Preschoolers dive in for authentic learning of marine science

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Abstract
Preservice teachers created integrated activities for preschoolers that simulated skills used by marine biologists. Each activity addressed marine biology content appropriate for young children; incorporated a foundational mathematics skill such as matching, one-to-one correspondence, counting, sorting, and forming a series; and practiced fine motor skills through use of spoons, tweezers, tongs, or pincer-grip with fingers. Materials and reactions of preschoolers are described along with preservice teacher reflections on their authentic learning of teaching young children.

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The learning environment of authentic learning is multidisciplinary in nature, for examples: designing a container for specific purpose, setting rules, planning a budget, and solving a crisis. Authentic approach of learning differs greatly from traditional “lecture” classes, where teachers give students information and content of a subject discipline that students are expected to memorize and repeat on tests. It promotes understanding through discovery and doing. Authentic learning is recommended as the best way of learning for students. It is solidly grounded by the theories of learning and c Exploring, creating, and discovering is how we learn! Focusing on creative learning activities for kids! The amazing variability of weather we have here in Canada (sometimes within one week) makes weather a fabulous science topic for preschoolers. Here are some amazing weather activities for preschoolers to explore: Why do Leaves Change Colour? This is an annual science experiment in our home. So simple and so cool! This experiment really helps little ones understand why leaves change color in the Autumn. Fascinating Frozen Bubbles from Fireflies and Mud Pies – This science activity is perfect for super cold winter days. Try this at different points through the winter and record what happens to th