

Teacher Interview Questions (Prior to Redesign)

Name of School: Teacher Pair #1

Date: September 21, 2010

Past Discovery Box Experience

Which Discovery Boxes do you check out most frequently?

Bird Box, Tree Box, Human Body Boxes, Rocks

Insects Box

Is the check out and check in process efficient? If not, what suggestions might you have?

- Getting to the Museum on Friday afternoons, usually the boxes are picked up on Monday
- Carrying the box is a hassle- very tiring to carry the boxes to and from the parking lot
- Consistency with help
- Consistency with someone being present
- Return box by 4 on Friday,
- Call ahead and have people ready with the cart and boxes loaded.
- There should be information on the website
- More info on what is in each box
- Specific grade level material for k- 8

In which curriculum unit (s) have you integrated the boxes?

- Kingdom Animalia and specifically focused on the insects

What were your goals with the boxes in the past? Did you meet them?

- Whole group activity
- Nature Study (whenever she would get the box)
- Small group setting
- Centers
- 4th, 5th, 6th it works best

Did you plan on integrating Discovery Boxes into your curriculum this year? When?

Rocks and Minerals September 14th

No, was not planning on it- would like to be able to reserve boxes in advance

What did you find helpful about the Discovery Boxes?

- All of the various insects in the boxes that are expensive
- Having access to the resources for free

What do you remember your students enjoying the most about Discovery Boxes?

- Insects that were actually there to see and show the students
- The hands on elements

Did 3-D objects enhance student learning? How?

- Yes, enhances the grasping the content a little more

In what capacity were Discovery Boxes used in the classroom (ex. Small groups, centers, whole group)?

Small group, whole group and centers

Recommendations

What elements do you feel are essential to these boxes?

What elements do you feel are missing from the boxes?

In regard to the curriculum binders included in some of the boxes; do you find the material helpful? If not, what would you suggest to replace it?

- Multiple boxes

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Would related or suggested activities in the format of a CD be useful?

Yes, more likely to use a CD

Student accessible links/ sites

Plastic box would be easier

The boxes are not suited for a lot of heavy materials

Teacher Interview Questions (Prior to Redesign)

Name of School: Teacher Pair #3

Date: September 22, 2010

Past Discovery Box Experience

Which Discovery Boxes do you check out most frequently?

Mammals

Birds

Mollusks

Amphibians/ Reptiles
Insects
External Senses
Christmas Around the World
Plants and Seeds
Space Box

Age Range 3-6 year

Is the check out and check in process efficient? If not, what suggestions might you have?

Website-

N/A

In which curriculum unit (s) have you integrated the boxes?

- The boxes are brought into a thematic unit
- Used it as an independent activity
- During Circle time
- Books are sometimes used for research
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Did you plan on integrating Discovery Boxes into your curriculum this year? When?

- Yes, at least once a month
- Every two weeks until April

What did you find helpful about the Discovery Boxes?

- Very visual, and students can touch and feel and really experience the content
- Enriching thematic units- with actual samples
- Lots of books, videos
- A lot of resources
- Gives you an overall look
- The cases are "kid" proof
- Videos will be used to guide students to new information
- Very easy for students to make connections to other subjects
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What do you remember your students enjoying the most about Discovery Boxes?

- Insects that were actually there to see and show the students
- The hands on elements

Did 3-D objects enhance student learning? How?

- Yes, enhances students ability to grasp the content.
- Montessori theory and philosophy is based on reality and tend to shy away from pretend play.

In what capacity were Discovery Boxes used in the classroom (ex. Small groups, centers, whole group)?

Small group, whole group and centers 6-12 students

Recommendations

What elements do you feel are essential to these boxes?

- Any items that are part to whole
- Activities are good but more simplified
 - o This binder is mostly Higher than Kindergarten
- The fur and textures that students can pass around
- Like the musical instruments
- Model of the teepee
- She would try to duplicate their own
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What elements do you feel are missing from the boxes?

- Stay more general with the Native Americans and not get too specific with
- A visual with some of the activities would be good-
- Simplified version of the activities
- Label the different items instead of having to label them
- Whole rabbit skin would be helpful
- DVD
- "Descriptions" are not accurate
- Usually there are things that have not changed
- Pictures are usually used to photocopy
- Pictures of Buffalo

In regard to the curriculum binders included in some of the boxes; do you find the material helpful? If not, what would you suggest to replace it?

Yes some sort of CD component would be helpful with curriculum organized by grade level

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Would related or suggested activities in the format of a CD be useful?

Yes, more likely to use a CD

Teacher Interview Questions (Post Redesign)

Did the modifications and/or additions prove effective? How so?

Was it significant enough to warrant the evaluation of other discovery boxes and possible modifications?

Teacher Pair #1

WOW! I can tell you put a lot of effort into the Japan box! Thank you.

I love the CD. The images and online resources are great. I am not sure if you intended for this or not, but I was able to save the contents of the CD onto my computer so I can plan ahead next year.

I always use the origami book and paper. This year I dressed up in the kimono to teach a lesson. (I think it went well)

The box seems to be much more organized than the others are checked out. It is much easier to find things in the Ziploc bags because they are labeled on the outside than it was to find the sticker and then find the coordinating item on the list.

My class enjoys when I check out discovery boxes because they are always so anxious to see what is inside of the box. They love being able to see and touch things from different places.

Let me know if you have any other specific questions. I would be happy to help in any way that I can. I will try to remember to take the office on Friday for you to pick it up.

Teacher Pair #2

Maria -- the tree box is great! I LOVE the tree book. The page protectors with sheets that are taped to the lid keep coming loose, but I think that would be easy to fix. I haven't had a chance to look at the CD yet, but we used the leaves (in boxes) and I plan to pull out the tree cookies this week.

Would you check if we/I could use the box again the week after thanksgiving? I'll be happy to come and pick it up. I would like to use one or two the posters for talking more about plants.

Its been great. If similar things happen to the other boxes, that will make them so much better. Thoughts on the insect box: a CD would be nice and the cards with activities (laminated sheets on a ring in this box), and a good identification book.

Teacher Pair #3

We've really enjoyed & benefited from using the new,
> improved, updated version of the Native American discovery
> box you put together. My students appreciated looking
> at all the items included, especially the musical/rhythm
> instruments. As a teacher I loved the convenience of
> the CD from which to print selected worksheets. For
> example, there is one about "Indian corn": I made copies of
> this page and placed them on a tray with a couple of real
> ears of multicolored Indian corn; the children were
> encouraged to shade with colored pencils their own version
> of what Indian corn looks like. For another example,
> the Kindergarten group enjoyed a simple addition &
> subtraction worksheet in one of the books which uses
> pictographs as "counters." They also tried out a
> color-your-own-totem-pole worksheet which turned out to be
> quite nice.
>
> The DVD was also of interest, although our class did not
> get to see the whole thing due to scheduling problems with
> the other classes. We shouldn't have waited until the
> last few days to view it. "Maybe next time"--haha!
>
> A small technical problem was that the sticky tape you used
> inside the lid of the box did not hold the page-protector
> very well (the overview sheet of what is in the box) and we
> had to keep re-attaching the page protector up there so it
> wouldn't get lost in the box.
>
> You have absolutely upgraded this discovery box across the
> board, and I believe this is good precedent for updating the
> other boxes similarly, if you have the time and interest for
> doing so and if Mayborn museum agrees.