

After spending time both learning about teaching in my college level classes, and completing my required practicum hours in a fourth grade classroom it quickly became apparent how much students have the need and energy to move around constantly throughout the day. This is where my passion for play based, hands on, and student focused learning came from. Children are naturally hardwired to learn from their environments and through trying and attempting the task at hand. This is why when we stick students in a desk all day and expect them to sit perfectly still it often, as you can imagine, does not go as planned. The method of play based and hands on learning has been played out in front of me multiple times in my practicum placement. The evidence is in the children's excitement and happiness that comes from their own learning. They are no longer bored and overly fidgety by sitting at their desk and letting information go in one ear and out the other, they are proactive and ready to take on new activities and challenges. As a future educator I am ecstatic to be implementing this, at times, possibly misunderstood, teaching strategy, play based/student centered learning.