Lesson Plan

Title: What We Know About Deaf Students and Learning

Day/Time/Location: July 15, 2002/ 13:00-16:00 / LBJ-3237

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Goals:
The primary goal of this workshop is to present an overview of recent findings related to deaf children's cognitive development, language acquisition and literacy learning. Participants will discuss selected examples of key findings in each area and consider implications of the findings for their classrooms.

Objectives:
1. Participants will appreciate the diversity of backgrounds of deaf children in the US.
2. Participants will learn new information about the cognitive development in deaf children.
3. Participants will understand how language acquisition by deaf children is similar to and different from that of hearing children.
4. Participants will understand key characteristics of literacy learning in deaf children
5. Participants will consider the implications of this information for research and education in their own country

Materials:
Sign City (Part 2, 12 minutes) and transcript.
PowerPoint Handout

Lesson Description:
This three-hour long workshop will explore three factors basic to the understanding of deaf children’s interactions in the classroom and in the world: early access to language,
social interactions, and diversity of experience. To optimize these factors, research suggests (1) that parents be involved in their children’s education, (2) that parents and teachers be flexible in their approaches, (3) that they teach to children’s strengths, and (4) that they understand “the whole child” in order to match educational methods with student characteristics. Participants will be asked to consider implications of this research for their own classrooms and use of the research as criteria for the selection of specific educational methods.

Lesson Procedure:
• Introduction: orientation to child development and view of education
• Deaf children in the US: demographics and characteristics
• Learning and language learning at home
• Cognitive development
• Literacy learning.

Assessment/Evaluation:
End-of-workshop reflection

Reference: