**Statement of Purpose**

 Surveys have been conducted nationally that indicate that the United States is falling behind in math and science. While many argue that teachers are not adequately prepared, especially in the elementary grades, the general consensus is that the problem is much larger than teachers not being fully prepared. According to an article in Industrial Engineer, today’s technology-driven economy is in dire need of human resources in science, math, engineering, and technology. This has forced the United States to improve and accelerate science education. While the main focus in the classroom is reading and math, science is instrumental in increasing our reasoning and logical thinking skills.

 It is important that students learn about animal life sciences. The students have already created a foundation the teacher can build upon. With this foundation students can explore detailed characteristics about all animals. They will also learn about animals’ habitats and how they can survive when their environment has been disturbed. Learning this will help the students to connect this information to the animals they see around them every day. It will also help them to become more observant to those things around them and be aware of how animals live and act within their world.

Children are naturally curious and exploring the world around them. “Classroom science provides the opportunity for children to extend this natural curiosity and building of theories.” (Halverson, 2007) Classroom experiences allow children to develop a greater appreciation and understanding of the world around them. Richard Riley states that by offering students hands-on learning activities we are unleashing their creativity and getting them excited about science. Science is used in our everyday lives, therefore offering science in the elementary classroom can be nothing but beneficial to our students. They will be better prepared to think logically and rationally about the world in which they live. “Because science is everywhere, and understanding how it’s part of our daily lives can give students a great foundation for success in life.” (Center for Inquiry & The Clergy Letter Project).

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