South Dakota State University

ECE 361: Methods and Materials in Early Childhood Education

Concepts addressed in this course: Types of communication and interactions that can stimulate discussion in different ways for particular purposes: helping students to question

Students should refer to:

Specifically, students should review:
I. Effective Questioning - Helping Children Think about His/her Thinking
   a. Providing many meaningful, hands-on experiences to build context
   b. Provide many opportunities to represent their thinking in many different ways (100 Language of Children).
   c. Ask child to describe drawing or experience while looking at drawing or a photograph of experience.
   d. Search for meaning within descriptions – noting misconceptions or inconsistencies
   e. Facilitating meta-cognition through discussions

II. Methods for Fostering Question
   a. Focus on higher order thinking questions
      i. Focus on misconceptions of children’s thinking
      ii. Pose questions cause more thinking to occur
      iii. Engage in questioning together - children and teachers do not know answers – learning together
   b. Positive questioning methods
      i. Honors children’s current theories
      ii. Honors children’s current reasoning
      iii. Choosing terms in questions carefully
      iv. Revisits misconceptions with new experiences
   c. Helping students to question, inquiry – based learning
      i. Naturally posing questions to motivate long term study
      ii. Webbing to illustrate questions students have
      iii. Revisiting webs to indicate answers to questions
   d. Projects as real problems or discoveries
      i. Cueing into children’s wonderings
      ii. Taking in many perspectives
      iii. Documenting discovery and thoughts during process
e. Facilitating dialogue between and among students
   i. Class meetings to discuss learning
   ii. Posing open-ended questions for discussion

Helpful websites include:
Asking Effective Questions:  http://pareonline.net/getvn.asp?v=6&n=6
Problem Based Learning:  http://cee.indiana.edu/publications/journals/TR16-01.pdf
Concept to Classroom – Inquiry Based Learning:
http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/concept2class/inquiry/