South Dakota State University

ECE 361: Methods and Materials in Early Childhood Education

Concepts addressed in this course: Major categories, advantages, and appropriate uses of instructional strategies: questioning

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 Questioning
   a. Focus on higher order thinking questions
      i. Ask questions that focus on misconceptions of children’s thinking
      ii. Ask questions that cause more thinking to occur
      iii. Ask questions that 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. Pitfalls to questioning
      i. Do not ask a question that the child already knows the answer – not learning anything
      ii. Do not ask a question that the teacher already knows the answer – false questioning

Helpful Websites include:
Asking Effective Questions: http://pareonline.net/getvn.asp?v=6&n=6

Development of this review sheet was made possible by funding from the US Department of Education through South Dakota’s EveryTeacher Teacher Quality Enhancement grant.