

Art Integration Project

Art Form

This week we have been reading about puppetry as an art form that can be integrated into the STEM raison d'être, and is the art form that I have chosen to utilize with the preschool age group for the following reasons.

Small children love puppets. The utilization of puppets provides endless possibilities in a learning environment. They have historically assisted in dramatic play, emotional expression and development, social interaction, language development, etc. Sesame Street used puppets as main characters to teach and explore multiple subjects for very young children. Consequently, applying this medium to integrate into a STEM project to create a STEAM project is natural, relatable and engaging to the three to five year olds. It can "hook" them into the learning process that is seen as fun, interesting and taught through play. Play is how small children learn best.

Lesson Enhancement

Integrating art into the STEM classroom provides another dimension that can only enhance the subject matter being presented. It provides a visual medium of expression, especially important with small children who do not always have extensive vocabularies, as well as allowing them the opportunity to decision make and develop creative problem solving abilities.

Puppetry can amplify lesson enhancement in the following ways:

- 1 decision making- What kind of puppet am I going to make ? person? animal? bird?, etc.
- 2 design thinking- How do I make the puppet? What can I use to make it?

3 non threatening medium- I can make whatever I want

4 relatable- Almost all children have seen or played with puppets before in their own environment

5 teaching/learning becomes active and present- The child is engaged as an active learner rather than passive

6 collaborative- children work together, share materials, help each other, make suggestions,etc.

Collaboration is often an overlooked social skillset that is important to develop in future leaders and creators.

7 engaging- can maintain attention span to the subject matter being presented

Interdisciplinary Context

Puppetry can be connected to multiple content areas. The design aspects of decision making and problem solving are important engineering concepts. Mathematical aspects are introduced such as size, shapes and angles. If a play is put on, language development, expression and vocabulary development can be facilitated in a non threatening way. If the play is photographed or filmed, technology is introduced, especially if the students assist.

Fine motor skill development is used to assemble the puppets,ie. cutting, pasting,etc.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, self esteem can be enhanced by a constructing and and completing a fun project.

References

1. 6 Reasons Why Puppets Will Change Your Classroom Forever

<http://www.edutopia.org/blog/puppets-will-change-your/classroom-sam-patterson-cheryl-morris>

2. 5 R

easons Early Learners Love Puppets/Eudca

<http://www.geteduca.com/blog/why-early-learners-love-puppet-play/>

3. Using Puppets to Animate STEM Ed—SteamUniverse

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