the Taylor Mali clip =:(

5. Communicating with parents is the best way to build a better relationship, promote literacy, and other countless benefits. I really liked the suggestion in this chapter of having students be reporters and write articles for a weekly class newspaper about what they have been learning. From the students to the home, like you said, means so much more to the parents.

Monday, 06/16/2008 7:17 PM by **Larissa**

1. Your summary is fine and I love the inclusion of the postcards to students over the winter break. This is a wonderful idea that continues to support the welcoming learning community. Children love receiving mail addressed to them.

2. I agree with everyone who commented on your selected quote. I esp. like how you desire to build successful learners that are resilient, aware of drama, and who desire to take their learning into the real world and use it.

3. Yes, in my former county school system, we always taught the beginning teachers to set a positive but firm tone and high-expectations right off the bat. We actually requested that they have first week plans completed and reviewed by their mentor and/or principal prior to the first day of school. This way they could focus on other important items and situations that tend to arise before school opens.

4. Yes, beware of the evil-side of the Internet. Always prepare your sites prior to students being in the room. The Net is a double-edged sword as it has wonderfully enriching items to learn from and horrors that we must protect young eyes from.

http://bloomu-summer.sytec.passhe.edu/webapps/lobj-journal-bb_bloo/blog/2008Summer62... 7/7/2008
5. I firmly believe that the first communication to parents/guardians needs to be a positive one to establish a bond between school and home. Later, if a problem needs to be expressed from the school, it is tempered by the positive first contact. If you review your past blog entries and will see a wealth of knowledge, learning, and growth; wonderful work.

Stephanie (permalink)
Created on Wednesday, 06/11/2008 9:55 PM by Stephanie

1. Chapter 13 talks about extending the language arts curriculum. Learning is a social phenomenon and takes place everywhere. Since learning takes place everywhere, this chapter gives ways to connect the school community with the larger community and beyond. Farris begins talking about the impact that families have on children’s literacy and says that parents need to get involved. The chapter then gives specific examples of things to do with your child such as the ten-minute read. Next, Farris moves on to talk about how to recruit and use classroom volunteers such as: parents, senior citizens, and community members. The next topic discussed is how to expand classroom experiences. Farris explains how teachers can increase the learning experience for the children, and gives different tips for activities such as learning centers. One big point to remember is to use small groups because you can gain a one on one bond with the student much easier; therefore knowing how to help them individually. The last part of the chapter introduces ways to integrate technology and the internet into the language arts curriculum.

2. “...children need to feel comfortable in the classroom if they are to enjoy the learning experience” (Pg. 551). I choose this quote because I feel it is very true. If a child doesn’t feel comfortable in a classroom, they will constantly be thinking of things other than learning. As teachers we need to make the classroom as welcoming and comfortable as possible.

3. I really liked how the volunteer part of the chapter. Especially when it showed the different activities that could be done for each month of the school year. I feel that by using a variety of activities, it will increase the parent involvement.

4. I like how the text gives a variety of search engines as well as helpful internet websites for kids to explore. I will definitely reference these examples in the future.

5. I really like the ten-minute read and the guidelines the text provides. I have done this before, but we did not call it the ten-minute read.

Comments

1. summary is good, includes main points, and is very indepth.

2. I agree, I dont think that students will being the learning process until they put down the initial gaurd.

3. I think that parent involvement is key not only in elementary ages but more in middle school and highschool.

4. I think that reading at home is get for literacy development and the ten-minute read is a great motivation.

Sunday, 06/15/2008 7:08 PM by Kylie

1. Your last summary is wonderful and I enjoyed reading how inclusive learning needs to be with these words, "...Learning is a social phenomenon and takes place everywhere." Let's promote this heavily in our classrooms.
that our students should look everywhere for opportunities to learn.

2. Yes, effective teachers create and establish welcoming learning communities that are productive and fun experiences for all.

3. Involvement by parents, friends, retired people, grandparents, business people can really support the classroom learning in numerable ways.

4. Use the Internet sites mentioned in the text and please feel free to use the sites located on Walker Web, my fac/staff Web site.

5. Yes, the ten-minute read is a fine technique to focus attention and to develop conversations that lead to deeper comprehension. If you review your past blog entries and will see a wealth of knowledge, learning, and growth; wonderful work.

Thursday, 06/19/2008 8:39 AM by DAVID