

Kindergarten Science Weather Materials Interview

Interviewer: Please describe the instructional materials you're using for this lesson.

Teacher: Like I said before, I use the Guided Language Acquisition instructional model, but I created my own materials to ensure that the materials would meet the standard of the lesson, but more importantly, satiate my students' interest. I also used hands on materials for the students so that they could actively be engaged in the process and get a feel of a thermometer. I didn't have 20 thermometers, so I had to make my own with the straw and so forth.

Interviewer: Why did you consider using these materials?

Teacher: I felt that the materials were developmentally appropriate to their interests, interests as a kindergarten. I also created materials that were at their cognitive level of understanding, and definitely at their level of curiosity.

Interviewer: What is it that you like about these materials?

Teacher: I strongly believe in that constructivism approach. The constructiveness approach, I feel that it's a significant paradigm for teaching young children. Therefore, my hands on materials gives the students an ability to construct meaning by active participation, rather than just open up the book and say, oh, this is a thermometer and not be able to actually feel it and you know, go over the parts of the thermometer.

Interviewer: Are there any changes that you would make to these materials?

Teacher: Probably, depending on the next group of students, yeah. I really depends on where my students are. There are some years that the students may very well have a good understanding of what a thermometer is, so I wouldn't really have to do that basic level understanding. It's just dependent upon the students.

Interviewer: Finally, how would you describe these materials as meaningful or relevant to the students' lives?

Teacher: A lot of my students come from economically disadvantaged homes. Therefore they have very limited experiences. A lot of them came from a foreign country, for one, so just the wording itself is foreign to them. I try to bring as much as possible, the outside world, things that they were never introduced to and let them experience it.

Interviewer: I noticed you used the news broadcast.

Teacher: Uh-huh.

Interviewer: How is that meaningful or relevant?

Teacher: I tried to make a connection to the outside world. I tried to make, many times, I try to as much as possible, make a connection on what our standards is and how it is important to their lives. Because when I was growing up, I don't think I was always given that connection. For example, algebra, I never was given that connection to my every day life, so therefore, it didn't seem meaningful. That's why, for these young kids, especially because like I said, they have limited experiences, I'm trying to make that connection for them. Then, hopefully that they go home tonight and watch the news. It's funny because one boy knew it was [inaudible 00:03:42].

Interviewer: Yeah.