

Now and Then Project

Grade

Pre-School - Third Grade

Purpose

One aspect of the kindergarten curriculum is an interwoven year-long study of growth and change in our lives and the environment around us. This project allows students to think of the ways that they have changed since they were babies, as well as to express themselves with writing.

Objectives

1. To critically think about the ways in which we have grown/changed since we were babies.
2. To gain confidence in all we have learned and can do now that we are older.
3. To continue working on writing to express ourselves.
4. To write in order to tell the reader something exciting and important.
5. To show students the direct correlation between pictures and text.
6. To use knowledge of text and picture to solve a fun problem!

Resources/Materials/Technology

1. Digital Camera: current photos of each child in your class
2. Pictures of your students when they were babies
3. "Best Pencil" for each student.
4. 32 Overlay of students in the class or 2x2 cards for students I to eye-gaze

Preparation

Take a digital photograph of each child in your class. Send home a letter to parents asking for a baby picture of their child. Preview this lesson briefly with children who use AAC to communicate so that they have their answer in their mind and are quick to share it when brainstorming as a whole group.

Activity

Ask class to come to the rug. Say, "I know everyone has been excited about sharing their baby pictures with their friends. We will all be doing a special guessing game project with those pictures." Brainstorm with the class and have each child contribute something that they did when he/she was a baby. Give an example of yourself if needed. "When I was a baby, my mom read books to me." Similarly, brainstorm some things that we all do now. Model again by saying, "Now I read books to my friends." Work with students individually to create their own guessing game (see sample pages below). There will be a visible photo of them as a baby with the phrase, "When I was a baby _____" and then when you open the flap the photo of them currently with the phrase, "Now _____." (With older children it is not necessary to provide strict guidelines, but with younger children the guidelines serve as a helpful tool). Hang the childrens' work on the wall or door to create a fun guessing game. ***This game can also be created on the computer using the program Classroom Suite (see photo of game below)*** so that students can do it independently during work times in the classroom. For more information on creating this game, please visit the contact information on the www.TeachingEveryChild.com website. Remember that students can use an overlay with their friends' faces on it or eye-gaze cards to guess the person under the flap while playing this game.

Follow-Up

Have students try to trick their families at arrival time.

As a group on the rug, talk about what made it easy to guess certain people and harder to guess others. Did you know who your friends were based on the writing or the picture or both?

For older children, have students draw a picture of what they think they will look like in 10 years from now. What is something you think you will be able to do then that you may not be able to do now?

Sample Pages for Now and Then Project

Child's current photo goes here....

Now _____

Child's baby picture goes here...

When I was a baby I
