Comment [1]: Notice that the student submits the Assignment with a title page. This gives the project a professional image and identifies the student so that the instructor knows whose assignment she is reading.

Check this video for help with formatting your assignments using APA. Then check this title page (and the headers on the next 2 pages) to see if you think the writer needs to make any corrections.

http://www.screencast.com/t/SzdTts7wI9d
Dear Anne,

I had a great time speaking on the phone with you the other night and catching up. Thanks for letting me in on your frustrations at work—and listening to mine! It must be difficult to teach in an atmosphere where you want to give the students room to explore while all the school principal seems to care about is test results. Interestingly, I came across an article yesterday that touches on the issues you brought up. The authors of the article believe that preschool teachers overburden their students with direct instruction in order to make the children look school-ready. As a result, the children miss out on learning through play, which is how real learning takes place at this age.

As the authors of the article point out, teachers feel pressured to show that their students are performing well and as a result, provide direct instruction in teaching reading. For example, they introduce new vocabulary words and then prompt students to repeat those words throughout the day. But such instruction is not age-appropriate for preschool children as it involves drilling and memorization rather than allowing children to take an active role in discussing books and making connections to their own experiences. In addition, in their effort to cover material, teachers do most of the talking and use simplistic sentences as they conduct a discussion on a book being read in class.

Is there any way in your classroom that you could use these strategies? I bet they could actually help your students and at the same time improve their test scores and then maybe your principal would stop having meetings about test scores alone! Have you ever thought about setting up a corner in your room with a theme? You could create a restaurant in the corner and create menus and list daily specials on the chalkboard and that way you could encourage your students to read by asking them about the items on the menu and the prices on the board? It's a
lot more fun than what your principal is saying to do and might promote literacy at the same
time.

As you and I know well—and as the article points out—children today have few
opportunities to initiate play. Playing outside after school has become replaced with playing
video games and watching TV, which prompts children to react, rather than act. Schools,
therefore, must remain a place which children can really play—and learn about literacy and
interpersonal communication at the same time. I admire your stance on encouraging play as part
of literacy learning, even at the expense of order and decorum that is highly prized by teachers
and principals alike. I hope your sincere concern for children’s best interests will encourage the
principal of your school to adopt play as part of teaching reading.

Call me when you get a chance!

Your friend,

Mary