Hi professor and classmates,

Here is my draft of the Unit 4 assignment. Thank you for reading and thank you in advance for your feedback!

Blog post title: Let kids scream, shout, and run around!

Sometimes when you are teaching young children, you have to let them make a little noise. That’s not always really easy to do if you are teaching in a place where you want to give the students room to explore while all the school principal seems to care about is test results for her school. I came across an article 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.

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. Reading is certainly an important skill for young children. 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.

Seeing kids run and play may not fit into the neatly organized order and decorum that some teachers and most principals prefer, but it is learning all the same.

My revision plan:

So far, I think my blog post makes a good personal connection with other teachers. The writing is informal and friendly but I have tried to use correct grammar and sentence structure for effective communication. The fourth paragraph just seems to end. Does anyone have suggestions for that? To help in revising this draft, I am going to have a friend read it out loud to me. Of course, I will also use everyone’s feedback!

Christie

Hi Christie,

You did a great job with the draft of your blog post. It was interesting to read and would appeal to an audience of teachers. If I
were a teacher reading this blog post, I could really relate. In the Seminar, we talked about how writing is a process, so you can still make big changes to this draft by taking things out, or putting them in. An example of that might be to try and include some more facts from the article you read. Are there any statistics about reading you could include? Also, a couple of sentences seemed to be missing transitions. Once you have made some changes to the draft, editing is the last step where you read over what has been written to polish it. Thank you and good luck with revising your assignment!

Jared