

Chapter 14 Assignment

Philosophy for assessing student learning

What I have discovered, not only from time spent in my field experience classroom, but also as a student myself, is how important feedback is, and its immediate availability for use in developing planning and strategy. Miss Johnson agrees, and assesses her students this way regularly throughout the day. It is critical for students to be aware of the progress they're making in class, and in my opinion, this is *the* most effective way of implementing the reasons assessment is necessary in the first place. It is useful for teachers, for in the best interests of their students, the teacher needs to be confident that a lesson is understood before moving onto to the next one. Feedback aids in the development of instructional alignment which is set according to state standards. It is the quickest, most effective way to monitor students' progress.

This type of assessment is also the most valid and reliable because it occurs while instruction is taking place, *in the act of learning*. In observing students' ability to put concepts into practice, not only can assessment of their learning be made, teachers can also form ideas about how students are coping personally and socially from their behaviors and attitudes in class. We can use facial expressions, body language and social interactions to determine a child's willingness to learn and the effort they put forth in that endeavor. In making these observations, issues can be addressed when they are seen and before it is too late. According to our text, interactive feedback helps teachers "make split second decisions every day", and "to adapt instruction to meet students' needs"; it helps determine "students' motivation and their ability to pay attention in class, accept responsibility, and interact effectively with their peers" which "strongly influences their learning and development." In this way it can also encourage students to engage more in class, and promotes communication between students and teachers as learning is happening.

Other examples given to conduct assessment include testing, informal assessment, formal assessments such as writing assignments and exams, and summative assessment, which is conducted after lessons have been given and utilized for grading purposes. I plan to use all of these strategies to assess my students, but again, I believe feedback is the most valuable technique. It keeps students interested and focused, encourages communication and motivation, and keeps them *involved* in their learning. It keeps the teachers aware of students' needs and how to address them. It is a wonderful way of showing our students we care, and that our mission, our desire, our wish, is that they succeed.