**Evaluation Strategy**

**3rd Grade Science**

Many of the aspects in science are often overlooked due to the increase of instruction in math and reading. However, science is one of the key subjects that will help solve problems we encounter as a society. As a teacher, I need to make sure that my students are properly assessed so that they can take the skills learned in third grade and apply them later in life.

One of the most beneficial aspects of conducting an evaluation would be to assess the students’ prior knowledge. Students come to school at many different points on a spectrum, and a teacher needs to understand where each child is on his or her learning. In addition, assessing prior knowledge allows a teacher to be aware of common misconceptions and direct the students in the correct path.

Formative assessment is very crucial in the elementary grades. Before moving onto a different topic, I need to make sure that the students fully grasp the concept at hand. Some of the formative assessments that are used would be paper pencil. However, for third graders, these are not as effective because it doesn’t match up to their learning needs. One of the main formative assessments I would use would be classroom observations. While the students are either working cooperatively or independently, I walk around and track their progress. Other formative assessments that could be used in science would be the use of conducting experiments. These experiments allow the students to complete hands on activities that reinforce the content. It also allows for students to get a better grasp on the information presented.

Not only does formative assessment have to take place, but also summative assessment is just as crucial. Third grade science is not a subject that is tested on the Ohio Achievement Assessment, but the students can still be tracked in the later years. When students are tested in science in the later years, evaluators will be able to see if the knowledge they acquired in third grade was retained. In addition, in the next couple of years, teachers and administrators can observe and build upon what was learned in third grade. Together with pre-assessment, formative, and summative assessments, one will be able to better prepare their students. Teachers can use all this information to make their future assessments better, which in turn will lead to a higher rate of success in students.