

Reflective Practice: What, Why, How?

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'We do not learn from experience...
we learn from reflecting on
experience.'

John Dewey



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Reflective Practice: What?

Definitions of 'reflective practice' vary

'More simply, ongoing learning that involves engaging with questions of philosophy, ethics and practice...to gather information and gain insights that support informed decisions to make a practice change or to improve a similar situation in the future' (Brookes, Cohrsen, Eadie & Tayler, 2017, p. 70.)



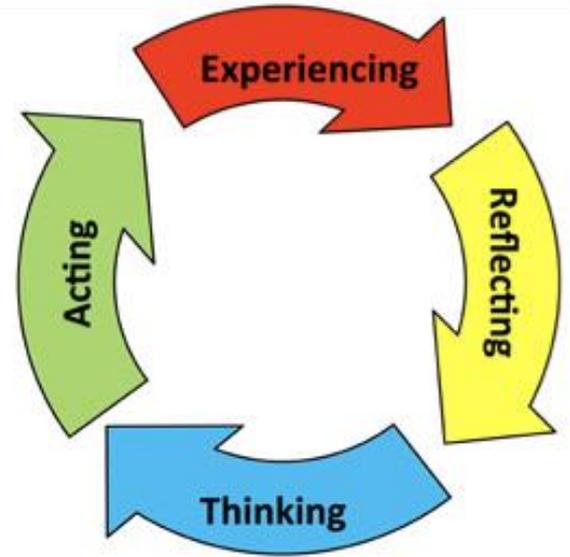
Reflective Practice: What?

- Fundamental to teaching and learning – requires educators to consider the impact of their practice on child learning.
- Explicit instruction necessary during initial teacher education.



Reflective Practice: What?

The Experiential Learning Cycle



Kolb, A. & Kolb, D. (2018). Eight important things to know about The Experiential Learning Cycle. *Australian Educational Leader*. 40(3), 8-14.



Reflective Practice: Why?

A prominent theme in the National Quality Standard

- Reflective practice at its core.
- Particular emphasis on continuous improvement, the implementation of the program, and the performance and development of the staff.
- Concepts that are related to reflection are embedded in 3 of the 7 quality areas.



Reflective Practice: Why?

Professional responsibility

‘In relation to the profession, I will:

- take responsibility for articulating my professional values, knowledge and practice, and for the positive contribution our profession makes to society
- engage in critical reflection, ongoing professional learning and support research that builds my knowledge and that of the profession’ (Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics, 2016)



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Reflective Practice: Why?

Professional identity

‘... as a member of the teaching profession...it is your responsibility to share with colleagues, to learn from others, and to embrace lifelong learning. To increase your professional knowledge and enable yourself to grow as a professional, you must be able to continually reflect on your practice. Reflection is the key to growth, development and improving outcomes...’

(Developing a Professional Mindset, AITSL, p.4).



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Reflective Practice: How?

Research Project:

*'Reflecting on Purposeful Teaching Strategies to Enact a
Sciencing Approach in a 3-Year-Old Kindergarten Program'*



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Reflective Practice: How?

Research Question:

To what extent does reflective practice influence the frequency of elements of an informal curriculum that challenge or support the implementation of a sciencing approach over a seven-week period?

- Implemented a 'sciencing approach' in 3-year-old kindergarten program
- Reflective journal kept for seven weeks
- Thematic analysis of elements of the informal curriculum that challenged and supported the sciencing approach



Reflective Practice: How?

Reflective journal

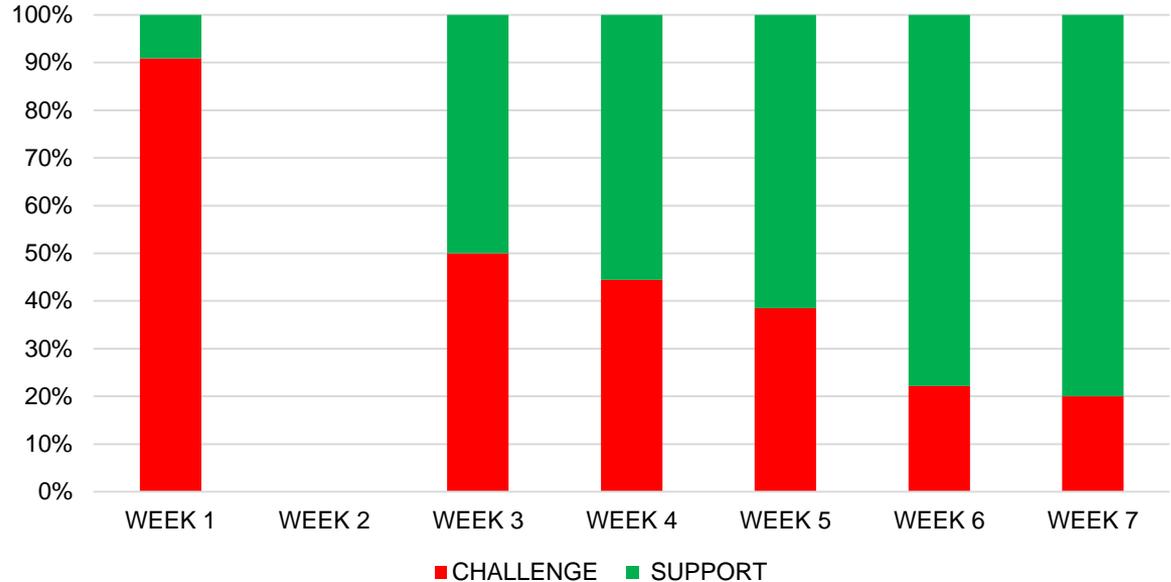
Week: _____ Dates: _____ Notes: _____

Formal Sciencing Plan	CLASS Strategies Planned	Formal Sciencing & CLASS in Action (Concrete Experience)	Formal Sciencing & CLASS Reflection (Reflective Observation)
Informal Sciencing Pan	CLASS Strategies Planned	Informal Sciencing & CLASS in Action (Concrete Experience)	Informal Sciencing & CLASS Reflection (Reflective Observation)
Incidental Sciencing Emerging in Curriculum	Overall Reflection (Abstract Conceptualisation)	<u>So</u> what?! Actions: (Active Experimentation)	

Reflective Practice: How?

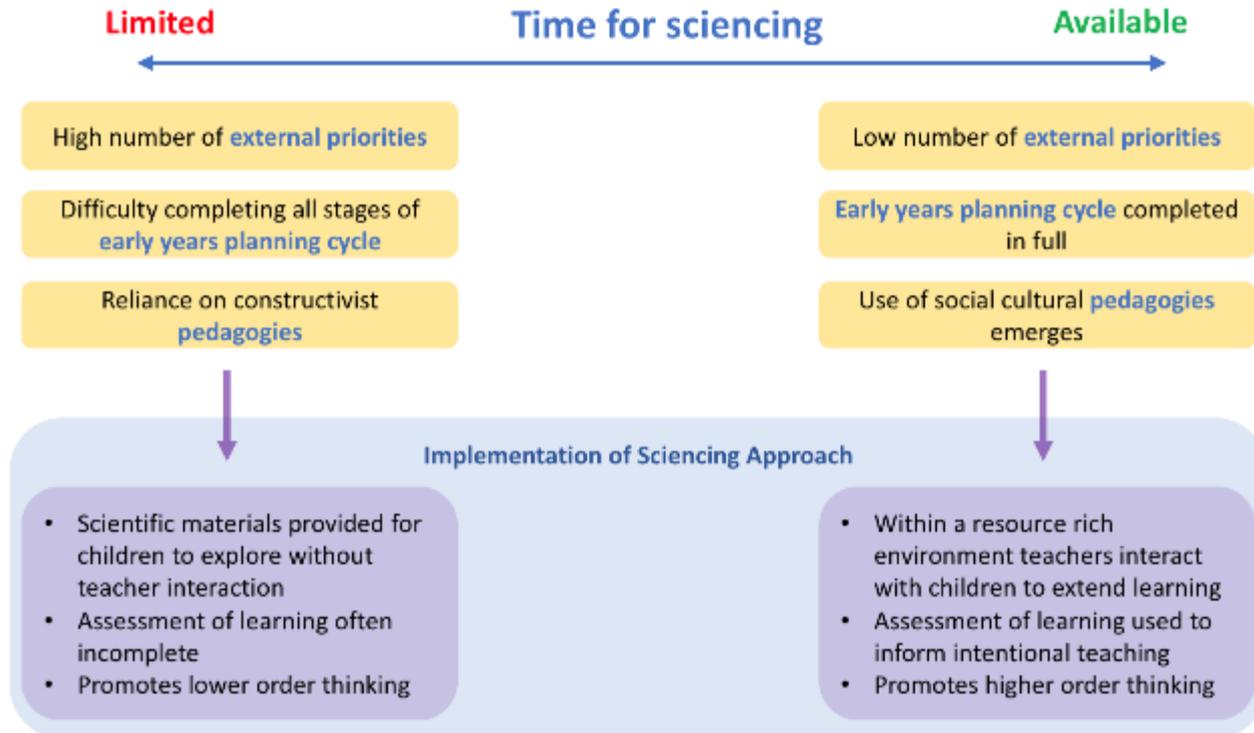
Results:

Percentage of challenging and supporting elements of the informal curriculum present per week)



Reflective Practice: How?

Findings:



Reflective Practice

Conclusions:

- Necessary, in order to repeat or transform practice.
- Needs to be explicitly taught (pre- and/or post-qualification), and rehearsed, with support.
- Helps to identify structure and process obstacles/successes.
- Supports personal *and team* growth and by implication, impacts on child learning outcomes



Thank you for your attention.

Barblett, L, Hydon, C, Kennedy, A 2017, *Ethics in Action. A practical guide to implementing the ECA Code of Ethics*. Early Childhood Australia, Deakin West, ACT.

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