CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT DURING SCIENCE AND BEYOND

Teaching with CLASS Podcast Season 4 Episode 2
Guest: Lexi Alexander

+ Concept Development and Critical Thinking

- Concept development is all about critical thinking and higher-order skills.
- Encourage children to be thinkers, creators, and planners by giving them autonomy.
- Embrace "why" and "how" questions to provoke critical thinking.

+ Leveraging Children's Natural Curiosity

- Recognize and embrace children's innate curiosity.
- See everyday moments as opportunities for scientific exploration and learning.
- Ask open-ended questions and provide space for children to wonder and explore.

+ Science Learning Throughout the Day

- Integrate science concepts into daily activities and centers.
- Focus on key concepts like cause and effect, stability and change, and structure and function.
- Provide opportunities for children to plan and conduct their own investigations.

+ Embody the Spirit of a Scientist

- Be curious and excited about learning alongside children.
- Model the process of thinking and reasoning for children.
- Embrace mistakes and failures as part of the learning process and encourage resilience.

By embracing concept development and critical thinking, teachers can create a rich and engaging learning environment that fosters children's natural curiosity and empowers them to explore, question, and understand the world around them. Incorporating science learning throughout the day and embodying the spirit of a scientist will lead to meaningful and impactful learning experiences for young learners.

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