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Research Guidelines

My Text: Creative thinking and arts based learning

My Research Topic is **The Benefits of Integrating Visual Arts into Every Lesson**

Introductory Statement: Many teachers find the integration of visual arts into their instruction a daunting and time consuming challenge. Teachers don't want to commit or don't have the resources to prepare instruction in the arts while trying to get their students to pass standards. However, integrating visual arts into every lesson is achievable for all teachers at any level. The benefits to doing so speak for themselves and provide a more meaningful, enriching, and exciting education to students. (slide 1 and 2 - Kai)

Point #1 - Teachers who implement visual arts in their classroom help students' development in many ways. Visual arts make instruction engaging, motivating, and meaningful to students. Therefore, students take a greater interest in and have more fun learning the academic content. In addition, this content can be taught to promote diversity in the classroom. Visual arts gives all students chances to represent themselves, their backgrounds, and their culture. Students then have an opportunity to present and display their art which develops a sense of accomplishment and improves students' confidence. So, visual arts instruction is very effective in improving students' attitudes around school and learning as well as the outcomes of it (Create Now, 2018). [Slide 4 - Karly]

Backing up Point #1 with information from our text -

Student centered learning approaches of Dewey (1929) and Piaget (1954) are possible through visual arts integration. These theorists consider students' environments and what they learn from them. Particularly, students have cultural opportunities through the variety of art they are exposed to. Students can also bring their personal strengths to the instruction and will develop a sense of belonging as they share and grow through their art within their classroom. So, educators should implement instruction through visual arts to empower students and allow them to take ownership of their learning (Isenberg, J. P., & Jalongo, M. R., 2018). [Slide 5 and 6 - Karly]

Second Source to back up Point #1

Through visual arts instruction, students have opportunities to express power and produce products which make them feel successful and give them chances to express themselves. Power to act in a certain way allows students to develop a sense of accomplishment and pride in their work. In addition, they learn discipline specific vocabulary and concepts through the arts with more meaning and ease (Wilson, G., 2019). (slides 4, 5, and 6 like above - Karly)

Use slide 7 to transition between the two points - Karly and Casey

- karly talks about diversity in classroom and then casey talks about how diverse activities mentioned below like beading, weaving, sculpting, etc. integrate diverse cultures and diverse learning experiences

Point #2- When visual arts are implemented into the classroom it moves beyond just increasing creativity and adding motivation into the classroom. Visual Arts supports free play for children, but it also increases fine motor skills, visual spatial skills and motor development. When children pick up utensils, like crayons, markers and paint brushes, they are developing their fine motor muscles in their hand. This skill being developed transfers into writing skills, and other activities that require controlled movements with the hand (Rymanowicz, K., 2018). (slide 8 - Casey)

Source backing up Point #2:

Using activities like threading bracelets, sculpting and working with clay builds visual-spatial skills. Activities like finger painting, cutting paper and gluing works on hand-eye coordination. Research shows that these skills then transfer into a more positive academic outcome in all subjects, including writing, reading and mathematics (AZ, C. C., 2019). (casey)

Use slide 9 to transition between points - Maddie

Final Point

Integrating visual arts into every lesson promotes language development. Particularly, oral language development is facilitated as students talk about the artistic process and share their final products. Students develop storytelling abilities through visual arts and undergo a progression as their art moves from scribbles at any early age to more recognizable features. The imagination process changes as students progress and they begin to add details to tell a story. Conversations about this art are critical to young students' development. Children can share with their peers but also have discussions between their teacher and other adults which help to rethink and develop their relationships with them. This contributes to the scaffolding process as increasing independence is granted to students to talk about their art (Chang, N., & Cress, S., 2014). (slide 10 - Maddie)

Backing up final point -

Linguistic and language development can take many representations and includes many stages of development. Representational, compositional, and interpersonal meaning are all important means of communicating students should be able to do through their art. Moving from more personal artistic endeavors to ones in which interpersonal meaning are used shows that students are now expressing and sharing their ideas with others, and important step (Barton, G., 2015).

(Maddie)

Another source to back up final point -

Close reading skills are encouraged through the use of visual arts. Multiple viewings of pieces of art and conversations about the meanings of art are skills that translate to any text and promote close reading and comprehension skills. With a painting, countless details can be looked at and students can validate the authenticity of a work of art. This type of close reading also is more engaging and motivating for students as it provides a different outlet and opportunity to do so. However, this skill can be applied to music videos, rereadings of plays, and more. So, the arts promote literacy development in many ways (McDermott, P., Falk-Ross, F., & Medow, S.,

2017). (Maddie)

Conclusion:

Visual arts moves beyond an extracurricular activity. The benefits of integrating visual arts in the classroom outweigh the common excuses, such as distractions and time. Visual arts allows children to express themselves, both culturally and emotionally. It also allows them to be creative, and it gives children a chance to display their work while developing a sense of pride (Create Now, 2018). Visual arts helps children to develop their fine motor skills, which is essential to everyday activities like writing, buttoning a shirt, or opening small objects. Cutting, picking up utensils, sculpting, and more improve visual-spatial skills and fine motor skills (Rymanowicz, K., 2018; AZ, C. C., 2019). Finally, visual arts promotes language development for children. Children are able to present their work orally, and gain confidence in telling the story behind it. Their artwork sparks conversation between the students, as well as sharing their work with the public (Chang, N., & Cress, S., 2014). Integrating visual arts into the classroom will promote confidence, diversity, and develop an abundance of skills.

(Slide 11 - Kai)

Works Cited

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