

1984

Science Notes - DAP Workshop

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SCIENCE NOTES

DAP Workshop

"I know children have individual needs, but how can I individualize with a class of 30?"

"What can I do to provide a challenge for my gifted students as well as those who can't seem to grasp basic math concepts?"

"How can I be sure that my students will be able to solve problems, not just memorize and manipulate numbers?"

These are meaningful questions that conscientious teachers are asking today. If you would like to develop some answers to these questions and some practical ideas for making a hands-on math/science program work in your classroom, the Developmental Activities Project may be for you!

The Developmental Activities Project was created to help K-2 teachers implement a hands-on, individualized approach to teaching math/science that is based on the research (primarily that of Piaget) on how children's thinking develops. Directed by Grant Wood AEA consultant Dale Phillips, DAP received ESEA Title IV-C grants of over \$75,000 for the first three years of operation, 1981-83.

Recent national reports have indicated that the nation's students are severely lacking in the ability to solve problems logically. Developing these abilities — classifying, ordering, numbering, determining spatial relations, measuring, timing, and determining causality — is the central focus of DAP.

The goals of the project include providing a local, state, and national model for the development of curriculum and instruction based upon cognitive-developmental research, leadership, in-service, and community awareness.

The DAP in-service model has been developed to help insure successful implementation and maintenance of the DAP program.

Training for the DAP approach begins in a summer institute that unites "theory and application." During the theory portion, taught by Dr. Darrell Phillips, teachers view videotapes of children at various levels of development, learn to give diagnostic tasks to children, and relate current brain research to learning activities.

The classroom applications part of the institute is taught by Dr. Dale Phillips with the assistance of a staff of experienced DAP teachers. Teachers learn questioning techniques, management strategies, and "dig into" the activities as they study appropriate uses of materials. Videotapes of classroom teaching sessions lend a touch of "the real world," and teachers share ideas as they build a support network of colleagues with whom they will continue to work during the year. Teachers also construct kits of materials for use in their classrooms.

There are follow-up workshops, newsletters, and co-teaching visits to help teachers continue to develop their skills.

A 1985 summer institute is planned for June 11-28 which will offer four hours of graduate credit and have tuition of \$240.

For more information contact Dale Phillips, DAP Project, Grant Wood AEA, 4401 6th Street, S.W., Cedar Rapids, IA 52404.

— C.W.B.