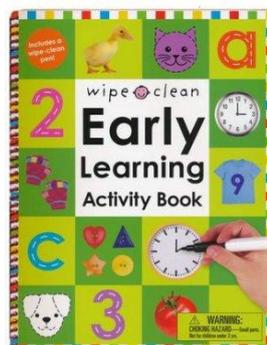
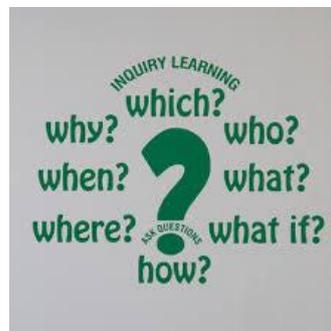


WORKING WITH TEXTBOOKS OR WORKING WITH EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, WHAT IS YOUR OPINION?



VERSUS



As it is said, “everything has a good side and a bad side” and the good side to being a temporary teacher is that this situation has allowed me to work in a wide range of schools, not only in my town but also in other ones in the Region of Murcia. In addition, this has given me the chance to learn many different ways of working which have also enriched me with the methodology that all these schools have been working. The only negative point is the methodology always revolved around traditional education implemented through textbooks basically.

But this year, somehow I have had the great luck to work in the El Alba Public Elementary School, in Yecla; this is an innovative school, regarding both tools and technological materials used in early childhood education classrooms, and the way of teaching. Furthermore, the work methodology in Early Childhood Education is for Projects, which has excited me and has revitalized my role as a teacher, broadening my point of view.

So from my own experience, I am going to explain the difference that I have found between working in a traditional way and working in Projects at the Early Childhood Education stage.

On the one hand, concerning teaching through textbooks, I have realized that there are more disadvantages than advantages, such as:

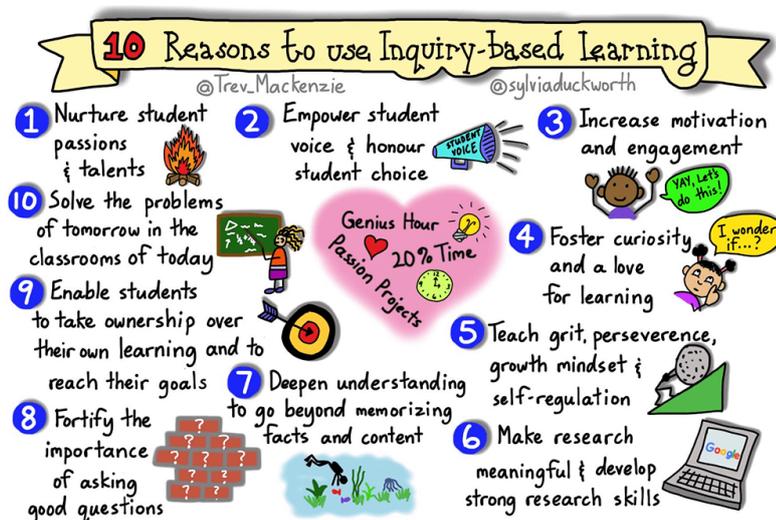
- The great business that exists in terms of publishers and the sale of classbooks.
- The use of textbooks makes the teacher unprofessional due to the fact that they delegate in them.
- Textbooks present the contents in a unidirectional way, decontextualized and isolated.
- The price is quite high for many families.
- Children learn as robots, learning by rote rather than in an experiential way, so they are less motivated.
- We live in a technological society, so this methodology has become old fashioned.

And regarding the advantages, I find the following:

- It is a resource that it is very practical, which allows teachers to save time.
- As they have been designed by publishers, they have great quality in the images and in the development of the topics.
- The activities that make up the book are developed and based on the curriculum.
- Finally, it is very useful as a guide to the teacher.

On the other hand, in relation to project-based learning, the advantages that I have found outweigh the disadvantages, such as:

- It involves listening to the child and making them the protagonist of their own learning process.
- You can see the excitement and the interest of the child, so the motivation grows and the learning comes naturally.
- It makes the child collaborate with their friends, listen to others and be patient.
- The children are the ones who decide the topic to be investigated, encouraging the children to tell and share their interests and knowledge.
- It encourages the child to search and process information, to analyse what he/she does not like and give different options, as well as propose other activities to do.
- It allows the teacher to think outside the box, designing new ways of doing, knowing, being and caring, in other words, taking in account what the children like.
- It allows families to be engaged, in a constructive way, in the education of their children, helping them to look for information, approaching the classroom as experts, as helpers ...
- It makes all of us learn together and become happier and more creative.



But as with textbooks, we also find some drawbacks, such as:

- The difficult combination of all the parties involved.
- How quick the children's tastes change, leaving the projects unfinished.
- The sequencing of objectives and contents.
- The time that teachers must devote and the search of materials.
- Running the risk of not achieving the goals and objectives due to the lack of time.

So, working for projects makes children THINK. This method of learning is based on the child's participation in their own learning, as well as teaching them how to search for information, investigate, organize the way to present information, and to present it to their classmates, and make parents much more involved in the education of their children, etc.

In conclusion, working with Projects, from my point of view, is much more enriching, motivating, fun, interesting and effective than working with a methodology based on textbooks.

As a Benjamin Franklin said,

"Tell me and I forget it, teach me and I remember it, involve me and I learn it"

If you are interested in knowing how to work for Projects I attach the website address of the blogs of Early Childhood Education in my school:

- Classroom blog 3 years: A class with Ague:
<http://aclaseconague.blogspot.com.es/>
- Classroom blog 4 years: The corner of the small of my class.
<http://elrincondelospequesdelaclase.blogspot.com.es/2018/01/>
- Classroom blog for 5 years: Gugu and his 25 little friends
<http://blogdeguguysus25amiguitos.blogspot.com.es/>

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