

Practicum Power: Planning, Practice and Portfolios

Early childhood educators use documentation panels to make children's learning visible. Artifacts, anecdotal notes that capture conversations and photographs are collected to answer the question, "What are we learning?" We analyze these pieces of information and reflect on what we learned about the children. This helps us answer the question, "How did they learn?"

Practicum students Nevaeh Asay and Jessica Kasinger planned, implemented, and recorded the learning in preschool and kindergarten classrooms. Ms. Asay's kindergarteners participated in a prediction lesson that consisted of a read aloud book called "A Ball For Daisy" and then engaged their brains into predicting what was going to happen next. Kindergarteners then illustrated pictures and wrote about their predictions. Preschoolers learned about plants with Ms. Jessica by applying their background knowledge, information from a book, and an interesting classroom discussion resulting in planting their very own seed. They were able to watch it grow from a seed to a sunflower, see how the sun and the water and the soil work together to create an end result, and have fun while doing it. Comparing the first and last lesson plans and learning will show the growth in teaching skills along with the growth of children.