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The Art of Integrating the Arts: An Examination of Integrating the Fine Arts into Reading and Writing Instruction

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The Art of Integrating the Arts

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Research Questions

- 1) What does art integration look like in a third grade classroom?
- 2) How can I incorporate the arts into all curricular areas?
- 3) How can the arts be used to promote literacy in the classroom?

Participants

- Who:** 23 third grade students – 11 boys, 12 girls
- Who:** Students were primarily of white ethnicity
- Who:** Most students came from middle class backgrounds
- What:** Students participated in a series of art integrated lessons
- Where:** The study was conducted in a rural midwest community



Goals

- To engage students in activities that match their strongest intelligence
- To use the arts to help students deepen their comprehension of text
- To explore how students' natural play in the arts could extend to student understanding
- To increase students intellectual passion
- To use the arts to teaching improve literacy and writing skills

Literature Review

- Music:** improves mathematics reasoning, literacy, and enhances English fluency for English language learners
- Drama:** has been found to enhance students' comprehension, improve peer interaction and collaboration, and enhance problem solving abilities
- Visual Arts:** has been found to enhance reading skills, interpretation of text, develop reasoning abilities, and increase the speed of learning and retention
- Dance/Movement:** positively impacts self confidence, social tolerance, and creativity



Methodology

Data was drawn from the following sources:

- 1) Personal reflections
- 2) Lesson Plans
- 3) Student work
- 4) Video tapes of art integrated lessons

*My self-study involved developing and teaching a series of lessons focused on art integration. The research was conducted during writing, reading, math, and social studies instruction on a daily basis. During a period of three months, I taught art integrated lessons relating to the four sections of the fine arts: music, visual arts, drama, and dance.

Results

Through integrating the arts I found the following:

- The arts involve the whole child
- Children are immersed intellectually, emotionally, physically, and therefore rigorously, in the learning experience
- Students to assume greater responsibility for their learning
- Students who struggle academically experience success when given the opportunity to demonstrate their learning through multiple mediums of expression
- The arts can be used as a powerful teaching strategy for a variety of reading and writing content
- The arts have the power to motivate unmotivated students
- The arts can help students experience, and therefore more deeply understand concepts in all curricular areas