



Summer Institute

Professional Development

The Summer Institute will provide participants with an introductory immersion experience to object based learning and inquiry using the *Messages of the Built Environment* text. The three and one-half day training will introduce *Messages*, provide information about the built environment, and help teachers make connections to the associated literacy, science, and math concepts. The institute will demonstrate the use of teaching principles and skills including visual literacy/observation,, critical thinking, and inquiry to improve participants' teaching abilities and encourage creativity in lesson planning. A follow-up classroom project will be developed and tested among peers, and the results reviewed and critiqued in 3 follow-up sessions during the year.

Day One: Object Based Learning and the Built Environment

Participants will be able to:

1. Define the concept of the built environment
2. Discuss their understanding of how to learn from objects (object-based learning)
3. Discuss the skills they can apply to “reading” the built environment (visual literacy)

Day Two: Connecting History, Math, and Science to Community Resources

Participants will be able to:

1. Make connections from the built environment to literacy, math, science, and design.
2. “Read” the built environment to discover the connection from line to shape to letter and form. (Literacy to geometry applied in the real world)
3. Explore the visual clues to the history the built environment reveals
4. Develop activities for children based on “reading” the outside built environment

Day Three: Inquiry Method and Engaging Children

Participants will be able to:

1. Explain and apply the inquiry method
2. Develop lesson plan using object-based learning and inquiry methods to support critical thinking
3. Identify opportunities for experiential homework assignments using buildings or other community resources.

Day Four: Half Day Presentation Activity:

Participants will present and critique lesson plan activities.

Implementation Support: October, January, March

Workshop integrated into PD schedule to assess and share successes and challenges and support teachers as they develop new skills.

Students who completed course and participated in the coaching received 3 credits from an education class at Trinity College, Washington DC.