PROJECT LEARNING IN THE CLASSROOM

Child STUDY CENTRE
a love of learning grows here

PROJECT

– An in-depth investigation/inquiry of a real world topic from the Programs of Study
– Done by the entire class or by small student groups
– Emphasis on students' active participation in the planning, development, and assessment of their own work; they take initiative and responsibility

Preparation: Choosing a TOPIC

1. Topic provides curricular links to literacy, numeracy, science, social studies, health, art, phys. ed., music

2. Topic provides possibilities for:
– Children's engagement
– Investigations
– Community connections
– Variety of resources

Phase 2: The Research

"What do I need to LEARN about this topic?"

– Topic is explored from many angles
– Groups of children work together to gather information about branches of the of topic
– Teacher balances direct instruction of skills and concepts with time for groups/individuals to use varieties of resources in their investigations
– Students learn the skills of leadership, negotiation, innovation, problem-solving, and risk-taking in the relevant and meaningful context of the project process

PROJECT RESOURCES

Primary Resources:	Secondary Resources:
Field visits	Trade books (non-fiction and fiction)
Community experts	Textbooks
Guest speakers	Digital programs
Authentic artifacts	Internet
Museum collections	Magazines and brochures
	Movies/DVD/podcasts
	Music, art work, lyrics

Phase 1: Launching The Project

"What do I KNOW about this topic?"

– Generate a community "think" and purpose
– Children use a variety of materials and media to represent their current knowledge/understanding of topic
– Create a topic web or map
– Teacher observes what children are sharing and begins to design and collect resources/experiences to drive research
– Phase 1 typically takes 1–2 weeks
– Culminates with questions, or "wonderings"

Phase 3: Communication

"What have I LEARNED about this topic?"

– Children publicly share their research
– Teacher designs venue for sharing (celebration of learning, presentation to and feedback from local experts, share research findings with other classes, publishing elements of project etc.)