Young Investigators: The Project Approach in the Early Years

Chapter Three: Developing the Project – Phase II

1. What is the purpose of reviewing the children’s web?

......the teacher’s anticipatory web?

2. How can teachers involve families and parents in Phase II?

3. Describe the difference between a field trip and as field site.

4. Give two suggestions fro ways to prepare the field site personnel and/or visiting experts for a visit from the children.

5. How might you teach preschoolers the skill of asking questions?

6. What other skills should you practice with young children in preparation for project work?
Chapter Four: Investigation

1. The authors suggest visiting the field site in the beginning of the project. Why is this helpful?

2. Why can the following question be problematic? “Does anyone have any questions they would like to ask?”

3. What are some of the nonverbal cues children might exhibit when they are interested in something?

4. What is the purpose of a field sketch?

5. Instead of telling the children the steps to follow when working on drawing strategies, it is recommended that teachers suggest a sequence of events. Describe this sequence:

6. Provide at least one example of a strategy to support children’s need to collect data through counting:

....through writing:
7. What are examples of ways teachers can encourage children to use their knowledge from projects in their play.

8. Why is it important for teachers to *not* immediately jump into a discussion with children with the answer?

**Chapter Five: Concluding the Project**

1. What do children gain by summarizing what they have learned at the end of a project?

2. How could a teacher use the children’s web to help them review their project?

3. Provide examples of ways children can share their projects with others.

4. *Documentation* is:

5. What are the reasons for the use of documentation in the project approach?

6. Describe at least two types of documentation
7. Following the project, teachers should reflect and evaluate the experience for the children, the children’s learning and their teaching. The following questions are helpful to consider:

a. Do the children take ________________ for their work?

b. Are children absorbed and ________________ in their work?

c. Are children becoming ________________ learners?

d. Are the children increasingly ________________?

e. Are the tasks in the project challenging and ________________?

f. Is the children’s work used to assess their ________________?

g. Does the teacher ________________ and ________________ the children’s work?

Chapter Seven: The Fire Truck Project

1. What was the catalytic event in the fire truck project?

2. What did the children do at the field site visit?

3. What were some of the methods that the children used to document their learning?