



Promising Practice Application to Publish

Title of the Practice: Multi-Sensory Learning

Select a Category (*These areas are reviewed in most accreditation processes.*)

Improving Academic Achievement

Program Status Prior to Implementing Practice (*100 word max*)

Youth ages 10-15 years are referred to On-the-Rise by Juvenile Court, Children Services, county and city schools. After five years of working with at-risk youth, it was discovered that they did not have the ability to comprehend what they were reading. Because of this difficulty we were finding a connection between low self-esteem and low grades. We found that youth could not learn in a regular setting because they are easily distracted and bored due to their inability to comprehend and understand the material being taught.

Description of Practice (*300 word max*)

Seedfolk by Paul Fleischman is the book we used and this also comes with an audiotape. We found both at the local library. We developed a multi-sensory reading program providing the opportunity to use all five senses to match individual learning styles and abilities. One project we developed was making a diorama out of home-made play dough and shoe boxes. Other projects include gardening and cooking food from the garden like they did in the book. Youth also enjoy acting out the Seedfolk characters. Some youth have difficulty comprehending but by using many senses such as books, audios, and hands on activities they can integrate the material more easily. Youth have the ability to recall information better and retain it longer when the experience is multi-sensory. This can be a fun experience for youth and very impacting as well.

Evidence of Impact/ Results

Assessments come with the curriculum and are used at the end of the book and activities. Based on their understanding of the material, youth are encouraged to think beyond the book and be excited to use their new ideas in other activities. Motivation to learn increases with participation in highly active, diverse, learning experiences. Youth are connecting ideas from the book in other areas of their life. Comprehension skills are markedly better.

The assessment tool being used is Fast-R Student Thinking in Reading, through the Seed Folk curriculum. Other assessment tools include the 4-H curriculum as well as other evidence based material in science, math and social studies. Additional assessments have been created by the On-The-Rise staff. Self-esteem and self-sufficient behavior is improving as well as reading skills and comprehension.

Another tool being used is O-T-R Kid Nation (our spin-off.) Assessments are a work in progress. What we have discovered to this point with our youth who have many learning difficulties is, when asked specific questions they have trouble answering but when asked to explain the book and what they have

learned from the book, we are amazed by what they remember and the lessons they learned from the characters.

Replication (*Describe any funds, materials, and conditions needed to reproduce this practice. Please list helpful websites.*)

Seed Folk books and audio from the library

- Youth read the book and listen to the audio as a group in a comfortable setting.
- Daily discussions on reading.
- Youth made diorama representing their interpretation of the garden , the buildings, the people
- Youth share and discuss their diorama.

Materials used:

- Globe & maps finding where characters in book came from and where they live now. (relating distance and cultures)
- homemade play dough (salt, cream of tartar, oil, water, food coloring) heat ingredients and knead
- Natural items from their environment (leaves, grass, sticks, rocks etc.)
- construction paper and other available craft supplies
- shoebox, glue, scissors
- garden space , seeds and tools to grow vegetables
- area to prepare and cook what was grown

Costs:

20 packets of seeds -\$20.00

Garden tools-\$20.00

Materials for play-dough- \$3.00

Misc. items \$5.00

Helpful websites:

- <http://files.harpercollins.com/PDF>
 - www.learningtogive.org/lessons/unit229/
 - [Seedfolks Lesson Plan/Scholastic.com](http://SeedfolksLessonPlan/Scholastic.com)
 - [A Guide to Reading Paul Fleishman's Seedfolks](http://www.AGuideToReadingPaulFleishman'sSeedfolks.com)
- <http://www.teachersvision.fen.com/tvprintables/harp>
- <http://digitalcommons.trinity.edu/c>
 - <http://obocgreenbay.wordpress.com/seedfolks-lesson-plans/>
 - www.harperchildrens.com
 - www.bpexcellence-online.com
 - [Fast -R Formative Assesments of Student Thinking in Reading](http://Fast-RFormativeAssesments.com)

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