

### Module 3- Getting Started

As a result of this assignment and the courses I've taken, I want to possibly conduct a research project about whether kids learn better inside or outside. I have been an outdoor school counsellor, where I would teach the kids about the outdoors, animals, and ecosystems. I have also helped children with their homework, which would take place inside. I am curious if students would retain more information if they were outside or inside. Both places have positives and negatives. For example, the outside could be more distracting with all the noises; however, the fresh air could help the kids concentrate better. I would take a classroom and teach the children once outside and once inside. The information would be different but in the same subject. At the end of the lesson I would give them a quiz about what they had just learned. I would then compare the students marks to see if the students learnt better outside or inside. I would then reconduct this experiment with different age groups and more than one class.

A possible topic of investigation I would like to look into in order to being delving more deeply into this topic would be about kids and how they learn. In order to figure out if kids learn better inside or outside, I need to get a better understanding on how kids actually learn. I would need to do work with an education teacher or psychology professor to grasp a better understanding. I think it is important to know how they learn before teaching them and beginning the research study.

As result from my research question, I have a couple of learning outcomes I could like to achieve from the research. For my first learning outcome I could like to gain a better understanding of children's ability to retain information. I want to be able to know exactly what I am researching, before I start my research process. I want to be able to know how children learn and what makes it easier to retain information. Secondly, I would also like to figure out if children are able to retain information easier inside a classroom or outside of a classroom (in the outdoors). This is what my research questions revolves around, so by the end of my research, I want to be able to answer that question. To fully understand how and why kids learn better in which environment. Thirdly, I would like to be able to conduct a successful observation/ research plan with no sleep bumps, problems, or setbacks. At the end of my research, I want to know exactly what it takes to make a research run smoothly. A fourth learning outcome would be able to empower the children to want to learn and to feel successful doing it. I want the kids to enjoy learning and want to get an education. An education is so important, so I want to help kids get it. This leads to my last learning outcome which is feeling accomplished in helping the children succeed. I want to be able to feel a sense of accomplishment helping the kids. I want to feel like I am doing something with my life and that I am helping the future leaders of our world. I want to help mold them into smart, driven, hardworking individuals.

It is a very controversial topic if children should be taught inside a classroom or outside a classroom. Many people think it is costly and takes too much time. While other people think it enriches the students learning experiences. This is why for my research topic I wanted to look

more into this. I wanted to see if children retain information better outside a classroom or in one. In order to do this, it is important to look at other people's research to see what they have done and achieved. This is important as it may help with my research and answer any questions I may have.

Studies have shown that outdoor education helps students become more informed about their communities and their surroundings (Lodhi et al, 2017). A specific study talks about the importance of teaching science outside to students. It concluded that it is essential for science teachers to be aware of students needs and to teach them outside. It is important to teach them about concepts that have to do with concepts and knowledge related to science. In order for a teacher to do this, a teacher should bring their students outside to show and teach them the necessary information (Lodhi et al, 2017). With doing this, students can demonstrate the necessary skills and attitudes to learn in a safe and conformable outdoor environment (Lodhi et al, 2017). Another study related to this topic argues that education away from a classroom can teach students in ways such as problem solving, teamwork, and can an effect on enriching the students learning experience (Passy, 2014). This specific study uses gardening as the focus point in teaching students. The research focuses on the importance of intergrading a school garden into elementary school years. It mentions that it adds a social, academic, and emotional development to the children's learning and development (Passy, 2014). Working in an outdoor garden has offered a sense of enjoyment and success that had been lacking in an indoor learning experience. In this article, a garden has helped encourage the students with their learning and can bring an authenticity to learning (Passy, 2014). A student is much more likely to remember details about a specific plant if they see it in person oppose to seeing a

photo of it in a book. Being able to see, smell and touch the plants really enriches the learning experience and helps the students remember details. The students gain better long-term knowledge (Borsos et al, 2018).

A study was also done in Serbia and Hungary that talked about the benefits towards outdoor learning and if teachers believed in it. The study concluded that only 13.5% of Serbia teachers did not hold outdoor lessons and 22.4% of Hungary teachers did not hold outdoor lessons (Borsos et al, 2018). These teachers also know the advantages to outdoor learning, but still chose not to do it. This specific teaches thought outdoor learning was time- consuming and complicated (Borsos et al, 2018). Not only do many people and schools find it a waste of time, they also think it is unnecessary. In order for people to gain a better understanding at why outdoor learning is important there needs to be a better relationship between the purpose of education and the ways success is educated (Waite, 2010). But because people do not believe in this, there has been a lack of prioritization towards funding outdoor learning, as it is seen as a waste of money (Waite, 2010). Teachers also complain about the lack of suitable locations to teach their students at outdoors. They claim it can be very time-consuming traveling to these locations, so it is much easier to just stay in the classroom (Borsos et al, 2018). A result to this would be helping teachers with professional development and ideas to make outdoor learning easier, cheaper and better.

In order for this to work economically, schools need to start valuing outdoor looking by encouraging it to their staff. While doing this, there needs to be a resistance towards following the norm of teaching within a classroom and allowing a children's schooling opportunity to be

enriched by teaching them outside (Waite, 2010). By encouraging it to their staff, outdoor learning can enrich and deepen the learning experience (Passy, 2014).

For my first tutorial I would like to work with a professor that focuses in psychology. This professor would help me gain a better understanding of what is going on in a children's head when it relates to learning. They would help me look at different articles that examined how children learn and what helps them learn better. I do not have a specific professor I would like to work with, because I am not sure what each of their backgrounds is. I would like to work with one that specializes in children development. For my second tutorial I would like to work with a professor from the early childhood education program. Working with a professor from here would help be gain a better understanding of children's temperaments and attitudes towards learning. Learning about children from a book is one thing but being able to examine the kids and work with them firsthand is completely different. Being able to work with children would help prepare me for my research. For my last tutorial, I would like to work with someone from the sociology department. I would want to look at education all over the world and see how different children learn and are taught. I would like to look at different countries and see if there is a difference between learning outside a classroom versus learning inside a classroom.

## References

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