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| **Element of Best Practice with definition** | **What the teacher is doing…** | **What the students are doing…** | **Comments** |
| **Student-Centered**  Instruction that connects content in meaningful ways to students’ experiences, interests, concerns, and questions, while taking an active role in learning. Lessons are authentic, challenging and experiential for the students. | * provides relevant lessons that allow students to engage with the content * provides materials to guide research * facilitator for learning * encourages students to ask questions and help each other * builds lesson on students natural curiosity * plans inquiry based lessons * provides students with necessary tools to be successful | * working at their own pace * motivating themselves * experimenting in hands-on activities * active participants * communicating with others * working collaboratively * engaged and excited about the material * students are asking and answering each others questions * “learning while doing” |  |
| **Social- Collaborative**  Learning by using scaffolding; students work with one another, not in silence. Promotes children learning with and from one another while working socially with each other in group discussions. | * acting as a guide for students * steering students in the right direction when needed * presenting small mini-lessons to give students the needed information to begin working together * “scaffolding” lessons to ensure students are reaching their learning goals * giving students the proper tools to be successful during group work | * working with one another on task given by the teacher * talking and NOT working in silence * helping one another understand or learn the information; learning from one another * giving feedback to one another to help aid in learning * following rules for working in groups during class |  |
| **Cognitive- Expressive**  Students experiencing and communicating learning and understanding. | * preparing and implementing ideas and ways for students to express themselves and their learning in various ways * teaching is assisting and providing many DIFFERENT and VARIED ways for students to succeed and show understanding | * being creative! * given opportunities, students are communicating in a variety of medias- Example: speech, writing, drawing, dance, music and movement * learning about themselves through content and how they choose to present information |  |
| **Cognitive- Developmental**  Instruction at a developmental level of a student that requires higher-order thinking and inquiry to develop a true understanding of the concept | * developing differentiated lessons and projects * making sure all students are successful at their learning level and are gaining knowledge * providing materials that are developmentally appropriate for students | * working toward a personal goal * learning in a way that is best for them * gaining understanding of the concept being taught |  |
| **Cognitive- Reflective**  Time set aside for teachers and students to look back on their learning, recognize connections, appreciate accomplishments, and understand how they overcame challenges. | * ALSO reflecting…on the lesson, what students learned, what worked and didn’t work, etc. * guiding students with an outline/boundaries for the students’ reflections * providing time for student reflection…beginning, middle, and/or end of lesson * using a variety of reflection tools: entrance/exit slips, KWL charts, whole class/small group/paired discussions, “art walk” of what students learned, quick-write, etc. * reading or listening to the students’ reflections and altering their future tasks and lessons to meet the students’ needs | * looking back on what they learned * debriefing over the content discussed * appreciating their accomplishments, while acknowledging their “failures” * understanding HOW they overcame obstacles * discussing with other; written reflections * becoming consciously aware of WHAT they learned, HOW they learned it, and WHAT ELSE needs to be learned |  |