



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING HELPS OUR YOUNGEST STUDENTS DEVELOP SKILLS AND GROW THEIR KNOWLEDGE

Margaret Mead said, “Children must be taught how to think, not what to think.” As educators, we continuously ask ourselves how we can put more of the learning into the hands of our students. Through experiential learning we are enabling our students to wonder, make observations and develop conclusions. A simple activity in Nursery 3 regarding why a dreidel’s spin stops enables students to have a greater understanding of gravity based on their observations. Students are asked to think about what they have observed and brainstorm ideas. In Pre-K students explore the aleph bet using different modalities to write, color, match and build letters which engages the senses. Students think about each letter, shape and sound rather than rote practice. In Kindergarten students develop their understanding of counting one-to-one using stamps, dot paint, beads, counters and numbers to represent amounts. These experiences fuel a child’s ability to explore for greater understanding, begin to understand themselves as learners and develop a repertoire of problem solving strategies.

All students do not master skills the same way. Each child has their own journey towards understanding and building their knowledge. It is through carefully crafted lessons which enable students to take more ownership of their learning. These lessons present students with open-ended questions, assignments and projects which help our most youngest of learners mold their approach to understanding, thinking and learning.

