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EDCE 22102

2021

Family School Community Text Selection

Selecting Concept/Theme:

- The theme/concept I chose was friendship. I chose this theme because it is common for children to make friends at school. This theme relates to our class because it is a system that most individuals have.
- This theme engaged me to think about the friends I currently have and how we became friends at a young age. This theme would allow children to think about the friend they have at school or other environments.
- The way I relied on system theory to choose this topic is thinking about how the system can be impacted. The system theory tenets are “How are systems impacted by the larger environment?” and “How are systems changing and evolving?” these tenets support the theme of friendship because they play an important role for children. In a school setting, children are learning with one another and learning from one another. In the article “Using Systems Mapping to Plan Scientific Investigations” (2017) the authors discuss how students start to group people and other systems in their environment. It states, “Students then start grouping the people, places, and things and connecting them with arrows based on community interactions” (pg. 27). In other words, this explain that

children interact with the group of people around them. Children make friends at schools and communities.

Selecting a Text Set:

Book: *Circle Round* by Anne Sibley O'Brian (2021)

Song: "Make New Friends" by The Learning Station (2020)

Poem: "Friends for Life" by Angelica N. Brissett (2007)

Video: "Sesame Street: Elmo and Rosita Teach Friendship" by Sesame Street (2017).

Book: *My Friend is Sad* by Mo Willems (2007)

- During my search for this text, I looked for books, poems, videos, and songs that children can relate too within their systems. When I first looked for the book, I thought about environment. Environment is different for every child because they all don't live in the same place. An environment they all can relate to is school because it is one of the ways friendships start. A system theory text that relates to this is "how are the systems impacted by the larger environment?" the larger environment is the school, and it is one place where children form friendships. Annamma & Morrison (2018) explains, "teachers engaging in DisCrit Pedagogy are organizing classrooms by designing expansive learning opportunities and multiple forms and points of assessment such that they, as teachers, can critically reflect upon and improve their practice" (pg. 75). Teachers can implement text in their classroom based on friendships.

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Text Critique:

O'Brian, Anne. S. (2021). *Circle Round*. Charlesbridge.

Circle Round by Anne Sibley O'Brian is about a group of children who ask to play in a circle. The circle gets bigger as children join.

Gem: The book incorporates children of different cultures and skin color. It encourages children to participate in group activities.

Gap: The book leads more into sharing than friendships. The events of the book don't really connect to the concept.

Silence: The information of friendships is not fully there. The perspective of the book should be for children to relate too.

Push: A balance of both sharing and friendship in the story. Using other methods other than a circle.

Brissett, Angelica N. (2007). "Friends for Life."

<https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/poem-about-friends-for-life>

This poem is about how friends will always be there to help, when you cry, or when you are hurt.

Gem: The poem is simple and straight to the point. It is easy to follow along.

Gap: It can be confusing for children to know what the end is. Connecting to the end would be hard for children to connect to.

Push: Explaining death in a simple way can help children to know what it means. The end can be put in a different way for children to connect to.