Instructor's Guide for Universal Design for Learning

Topic Area: Instruction

Module: Universal Design for Learning

Case Study: Picture Writers: Journey Through the Writing Process with Eric Carle

Summary: Marilyn Evanston is pleased with her third grade science unit on animals and habitats. She intends to meet with the reading specialist to plan a language arts mini-unit to support the science learning. It is the end of the school year, and she wants to accentuate the unit in a way that will allow her to evaluate some yearlong learning. She also wants the unit to be fun for everyone in the classroom. Marilyn particularly feels challenged to meet the many learning needs of Oscar, a student who has severe visual impairment and learning difficulties. When they meet, the teachers make plans to have their students evaluate Eric Carle books and to use tiered assignments to individualize the learning outcomes for the different learners. Students will learn about the author's artistic style using guided notes and will be creating their own collage picture books and iMovie presentations. One of their students, Oscar, will benefit from speech synthesis, and all of the kids will be given the opportunity to include their actual book or iMovie in their portfolio.

Characters and Roles:
- Marilyn Evanston, third grade teacher
- Juanita Long, reading specialist
- Oscar, student with a visual impairment and severe learning needs

Tools:
- Speech Synthesis
- Tiered Assignments
- Graphic Organizer
- Guided Notes
- WebQuest
- Portfolio Assessment

Artifacts:
- Blank Graphic Organizer
- Blank Story Map
- iMovie

Glossary Terms:
- Visual Impairment
- Integrating Instruction
- Speech Synthesis
- Tiered Assignments
Web Sites:
- www.brainchild.com

Video:
- Eric Carle: Picture Writer

Discussion Points:
- What can teachers do to support the different learning styles of their students?
- What are the advantages of collaboration?
- What are the pros and cons of school districts having "late start" or "early release" days on a regular basis for the purpose of collaboration?
- Brainstorm ways teachers can differentiate instruction for students with specific learning styles or special needs.
- How can teachers and students both learn to be more reflective?
- What are the educational benefits of using portfolios as a form of assessment?
- Who should select what is included in a portfolio and why?

Activities:
- Administer a learning styles inventory to your students. After analyzing the results, outline what you will do to address the needs of specific students.
- Invite a parent, teacher and an administrator to present a panel discussion on the topic of having "late start" or "early release" days included in the school calendar for the purpose of collaboration.
- Create a personal professional portfolio.
- Create an iMovie.
- Create a WebQuest.
- Plan an author study to integrate and enrich a subject you are teaching.

Reflective Question: Scene 3, Question 2 - Reflecting on your own collaborative efforts, what could you do to make them more successful? Collaborating with other educators can be extremely worthwhile. First of all, the people involved must
have the time, or want to make the time, to devote to the endeavor. The people have to feel confident that the others in the group are similarly motivated. It is important for the goals to be clearly outlined and resources gathered and shared in an efficient manner. Members of the team should assume responsibility for making contributions that reflect their interests and strengths. When the goal is attained, all participants should celebrate the success.

Connections:
- Topic Area: Instruction; Module: Reading Acquisition
- Topic Area: Instruction; Module: Reading Comprehension