Everyday Artists: Inquiry and Creativity in the Early Childhood Classroom

Author(s): Dana Frantz Bentley

Date Available: 13 February 2015
ISBN: 978 1 76001 074 4
Code/SKU: TCP0744
RRP: $37.95
Format/Page No.: B5, 142 pages
Year Level: Early Learning, F–2, Teachers and Administrators
Focus Area: Classroom Practice and Direct Instruction, Critical and Creative Thinking, Inquiry Learning, Professional Development

Key Learning Area: Cross-Curricular, The Arts

Summary

For the young child, art is a way of solving problems, conceptualising the world and creating new possibilities. This book is about young children engaging in the art of world-making. Art, not in the traditional sense of making paintings, drawings, dance and music, objects of art, but rather as constituting a powerful tool of everyday thinking.

*Everyday Artists* addresses the disconnect that exists between the teaching of art and the way young children actually experience art. In doing so, this book questions commonly held notions and opens up exciting new possibilities for art education in the early childhood classroom. A practising teacher herself, Bentley uses vignettes of children’s everyday activities – from block building to clean-up to outdoor play – to help teachers identify and scaffold the genuine artistic practice of young children.

*Everyday Artists* features:

- tangible examples of everyday art experience told through lively classroom stories
- an examination of the teacher’s role with suggestions of appropriate ways to support children’s artistic expression
- clear explanations of how inquiry and creativity contribute to the overall thinking and learning of the young child
- a “Voice of the Teacher” section that offers teaching strategies for extending children’s thinking and learning
- a wide range of ideas for teachers who feel they do not know how to “do” art.

Supporting Resources

- *Art is What You Make of It* (HB0666)
- *Visual Knowing: Connecting Arts & Ideas Across the Curriculum* (CO7068)
- *Creative Problem Solving: The Arts* (1073)
- *Art for the Very Young* (IFA18973)