South Dakota State University

ECE 478: Integrated Curriculum in Birth-to-Age-8 Education

Concepts addressed:
Curriculum integration as it relates to instruction

“...education that is organized in such a way that it cuts across subject-matter lines, bringing together various aspects of the curriculum into meaningful association to focus upon broad areas of study. It views learning and teaching in a holistic way and reflects the real world, which is interactive” (Shoemaker, 1989, p. 5).

Review lecture notes from first class period on curriculum integration. Specifically, review:

- Definitions of integrated curricula
- Relationship between integrated curricula and real world problems
- Elements of integrated curriculum
- Research findings
- Link to constructivist view of learning
- Models of integration
  - Intra-disciplinary approach (language arts)
  - Fusion (character counts)
  - Learning centers/parallel disciplines (patterns)
  - Theme-based units (culminating activity)
  - Project-based learning (student interest)
  - Negotiating the curriculum (student questions)
- How to meet standards using an integrated approach
- How to assess students

Helpful websites:
http://www.nwrel.org/scpd/sirs/8/c016.html
http://vocserve.berkeley.edu/ST2.1/TowardanIntegrated.html
http://www.ncrel.org/sdrs/areas/stw_esys/5erly_ch.htm