

# Using Engagement and Visible Learning to Promote Understanding

60 Inservice Points

Component No. 2 007 012

## **General Objective**

Increase awareness and understanding of how active engagement and visible learning strategies can promote deeper understanding as it relates to student learning in the early childhood and elementary classroom.

## **Specific Objectives**

Participants will:

1. Define understanding.
2. Understand the role of active engagement in the learning process
3. Compare the inner ecology of engagement to the outer ecology.
4. Define four elements related to the inner ecology of engagement and give an example of each in an authentic teaching/learning situation.
5. Define four elements related to the outer ecology of engagement and give an example of each in an authentic teaching/learning situation.
6. Examine aspects of one's own teaching practices that promote or take away from active engagement.
7. Develop appropriate strategies to increase student engagement.
8. Participate in small and whole group activities to apply engagement strategies to curriculum planning for the school-wide International Day studies.
9. Define visible learning.
10. Explore the relationship between visible learning and teaching strategies.
11. Explore the relationship between visible learning and assessment.
12. Explore the use of Thinking Maps®, portfolios, art, projects, and performances as a way to promote visible learning.
13. Develop appropriate strategies to increase the use of visible learning in one's own classroom.

## **Activities**

Participants will:

1. Attend on-campus after school professional development sessions.
2. Work in action research groups to explore engagement and visible learning as it relates to one's actual work situation (subject area and/or grade level).
3. Read professional literature related to the course objectives, share information with colleagues, and reflect on how this relates to one's teaching situation.
4. Complete an on-campus course on the use of the Thinking Maps® program and utilize this program with students at all grade levels and subject areas.
5. Apply newly acquired strategies to classrooms and evaluate effectiveness of such strategies.

## **Evaluation**

Participants will:

1. Maintain a folder of all activities related to coursework such as workshops, articulation with colleagues, curriculum planning and development, conferences, and reflections.
2. Develop age-appropriate curriculum related to the school-wide International Day studies using strategies related to active engagement and visible learning.
3. Formally share classroom strategies with one another at a faculty Celebration of Learning in early May.
4. Share examples of student work (visible learning) from various subject areas at the Creative Thinking Showcase in May of 2008.
5. Complete a course evaluation form.

