



Informal Learning and **FIELD TRIPS**

Engaging Students in Standards-Based Experiences
Across the K-5 Curriculum

Leah M. Melber Foreword by Doris B. Ash

Informal Learning and Field Trips: Engaging Students in Standards-Based Experiences Across the K-5 Curriculum, Leah M. Melber, Corwin Press, 2007, 1412949807, 9781412949804, 143 pages. The author shows teachers how to incorporate constructivist philosophy and inquiry-based learning techniques for standards-aligned, off-site learning experiences and provides guidelines for developing corresponding classroom activities..

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Staff Development The Key to Effective Gifted Education Programs, Peggy Dettmer, Mary Landrum, Dec 1, 1997, Education, 136 pages. "Facilitators for gifted programs must be able to plan, implement, and evaluate staff development experiences for a variety of school personnel and support role groups. From

Literacy work stations making centers work, Debbie Diller, 2003, Education, 218 pages. Debbie Diller offers practical suggestions for over a dozen literacy work stations that link to instruction and make preparation and management easy for teachers..

The Exploratorium guide to scale and structure activities for the elementary classroom, Barry Kluger-Bell, School in the Exploratorium (San Francisco, Calif.), Nov 6, 1995, Education, 198 pages. Children love to build, and are fascinated by things that are big and small. This book capitalizes on these natural fascinations to involve students in scientific explorations..

Play, Projects, and Preschool Standards Nurturing Children's Sense of Wonder and Joy in Learning, Gera Jacobs, Kathy Crowley, 2007, Education, 159 pages. The authors help readers create well-planned projects and activities that capture children's interest and develop the critical social and pre-academic skills identified in

Into the Field A Guide to Locally Focused Teaching, Ann Zwinger, John Tallmadge, Clare Walker Leslie, Tom Wessels, Nov 1, 1999, , 83 pages. Into the Field provides teachers with curriculum ideas for engaging students in the natural and cultural history of their communities. The book is both theoretical and

Being an Effective Mentor How to Help Beginning Teachers Succeed, Kathleen Feeney Jonson, Apr 17, 2008, Education, 206 pages. This updated edition provides information on stages of teacher development, professional growth, assessment of student work, mentors within teacher induction programs, and

Identifying and Enhancing the Strengths of Gifted Learners, K-8 Easy-to-Use Activities and Lessons, Ann Maccagnano, Apr 20, 2007, Education, 120 pages. Offers teachers challenging activities and engaging lessons to develop and nurture gifted learners..

The organized teacher a hands-on guide to setting up and running a terrific classroom, Steve Springer, Brandy Alexander, Kimberly Persiani-Becker, Jul 22, 2005, Education, 282 pages. Features organizational tips for teachers in elementary and middle schools, including tips on classroom management, record-keeping, and tools..

40 Ways to Support Struggling Readers in Content Classrooms, Grades 6-12 , Elaine K. McEwan, May 1, 2007, Education, 169 pages. Provides 40 research-based methods with suggestions for easy implementation to help struggling readers, and features three tables of contents (traditional, topical, and problem

Integrating Language Arts and Social Studies 25 Strategies for K-8 Inquiry-Based Learning, Leah M. Melber, Alyce Hunter, Sep 11, 2009, Education, 188 pages. This book looks at social science techniques that integrate language arts with an inquiry-based approach to social science.

Sing a Song of Science Songs, Raps, Stories, Visualizations, Kathleen Carroll, Sep 1, 1998, , 51 pages. Here's a brain-friendly approach to science and a new way to teach it! You'll find that songs,

laps, and stories are indispensable tools to reinforce science concepts your

Multiple Intelligences and Positive Life Habits 174 Activities for Applying Them in Your Classroom, Lynne Beachner, Anola Pickett, Mar 30, 2001, Education, 163 pages. Activities are specifically tailored to each of the eight multiple intelligences and serve as a guide to developing learning strategies in the classroom..

"A highly accessible work on all facets of informal learning opportunities that will be of immense value to teachers. The focus on specific content areas is an excellent tool for teachers, and the inclusion of a section related to English Language Learners is especially welcome and unique." (Robert Rueda, Professor of Education 2007-06-04)

"This great resource for both teachers and administrators demonstrates how to gain more meaning from field trips and includes rubrics that make it easy to assess student learning. This book proves that just as much, or more, learning can be achieved when not in a classroom setting." (Mark Johnson, Principal and Curriculum and Assessment Facilitator 2007-06-04)

"A solid resource for educators and professionals to helping K-5 students get the most out of a field trip. Step-by-step procedures, a wealth of resources, and wisdom garnered from hands-on, practical experience make for an invaluable supplement to any K-5 teacher's reference collection." (Library Bookwatch, March 2008 2008-04-24)

Leah M. Melber, Ph.D. has nearly 20 years experience within informal and formal science education. She holds a BA in Zoology, an MA in education together with a multiple subject teaching credential for the state of California, and a Ph.D. in educational psychology from the University of Southern California. She has presented widely on inquiry-based instruction and effective methods of connecting with cultural institutions such as museums. In addition to numerous journal articles she has written on this topic, she has recently published a book titled Informal Learning and Field Trips. She was awarded the 2001 Informal Educator Award through the California Science Teachers Association. She joined the staff of Lincoln Park Zoo in December of 2008.

Also, I'd like to emphasize what a good fit the book is for the homeschool community. While working in museums, I was always thrilled to see the frequency with which homeschool families made museums and other community sites a key part of the curriculum. If you are currently homeschooling, I think you'll find the projects within this work will be a good fit to your home curriculum and of course national standards!

Written by veteran educator and current assistant professor Leah M. Melber, Ph.D., Informal Learning and Field Trips: Engaging Students in Standards-Based Experiences Across the K-5 Curriculum is a solid resource for educators and professionals to helping their helping K-5 students get the most out of a field trap. Chapters cover learning-centered activities for subjects ranging from language arts to math, science, social studies and fine art; guidelines for developing classroom activities that correspond with the field trip; ways to support English Language Learners and special education students; tips for bringing museum-type activities to the classroom when a trip is not possible; and much more. Step-by-step procedures, a wealth of resources, and solid wisdom garnered from hands-on practical experience make for an invaluable supplement to any K-5 teacher's reference collection.

What youngster isn't excited at the prospect of taking a field trip? Enthusiastic students present teachers with the ideal scenario for creating meaningful out-of-the-classroom encounters and giving students the building blocks to help them become active participants in their own educational process.

This resource helps educators take full advantage of off-site educational opportunities by developing lessons that connect informal learning with content standards. Based on constructivist philosophy and inquiry-based learning, the book provides numerous sample lesson plans and technology tips,

and includes:

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Contents: Where to begin? planning for field trips -- Active investigators : science explorations -- Language alive : language arts explorations -- More than names and dates : social science explorations -- One, two, three, go! math explorations -- An artistic eye : fine art explorations -- Access for all : successful field trip experiences for everyone -- Technically speaking : using technology to enhance field trips -- Making your case : information to share with administrators -- When you have to stay on campus : alternatives to off-site field trips -- Learning for you : teacher resources at informal learning sites

"A highly accessible work of immense value on all facets of informal learning opportunities. The focus on specific content areas is an excellent tool for teachers, and the inclusion of a section related to English Language Learners is especially welcome and unique." a?Robert Rueda, Professor of Education University of Southern California "This great resource demonstrates how to gain more meaning from field trips and includes a wealth of tips, suggestions, and rubrics to make it easy to assess student learning. This book shows that just as much a/or more a'learning can be achieved when not in a classroom setting." a?Mark Johnson, Principal and Curriculum and Assessment Facilitator Glenwood Elementary School, Kearney, NE Turn every field trip into a high-quality learning experience! What youngster isn't excited at the prospect of taking a field trip? Enthusiastic students present teachers with the ideal scenario for creating meaningful out-of-the-classroom encounters and giving students the building blocks to help them become active participants in their own educational process. This resource helps educators take full advantage of off-site educational opportunities by developing lessons that connect informal learning with content standards. Based on constructivist philosophy and inquiry-based learning, the book provides numerous sample lesson plans and technology tips, and includes: Learner-centered activities for language arts, math, science, social studies, and fine art Ways to support English Language Learners and special education students Guidelines for developing corresponding classroom activities Strategies for building partnerships with informal learning sites Methods for bringing museum-type activities into the classroom when a trip is not possible Informal Learning and Field Trips helps enrich students' lives as they explore the world outside the school grounds and gives teachers a prime opportunity to revitalize the learning experience.

Informal Learning and Field Trips provides teachers with concrete guidance for creating high-quality learning experiences that take advantage of informal educational environments. Based on constructivist philosophy and inquiry learning, the author shows teachers how to develop lessons that align with content standards while focusing on the treasures housed at informal learning sites. The book provides numerous sample lesson plans and activity suggestions and includes information for: o Structuring field trips o Developing corresponding classroom activities o Building partnerships with informal learning sites Incorporating museum-type activities into the classroom when a trip is not possible.

Foreword by Doris B. Ash Preface Acknowledgments 1. Where to Begin? Planning for Field Trips 2. Active Investigators: Science Explorations 3. Language Alive: Language Arts Explorations 4. More Than Names and Dates: Social Science Explorations 5. 1, 2, 3, Go! Math Explorations 6. An Artistic Eye: Fine Art Explorations 7. Access for All: Everyone Can Go on Field Trips 8. Technically Speaking: Using Technology to Enhance Field Trips 9. Making Your Case: Information to Share With Administrators 10. When You Have to Stay on Campus: Alternatives to Off-site Field Trips 11. Learning for You: Teacher Resources at Informal Learning Sites Conclusion References Index

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