Transformative Instruction Initiative: Experiential Activity for DFST 3123 Child Development

Journey to the Essence of Research in Child Development

PURPOSE:
Create an activity to support student information-seeking and information-processing skills. Guide students as they gain skills in identifying, understanding, and applying evidence-based research findings to Child Development.

Course Goal
1. Students will comprehend research in Child Development
   1.1 Know the goals, benefits and uses of research
   1.2 Know the significance of evidence-based research
   1.3 Apply the concepts of research to the human (child) experience
      1.3.1 Explain the data and findings of a research study in lay terms.
      1.3.2 Compare findings of research to popular practice
   1.4 Understand the research process

RESEARCH JOURNEY: Tasks
1. Consult Travel Guide
2. Team formation
3. Plan itinerary
4. Examine resources & Gather tools
5. JOURNEY!
6. Share artifacts and experiences

Lessons learned after one semester’s use:
- In-class time was used with more success than on-line Discussion Boards
- Better “leading questions” needed
- Timing of library research instruction is very important
- Needs to be done close to initial due dates, otherwise they “forget” how to research!
- Utilization of the library liaison is crucial for student and faculty success!

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Additional outcomes are:
- Improved literacy skills
- Improved critical thinking skills
- Improved communication skills