

Deeper Learning through Play

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“New Pedagogies for Deep Learning: a global partnership seeks to renew our goals for education and learning, to include skills that prepare all learners to be life-long creative, connected and collaborative problem solvers and to be healthy, happy individuals who contribute to the common good in today’s globally interdependent world. We need our learning systems to encourage youth to develop their own visions about what it means to connect and flourish in their constantly emerging world, and equip them with the skills to pursue those visions.”

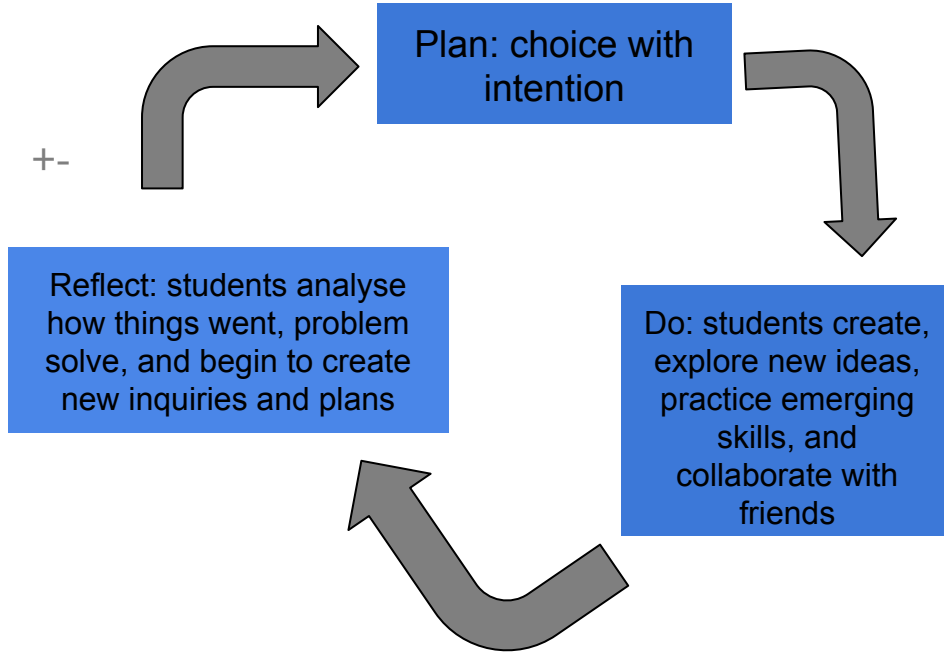
-Michael Fullen and Maria Langworthy
Towards a New End: New Pedagogies for Deep Learning (pg. 2)

We are all born with the desire to learn. Play is an instinctual way to experience and make understanding of our world. Children start with playing with concrete objects and their play will become more sophisticated as they develop. This continues throughout our lifespan and progresses to where as adults we play with ideas.

When throughout the school day are we allowing the time for play?



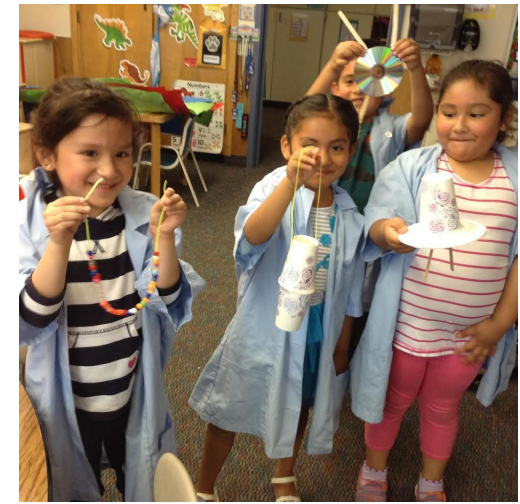
Plan-Do-Reflect



Learning through Play

“Play is the highest level of research”

-Albert Einstein



Collaboration

Communication

Creativity

Critical Thinking

Citizenship

Character

All children can be successful when provided with a learning environment that is developmentally appropriate and they are given time to integrate their developing skills as they navigate and make sense of the world.



Deeper Learning in Action

Plan-Do-Review with Bilingual Buddies- Bilingual Buddies make a plan together as to where they will play. This takes a lot of practice for kindergarten kids and requires a great deal of problem solving skills and negotiation skills. Bilingual buddies have a chance to rotate through centers and review their play.



Why Play Makes a Difference

Once we incorporated daily play in our classrooms we noticed more on task behavior, more engaged children and much more student led learning. Play during learning centers is developmentally appropriate and it promotes a healthy classroom community.



Transfer of Learning

The most exciting aspect of play within the classrooms as we have learned more about deeper learning is that play is naturally inquiry based and it promotes deeper learning.

- 1) Students develop interest and curiosity during play, which can potentially guide future inquiry based units of study or inspire inquiry circles.

Example: Students in our classes this year kept wanting to build structures and create. This provided an amazing platform to introduce our force and motion unit. Students explored the physics and engineering through play.



Transfer of Learning

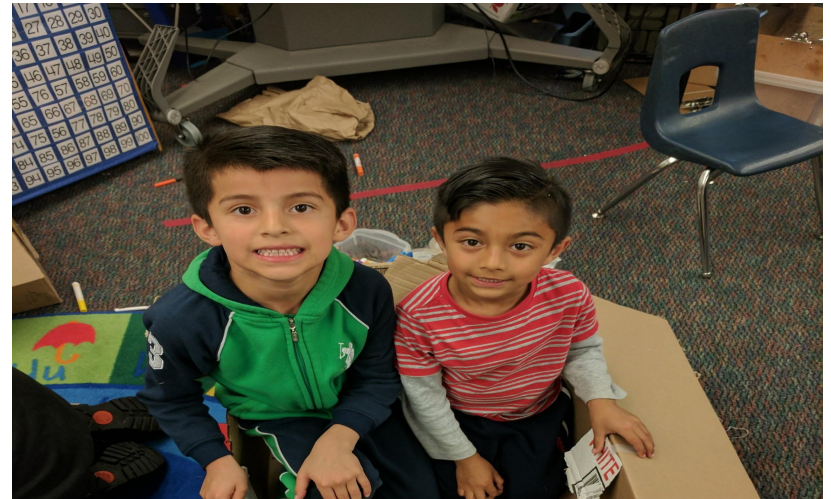
- 1) Students incorporate their learning into play. Therefore, students naturally take what they are learning and extend the learning process through play.

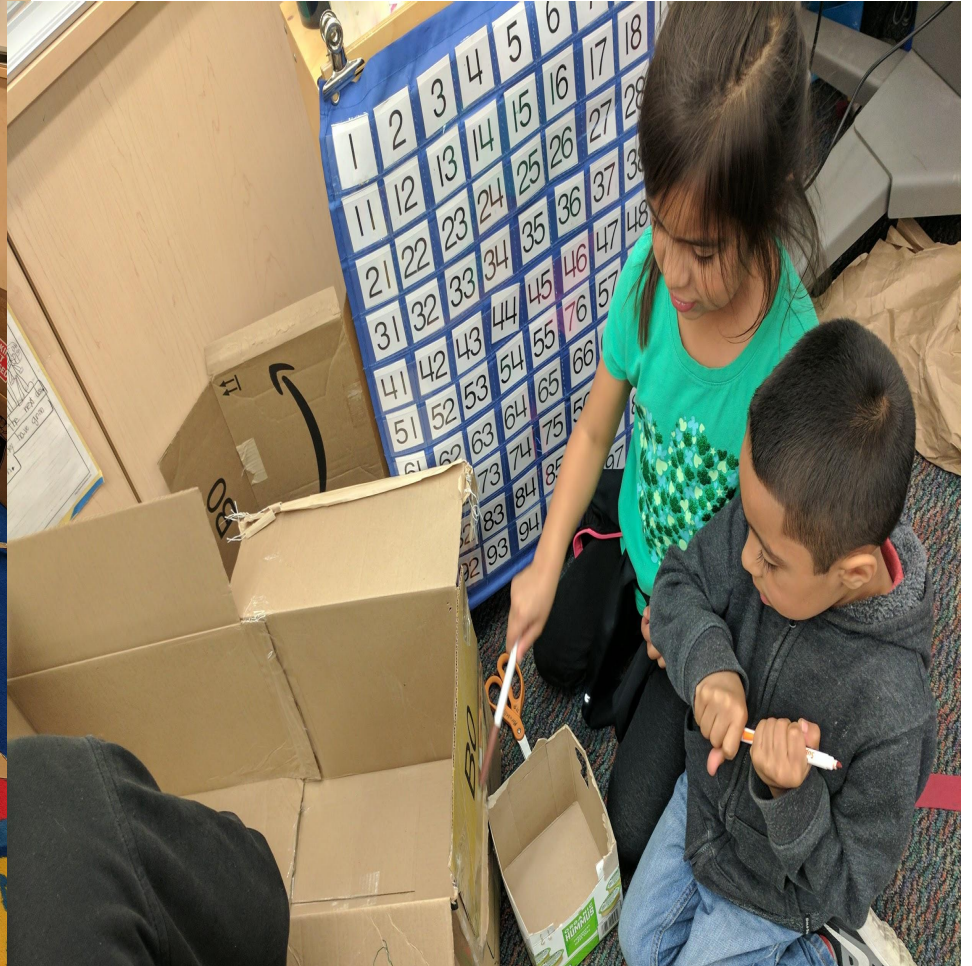
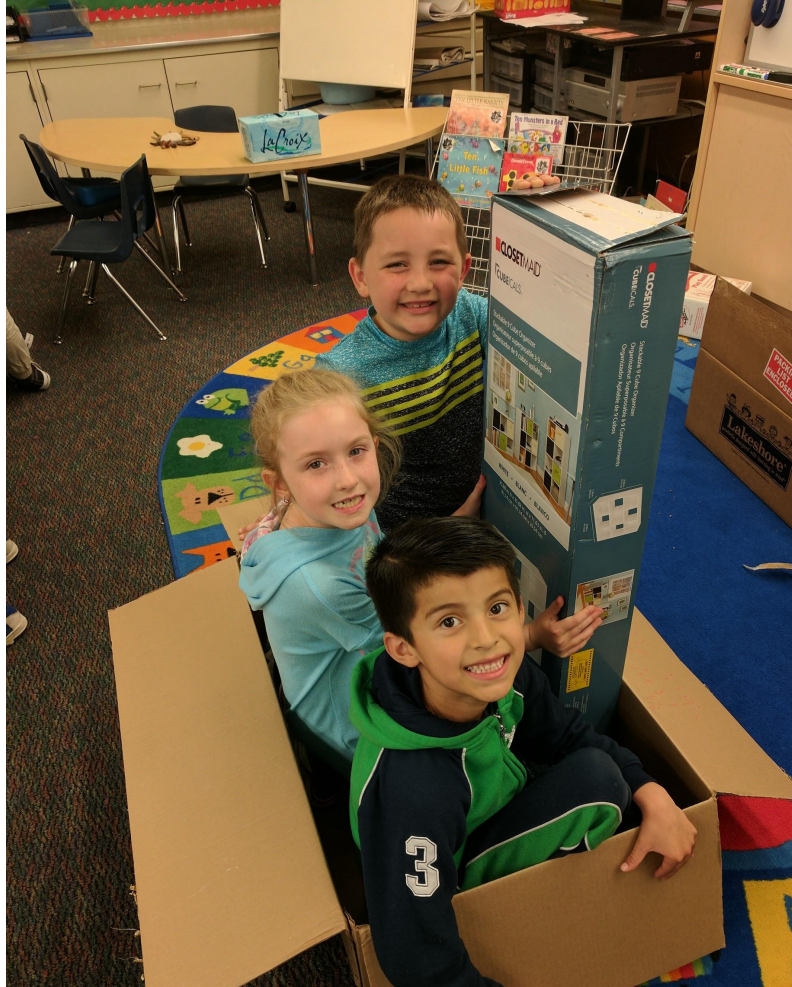
Example: Habitat Unit- Students chose to use various habitat mats and plastic animals in order to continue their learning.



Transfer of Learning

Example: Students had been learning about the deep sea and adaptations of creatures in response to the extreme condition of the abyss. This group of students really got excited and curious about the research submarines needed to view these creatures. Therefore, students had the opportunity to create submarines as a possible play activity during learning centers. All that was needed was cardboard, paint, markers and tape. Students loved designing their creations.





Transfer of Learning Deep Sea Submarines



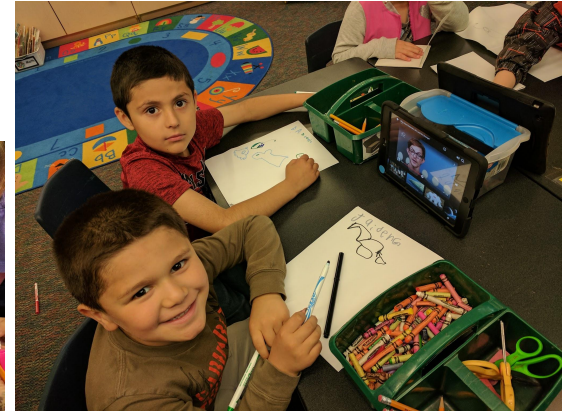
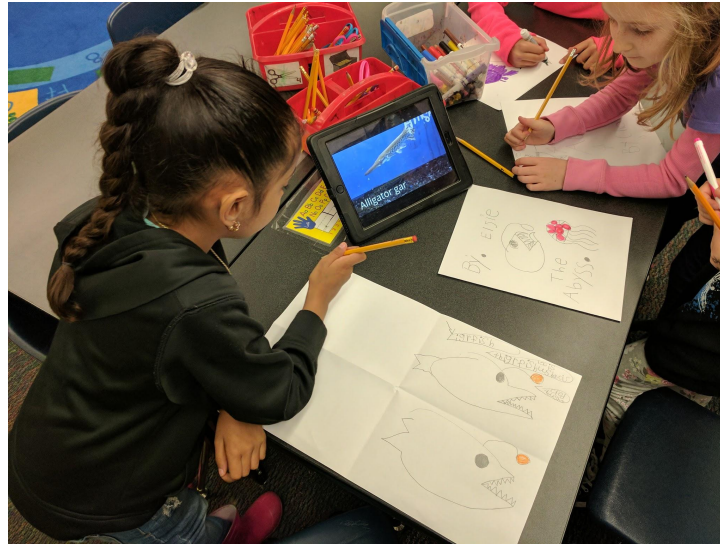
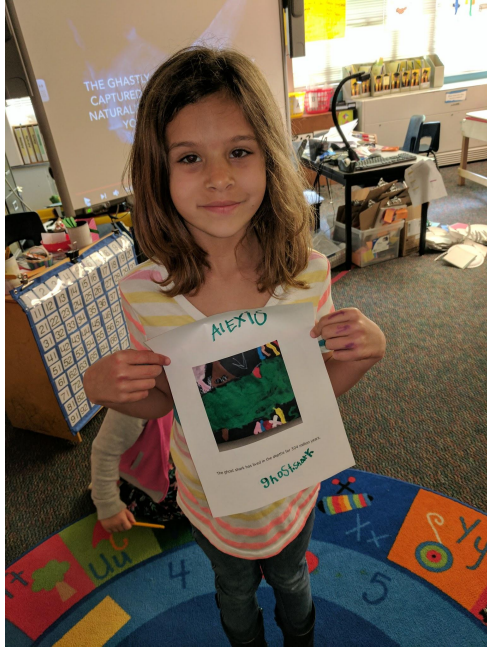
Leveraging Digital

Students naturally want to incorporate technology into play. Often this use of technology supports our inquiry based units.

Here are some examples:

- Students wanted to continue research about abyss creatures using IPADS.
- Students wanted to interview other children about habitats and weather using microphones and IPADS. Then they wanted to report about it using like news anchors.

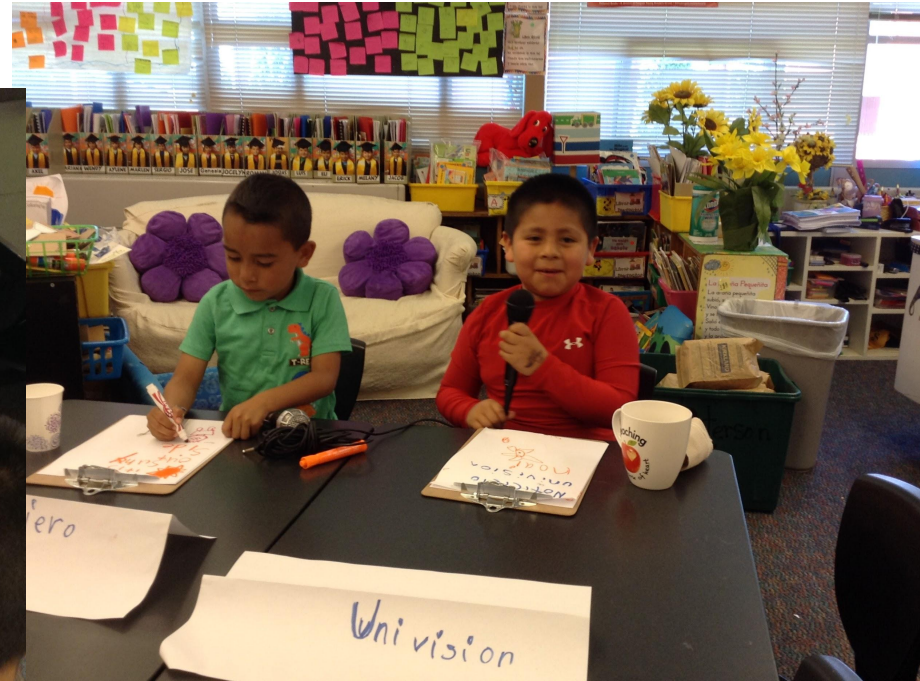
Leveraging Digital



Mrs. Peterson and Technology in Play



Leveraging Digital





“The creation of something new is not accomplished by the intellect but by the play instinct.”

-Carl Jung

