Inquiry-Based Learning

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Reflection

Knowledge about the environment was always a priority for me as a teacher. Fortunately, the administration of the school permitted me to supplement the curriculum of the students to go to the park frequently. I sensed privilege since I have observed that numerous public schools across the United States have noteworthy obstructions averting educators from showing education in nature for children. The environment and nature would always come up with inquiry-based learning for children. I have observed that during my visits, children were able to ask me several questions related to the environment and nature. It was a good opportunity for me to help children explore and inquire about nature. Inquiry-based learning improves cognitive thinking of children. I have observed that children have interests to explore and examine nature. For example, one of my children, Aiden found a big hole in a tree and asked me and the other children about it. All of them were attentively listening to the comments received from each other. One of them was exploring the hole with a magnifying glass. Inquiries and exploring things helps them to generate new ideas and questions (*“There’s a Hole in the Tree!” Kindergartners Learning in an Urban Park | NAEYC*, n.d.). It helps children to foster curiosity regarding things and it also aids them to experiment with new ideas. According to my observation, children learn from inquiries, questioning, experimenting, and exploring things more appropriately as compared to the information available in the books. According to the concepts of the Piaget theory of cognitive thinking, questioning improves cognitive development of children. Also, Vygotsky's social learning theory states that the environment significantly affects thoughts of children towards people and the atmosphere. Therefore, I think information and knowledge through experiments, visits, inquiries, and exploring the environment can help children to love learning. Inquiry-based learning encourages students to explore and generate new ideas. Being a teacher, I have observed that children become active and energetic through questioning. Therefore, I think inquiry-based learning should be promoted in schools across the United States to encourage students to acquire and develop their cognitive thinking.

# References

*“There’s a Hole in the Tree!” Kindergartners Learning in an Urban Park | NAEYC*. (n.d.). Retrieved January 21, 2020, from https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/nov2018/kindergartners-learning-urban-park