

Digging Deeper – What Does Academic Rigor Look Like in PreK?

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Objectives

- 1) Defining what academic rigor looks like in a preschool classroom in relation to the CLASS tool
- 2) Developing strategies for developing critical thinking through active learning during the preschool classroom daily schedule



What does academic rigor look like in a preschool classroom?

- A process of working with ALL children in a manner that addresses the whole child through hands on experiences that...

Include opportunity and support from the teacher

Challenge the mind

Connect learning in a real context

Focus on realistic objectives



The WHY of Academic Rigor

- Brain development (Neural pathways)
- The PreK brain is NOT a miniature version of an adult brain
- The young brain embeds memory, makes connections and wires itself for learning



It's amazing what they absorb before they're five.





It All Begins with Interactions

Maslow Before Bloom

What gets in the way of us digging deeper?

- Daily schedule
- Unrealistic expectations of children
- Managing behavior
- Focusing on the wrong things
- Lack on intentionality



Intentional Teaching - Make Informed Decisions



Intentional Teaching



- Thoughtful, reflective planning
- Intentional implementation of curriculum
- Ongoing formative assessment to drive teaching strategies
- Individualization and differentiation

Active Learning Opportunities For Critical Thinking



- Natural Curiosity



Critical Thinking

- Discussions
- Conversations



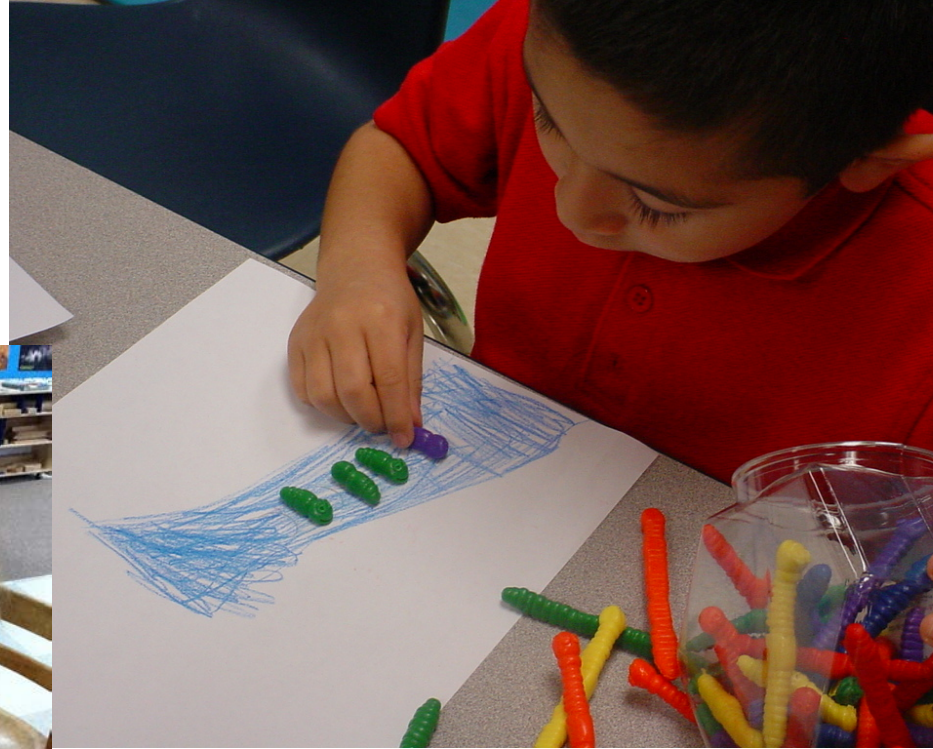


Critical Thinking

- Problem Solving

Critical Thinking

- Problem solving
- Brainstorming
- Predicting





The How of Academic Rigor

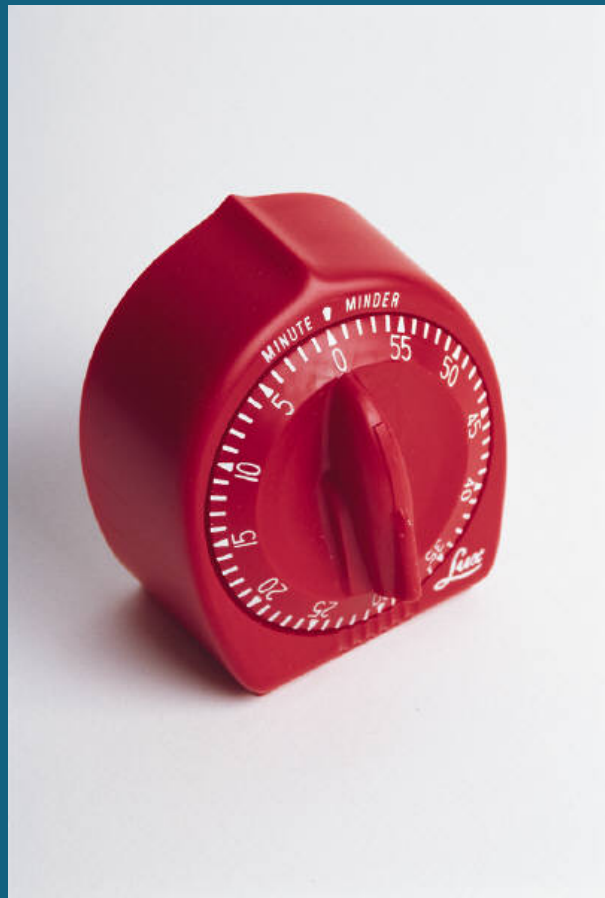
- Multiple modalities
- Increasing Engagement
- Repeated Experiences



The When of Academic Rigor



- Greeting and Departing
- Whole Group
- Small group
- Routines and Meals
- Learning Centers
- Music and Movement



What is working right now?

What would you like to change?



Start with One Big Idea.....then
break it down.





There is no magic wand.....

- Intentional teaching is built on observation, planning, facilitating and practicing each day in the classroom.

Reflect Daily on Your Practices....and Dig Deeper!



