



Big Ideas About Inquiry and Project Based Learning

With extensive crossover to Growing Into Inquiry Training and the Questar III Inquiry Curriculum, inquiry based projects are characterized by:

- Mastery of content knowledge through application of inflexible knowledge
- Construction of meaning from text
- Awareness and use of prior knowledge
- Clarification of misconceptions
- Development of responses to BIG IDEAS of compelling content, sufficient to support investigation
- Mastery of the vocabulary of the content area
- Attention to building background knowledge
- Moving learners beyond rote and recall
- Central importance of questions framed by the learner
- Shift to learner centered dynamics
- Organization around essential questions, and a team effort to reinforce new learning with essential questions
- Development of assessment tools to convey expectations to learners improve performance
- Foundation in brain research
- Tapping into the innate curiosity of children and their positive response to hands on, relevant experiences
- Building on well planned investigations using diverse and plentiful information resources
- Real world understandings and formative knowledge result from investigations
- Sharing new learning in creative products for meaningful audiences which boosts motivation and quality of work
- Collaboration and social dynamics for learning boost performance
- Using reading and writing as a tool boosts literacy
- Transparent thinking, reflection, and problem solving
- Internalization of process skills
- Enhanced affective experience of children in a learning environment with emotion as a key to motivation and success