

Inquiry and Differentiation in the Elementary Science Classroom: A Study Group

Inquiry is at the heart of effective science instruction. The *National Science Education Standards* (1996) recommend that students from all grades have the opportunity to experience inquiry in order to develop the thinking processes and reasoning skills that are integral to the discipline of science. Inquiry is a student-centered process and provides natural opportunities for differentiation. Through the questions students generate and the plans they develop during inquiry, students set personal goals for investigation. In addition, through the types of materials made available and the structures used to communicate findings, teachers can further differentiate science experiences for their students.

This four-part study group will provide general and special educators with an opportunity to work collaboratively in study groups with a focus on differentiating inquiry-based science for all students in their elementary classrooms.

Participants in this professional development activity will:

- explore a variety of instructional strategies that effectively address the academically diverse needs of students in elementary science classrooms and improve learning outcomes;
- deepen their science content knowledge through the examination of Connecticut frameworks, curricular materials, and common student misconceptions;
- design and implement inquiry-based science lessons;
- reflect on and revise lessons as a study group through the use of structured protocols for examining lesson plans and student work; and
- share experiences with and learn from other participants through intersession online discussion groups.

Dates, Time, Location:

Four Thursdays:
Thursday, November 15, 2007
Thursday, January 24, 2008
Thursday, April 3, 2008
Thursday, May 15, 2008

All Sessions:

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
SERC, Middletown

Snow Date:

January 31, 2008

Presenters:

Deborah Fernandes
Grade 4 Teacher
Christopher Stone
Grade 5 Teacher
E.C. Stevens Elementary
Wallingford

Kara Gavin
Consultant, SERC

Audience: Grades K-5

Thirty (30) general and special educators
in teams of 4-6 members

CEUs: 1.4

Includes:
Full Attendance (All 4 Sessions)
Post-Activity Application of Learning

Registration Fee:

\$60.00 per team member
Fee waived for Administrator
Payable to Rensselaer at Hartford
Payment is due prior to the session upon
confirmation of participation.

Questions/ Special Needs:

Contact: Carol Hotz
Senior Project Assistant
(860) 632-1485, ext. 232

Register By:

October 30, 2007



www.ctserc.org



Science Literacy Initiative

Please return team application on next page to: SERC, Science Literacy Initiative, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457-1520. Teams will be selected on a first come, first served basis with regional consideration. Applicants will receive written confirmation regarding participation shortly after the registration closing date.

(See application on next page.)

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(Continued from previous page.)

School-based teams of 4-6 educators should submit an application. **General education administrators are required to attend at least the first session, at no cost.** Each member of the team should respond to the following questions on a separate sheet of paper to be submitted with the application.

1. Why are you interested in attending *Inquiry and Differentiation: A Study Group*?
2. Describe your science curriculum. To what extent is your school using hands-on science materials and/or inquiry-based learning?
3. Describe previous training in inquiry. Please be specific: give dates, names of trainer, etc.
4. Describe previous training in differentiation. Please be specific: give dates, names of trainer, etc.

District _____

School _____

Contact Person _____ Phone (_____) _____

Email _____ Fax (_____) _____

Teams must include the following four members: Administrator, General Education Teacher, Special Education Teacher, and up to three additional team members. All team members are required to attend all four days of the training. The Administrator is required to attend only Day One and is encouraged to attend all four days.

(Please Print Clearly.)

1. Administrator _____ Position/Role _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Email (Please Print.) _____ Home Phone (_____) _____

2. General Education Teacher _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Email (Please Print.) _____ Home Phone (_____) _____

3. Special Education Teacher _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Email (Please Print.) _____ Home Phone (_____) _____

4. Team Member _____ Position/Role _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Email (Please Print.) _____ Home Phone (_____) _____

5. Team Member _____ Position/Role _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Email (Please Print.) _____ Home Phone (_____) _____

6. Team Member _____ Position/Role _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Email (Please Print.) _____ Home Phone (_____) _____

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