Don’t Leave the Story in the Book: Using Literature to Guide Inquiry in Early Childhood Classrooms

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Learning Area: Cross-Curricular
Category: Inquiry Learning

Summary:
Fairytale stories are an integral part of childhood, providing children with enchanting stories that serve to teach right from wrong, and good from bad. Don’t Leave the Story in the Book: Using Literature to Guide Inquiry in Early Childhood Classrooms shows that fairytale and traditional bedtime stories also have a place in the classroom, teaching children to ask questions and engage with their lessons.

Featuring a “storyteller’s voice”, each chapter includes a case study about how a particular fiction or nonfiction work can be used in an early childhood classroom; a series of open-ended questions to help readers construct their own inquiry units; and a bibliography of children’s literature. This book provides a unique synthesis of ideas based on constructivist approaches to learning, including the importance of positive dispositions and learning communities, the nature of higher-order thinking, and the relationship between methods such as guided inquiry in the sciences and balanced literacy.

Don’t Leave the Story in the Book will help teachers to entertain their students in the same way fairytales have been since early childhood, while promoting learning at the same time.

Supporting Resources:
- Twelve Best Practices for Early Childhood Education: Integrating Reggio and Other Inspired Approaches (TCP1700)
- Write Dance In the Early Years (SA1373)
- Creative Ways to Teach Literacy (SA1304)
- Creative Circle Time Lessons for the Early Years + CD (SA8761)