South Dakota State University
ECE 362: Early Childhood Education Curriculum

Concepts addressed in this course: Small group work; project approach

Students should refer to: “A Practical Guide to Early Childhood Curriculum” by Jenkins (6th edition)

Students should refer to: “Project Spectrum: Early Learning Activities” by Chen (Volume 2 Section 1)

Specifically for group work, students should review:

Purpose
Amount of time
Number of students
Benefits of cooperative learning
   Meeting new classmates
   Creating learning groups
   Peer mentoring
   Peer teaching
Things to avoid
   Complete teacher direction
   Choosing groups based on friendship

Specifically for projects, students should review:

Finding interests
   Incidental learning
   Observation techniques
   Questioning techniques
Negotiated curriculum
   Teacher and child role in planning
Webbing
   Types of (curriculum, concept, etc)
Tying project together
   Benefits of connecting and expanding ideas
Provocation
   To start new projects
   To revisit a project
Planting curriculum in projects
   How to balance concept learning
Documentation
   Purpose

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Importance
Observation
When to step back

Helpful websites include: Perry Preschool Project – www.highscope.org
Helpful websites include: The Project Approach - http://www.project-approach.com