

Brandon K. Martin
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Project Focus – Best Lesson

Georgia Performance Standards:

1. SKP1. Students will describe objects in terms of the materials they are made of and their physical properties.

a. Compare and sort materials of different composition (common materials include clay, cloth, paper, plastic, etc.).

b. Use sense to classify common materials, such as buttons or swatches of cloth, according to their physical attributes (color, size, shape, weight, texture, buoyancy, flexibility)

2. SKCS1. Students will be aware of the importance of curiosity, honesty, openness, and skepticism in science and will exhibit these traits in their own efforts to understand how the world works.

a. Raise questions about the world around you and be willing to seek answers to some of the questions by making careful observations (5 senses) and trying things out.

3. SKCS5. Students will communicate scientific ideas and activities clearly.

a. Describe and compare things in terms of number, shape, texture, size, weight, color, and motion.

Target Grade Level: Kindergarten

Materials:

4 bags of marbles

4 bags of rocks

4 containers of playdo

4 bags of sand

4 slices of sandpaper

4 large bags

I prepared the materials by putting all of the items into an individual big bag so that students could not see inside of the bag when they reached in to see the contents.

Safety Concerns:

As kindergarteners, the students want to taste and smell every thing so you have to be careful to stress that these are not snacks.

Lesson Facilitation:

1. Opening:

Students will engage in a simple game of eye spy. We would look around the class and I will say "I spy something (insert color, texture, or composition material)". This will allow all of the students to think about what I said and then look around the room to try to identify something that can be classified in the category that I mentioned. If time permits, I will allow some of the students to tell me things that they spy as well.

2. Mini-Lesson:

Students will play an interactive Sid the Science Kid game called "I Sense" and another called "Sid's Sorting Box" in order to get their mind on the subject of classification and senses.

<http://pbskids.org/sid/isense.html>

http://pbskids.org/sid/fablab_sortingbox.html

3. Work-Lesson:

The class will be broken into three groups. One adult per group will go around with a bag filled with different objects of different textures (marbles, rocks, playdo, sand, and sand paper). Each student gets a turn to put their hand into the bag and feel all of the objects before seeing it. They will then have to describe the object using objects that portray touch. After each student has felt the object and stated what they felt, we will reveal the object to the students.

4. Closing:

If time permits, I will have the students draw pictures of things that they can classify into each sense (touch, taste, hear, smell, see).

Modifications:

I would only modify the things that I put in the bag, My students were familiar with everything except for the sandpaper. This familiarity made it easy for them to simply state what the object was instead of how it felt. I would modify this by using more peculiar objects forcing them to say what they felt because they wouldn't know what the object was.