DRAFT – PILLOTING SESSION

Partner responsible: Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, P1

STRUCTURE OF THE LESSON PLAN

FOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ON APPLIED DIDACTICS

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Type of school level education: kindergarten

Title of the Activity: “what does the parrot say?”

Pedagogical approaches (max. 500 words):

Children, learning from their own observations and drawing conclusions on their own actions, develop a deeper understanding of the learning substance and its link between different natural phenomena.

By telling and demonstrating his/her observations, the child gathers existing knowledge and learns to combine them with new ones, creating a logical story.

3 Key-Concepts:

Experimental learning, outdoor education, critical thinking.

Description of teaching and learning experience (goal): (max. 500 words)

The activity is intended for 4-5 year-old kids. The main objective is to expand children's knowledge about the diversity of birds and their feathers. To promote the development of dialogue speech and reasoning capacity, describing the appearance and characteristics of the bird's feathers. To promote the development of critical thinking by carrying out different activities with bird feathers and drawing conclusions.

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3-5 Objectives:

1. Watching, comparing and experimenting children explore the characteristics of birds in the surroundings.
2. The child watches, imagines, creates and implements the idea in a diverse way.
3. The child implements the intention and appreciates the outcome.

Necessary Materials and short description of the learning space:

A variety of bird feathers, plasticine, natural materials (acorns, chestnuts, cones, small trees, small stones, etc.), bird pictures.

The lesson is intended for an outdoor environment with sufficient space for active movements (running, jumping), the environment should include child-friendly tables to perform figuration activities.

Activity steps for the experiential learning:

1. Planning of the experimental work. Children prepare the materials needed for the experiment. Discuss the progress of the experiment, how the characteristics of the feather can be verified (how easy it is to blow, the presence of air resistance, water rejection properties for different feathers). Makes assumptions which one would be easier to keep in the air with blowing for longer, which one would better preserve its shape after dipping into the water. Children justify their views on why it is.
2. Experimental work. Children are given bird feathers to check their properties (colour, shape, motion, water resistance, etc.). Children inspect a flight of feathers, blowing them up. To offer children to make a bird from feathers using additional materials; plasticine and natural materials. Then homemade bird wings are given to try and test their flight capabilities (running).
3. Main findings and discussion. Children discuss what they have learned. Whose feather fly best, whose quill is the most water-resistant, which bird can it belong to, was the assumption made at the beginning of the experiment confirmed, etc. Children discuss about the success of a “flight” with the wings of a bird, they are rethinking what may be the reasons that someone can't fly such wings.

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4. Reflection. Children show each other their accomplishments, explaining why they chose to form exactly such a bird, what are the characteristics of the feathers used to form the bird and what qualities does a bird possess consecutively.

Using in other contexts and age groups (max. 500 words)

Activities can be carried out with older children, in addition to research, during which children look at information about different birds in the closest vicinity. Children study the colour and shape of feathers, expressing conclusions on the characteristics of feathers (soft, solid, water-pushing away, is the bird fluffy).

Illustration / Pictures/ Link for the activity (visual elements) – to prove the impact