Sample Curriculum Plan for Educators

Bird Project

The Project Approach (Chard, 2014) supports a play-based approach to early education. This can be motivating to children as they are supported to explore, document and share their interests.

Educators can highlight children's new learning and changes to thinking and provide tools for them to document their learning.

Incorporating digital technology such as open-ended tablet apps can motivate children and accommodate different learning styles and stages. Suggestions in blue type indicate where an open-ended iPad app could be

used.

Sample Curriculum Plan

1. **Educators observe children's interests and record questions**

    - **Birds seen outside the window**

    - **Children have questions about why they look different, what they eat, why they are not around in winter, do all birds migrate?**

    - **Where do they live?**

2. **Educators ask children for theories and prior knowledge**

    A. Traditional tools and methods:

    - **Record children's ideas on chart paper**

    B. Children's use of digital technology:

    - **Short video clips of each child's answer**

    - **Photo of group and audio clips of ideas**

    C. Combination:

    - **Audio/video record and record ideas on chart paper**

3. **Educators ask students to help make a plan: how can we find out more and document what we learn?**

    - **Small groups taking pictures or drawing within the app (tools, resources)**

    - **Let's google it!**

    - **Watch the birds through window and draw on paper**

    - **Library books**

- **Books from classroom**

- **Photos**

- **What could educators do at this stage?**

    - **Model an in-app search engine (e.g.- Pixabay) if available to locate images**

    - **Research with children (computer, books)**

    - **Suggest photographing**

    - **Making chart of what birds and when**

    - **Can suggest putting out different kinds of food to see what kinds they eat**

    - **Survey children about what birds they've seen (digitally or on paper and audio record their responses)**

    - **Provide tools: binoculars, make bird feeder, clipboards paper and pencil, to record, draw birds**

4. **Share findings**

    - **Present to another class, principal, families and so on**

    - **Can use slideshow video to present**

> **Educators can document the progress of children's thinking and learning over time using the open-ended app**

Specific tips

-Some apps may have the ability for each child to maintain their own file. This can become a personal journal or portfolio, where they can record their questions, add daily/weekly drawings and photos to document what they are learning throughout the project.

-For the adventurous, children's photos, drawings and videos can be compiled using iMovie, or another movie making app, to create a continuous video.

Chard, S. (2014). The project approach : A study guide. Retrieved from The Project Approach Website: http://www.theprojectapproach.org