

**Title of Session:** Classroom Assessment

**Moderator:** BJ Berquist

**Title of File:** 20070614assessment

**Date:** June 14, 2007

Room: Classroom Assessment Group

**BjB:** Jade and Henrietta, are you both teachers?

**JadeRHB:** yes, grade 4

**BjB:** how long have you taught?

**HenriettaF:** Yes I am, I am returning to school for my Master's now.

**JadeRHB:** this is my 7th year

**HenriettaF:** I teach Kindergarten for 11 years

**JadeRHB:** am doing my masters through distance education

**BjB** nods to Jade and Henrietta...so you are both experienced!

**HenriettaF:** I thought about it but I'm a visual learner.

**BjB:** let's start the discussion and see what we can come up with...

**HenriettaF:** ok

**JadeRHB:** ok

**BjB:** you may want to go to the Actions menu in the top right of this chat and click on detach

**BjB:** that will make it easier for you to read the chat text

**JadeRHB:** that's better

**HenriettaF:** wow much better

**BjB:** Jade, you've been logged in before, but Henrietta is new...any advice for her?

**BjB:** I do find that online courses take a great amount of self discipline

**JadeRHB:** well, I'm still learning myself but it helps to go through the archives

**HenriettaF:** It does

**JadeRHB:** this year is especially difficult as it's very independent

**BjB:** good tip, Jade. Henrietta, the archives are at [www.tappedin.org/transcripts](http://www.tappedin.org/transcripts)

**HenriettaF:** thanks I appreciate it

**BjB:** please tell me what brings you to the Assessment discussion?

**JadeRHB:** if you don't mind, I'll stay for half an hour and then zip back to my show

**BjB** understands

**HenriettaF:** for me it is a requirement for my class

**JadeRHB:** my final practicum for my masters is based on integration,

**BjB:** and how does that relate to assessment, Jade?

**HenriettaF:** I chose this one because it looked interesting because I do teach

**JadeRHB:** I want to be sure that I assess well through integration

**JadeRHB:** e.g. the assessment touches various competencies

**BjB:** how will assessment be done?

**BjB** . o O ( I'm being a little dense tonight and not sure I understand, Jade)

**BjB:** do you assess competencies or learning objectives?

**JadeRHB:** well, I haven't yet planned the practicum exactly, I expect to plan units that I can observe the students achievement in various competencies

**BjB:** so observation is one way to assess...any other ideas?

**JadeRHB:** well, in Quebec it's learning objectives that inform the competency

**BjB:** Henrietta, do you have any ideas?

**JadeRHB:** through their daily work

**HenriettaF:** observation is a great way to assess. In my class most of my daily assessment is through observation

**JadeRHB:** conferencing too

**BjB:** have you thought of using portfolios?

**JadeRHB:** we have portfolios too

**BjB:** o O ( student led portfolio discussions are very useful )

**JadeRHB:** we try and have the students select work as well as the teachers

**JadeRHB:** rubrics, self and peer assessment

**JadeRHB:** especially during oral presentations

**HenriettaF:** I teach on the early childhood level so portfolio's would not be useful

**JadeRHB:** kindergarten have a portfolio at our school I'm not exactly sure how it works though

**BjB:** what grade, Henrietta?

**HenriettaF:** Kindergarten

**BjB:** I think that kindergarten is a good place to start learning about portfolios

**HenriettaF:** have any ideas?

**BjB:** allowing the children to make choices about what they feel are the best examples of their learning

**JadeRHB:** you can include specific work or use a piece where you see real improvement

**BjB:** nods to Jade

**JadeRHB:** when I taught K I had them do a picture of themselves every month

**HenriettaF:** Wow thanks very interesting I'll give it a try and introduce it to my principal

**BjB:** smiles. did they get taller?

**JadeRHB:** what I find difficult is the students always choose the work they got right

**BjB:** wouldn't you?!

**BjB** winks

**JadeRHB**: different stages were funny

**JadeRHB**: army man, pilot etc

**HenriettaF**: that's probably because that is what they think we expect of them

**JadeRHB**: it was a portrait of themselves, I think that's what they were interested in at the time

**BjB**: perhaps this is also a good time to let children know that they can make mistakes...that this is part of the learning process

**JadeRHB**: yes! I sometimes ask them to choose a piece where they felt they improved or something they found difficult

**BjB** nods to Jade. Developmental levels in drawing would also be reflected

**HenriettaF**: yes I tell that to my students

**BjB**: we may tell that to our students, but do we really communicate that important lesson?

**JadeRHB**: I will teach the same students in G4, I had them in grade 2 too, I like that they can look back over their work and see their own development

**HenriettaF**: where I teach the lessons are structured and so there is little time for fun time but I make the best of it.

**HenriettaF**: that would be a great idea Jade

**JadeRHB**: I also try and feed forward and feed back on their work

**JadeRHB**: something they did well, something to improve

**HenriettaF**: great idea

**BjB** agrees...goal setting

**JadeRHB**: mmm, goal setting something I need to take more time with

**BjB**: that is difficult with kids in elementary especially...

**BjB**: they each learn at their own pace

**HenriettaF:** you are so right

**JadeRHB:** we do a cooperative council every week where they compliment each other, this week we did improvements for next year some of them were quite insightful

**BjB:** very cool, Jade!

**BjB:** Kinders might not be quite so advanced

**HenriettaF:** they do give feedback but I have to make sure that it is controlled.

**JadeRHB:** it's been great I recommend it we also use it as a time that they can criticize or congratulate, it's when they have difficulty solving their own problems they draw on the class for help

**JadeRHB:** what do you mean controlled

**HenriettaF:** well make sure that they stay on the positive side and not negative comments

**JadeRHB:** feed forward and feed back is positive

**BjB:** do your students keep journals?

**HenriettaF:** I know but how do you get them to understand to keep it all positive without it turning it into neg.

**JadeRHB:** e.g. used punctuation well, next time you might proofread for spelling

**JadeRHB:** I tried journals with g6, they wrote the same thing after awhile...as little as possible

**HenriettaF:** you did this with kindergarten Jade?

**JadeRHB:** the feed forward feed back?

**JadeRHB:** the e.g. was a g4 example

**HenriettaF:** what's a G4 e.g.

**JadeRHB:** grade 4 sorry

**HenriettaF:** ok

**JadeRHB:** kindergarten might be I really like the way you shared your pens today, let's try and do it tomorrow too

**HenriettaF:** sounds good I guess I'll give it a try

**JadeRHB:** you might find you do it already if you analyse yourself

**HenriettaF:** you might be right

**BjB:** let's get back to assessment...would you keep anecdotal records on the children's discussions?

**JadeRHB:** yes,

**HenriettaF:** how would you do this Jade

**JadeRHB:** I can't say I do it often I would like to do it more

**HenriettaF:** please give an example

**JadeRHB:** plan cooperative group activities, rotate, listen in a discussion

**BjB:** . o O ( social interaction would probably be an important competency )

**HenriettaF:** how would you assess it?

**JadeRHB:** and listening to what they actually saying about the topic

**JadeRHB:** critical thinking, communication

**HenriettaF:** would you use a rubric

**JadeRHB:** you could

**HenriettaF:** sounds interesting.

**JadeRHB:** I hate to be a party pooper but I think I'll get back to my show, thanks a lot

**JadeRHB:** see you next time

**BjB:** waves bye to Jade

**JadeRHB:** left the room (signed off).

**HenriettaF:** Henrietta waves bye

**HenriettaF:** to Jade this is

**BjB:** Tell me about the course you're taking, Henrietta

**HenriettaF:** It's an on line course dealing with Internet.

**BjB:** is your professor holding any real time discussions in Tapped In?

**HenriettaF:** yes sometimes

**HenriettaF:** I'm also taking two other courses on campus dealing with technology

**BjB:** sounds like you have a boatload of work!

**HenriettaF:** boy do I ever.

**BjB:** did you get an explanation of how Tapped In can help you as an educator?

**HenriettaF:** well I missed the first session on it but I'm learning as I go

**BjB** nods. I just don't want you to feel like your participation in the community has to end when the courses end...

**BjB:** one of the most important features of Tapped In is that it's a sustainable community

**HenriettaF:** it won't I promise I am learning so many new ideas to take back to the classroom

**BjB** smiles. It's easy to get overwhelmed with all the new ideas...

**BjB:** and as soon as you learn one thing, a new thing comes out!

**HenriettaF:** you are so right but it is of great interest to me

**BjB** chuckles. To me too!

**BjB:** what are some of the sites you're learning about?

**BjB:** btw, there is a wonderful K-3+ Resources group that I recommend you join

**HenriettaF:** right now mostly things that help in my classes such as search engines

**HenriettaF:** what is it

**BjB:** how about I show you the K-3 group room? Would you like to do that?

**HenriettaF:** sure

**HenriettaF:** what do I do

**BjB :** when you see me leave this room, Henrietta, click on the online tab to the left of this chat window

**HenriettaF:** ok

**BjB :** then click one time on BJB and the door icon at the bottom

**BjB :** ready?

**HenriettaF:** yes

**BjB** left the room.

Room: K-3Resources

**BjB** joined the room.

**HenriettaF** joined the room.

**HenriettaF:** I did it

**BjB** smiles happily...excellent, Henrietta!

**HenriettaF:** now what

**BjB :** if you look at the screen above this chat window you will see many resources here

**HenriettaF:** how do I get out of detached

**BjB :** close your chat and it will attach or just overlap your screens

**HenriettaF:** ok it's done

**BjB :** I'm going to show you how to join this group, Henrietta

**HenriettaF:** ok let's do it

**BjB :** by joining the group you are subscribed to the discussion board

**BjB :** do you see the welcome note on the web window?



**HenriettaF:** yes

**HenriettaF:** what do you mean by subscribed to the discussion board

**BjB:** scroll down on the welcome note to the last sentence: This is the group room for K to 3+ Resource Room

**BjB:** and click on the green i in that sentence

**BjB:** you should see the group ID page now

**BjB:** and a sentence Join this group

**HenriettaF:** I'm still trying to find the K-3 resource room

**BjB:** did you find the welcome note?

**BjB:** . o O ( it's very long )

**HenriettaF:** found it

**HenriettaF:** I found the id page and join this group (in green)

**BjB:** click on join this group

**HenriettaF:** it says I have successfully joined the group

**BjB:** when you've successfully joined click on Room View at the top of your screen

**HenriettaF:** done

**BjB:** now find the pull down favorite places menu in the top right...

**BjB:** there is a door icon on the left and a Go! button on the right

**HenriettaF:** ok found it

**BjB:** drop the menu down

**BjB:** you will see that there is a link or passageway to this group room now

**HenriettaF:** ok done

**BjB:** you can use that menu to move to any room listed from any location in Tapped In

**BjB:** I mentioned the discussion board earlier...

**BjB** : joining a group subscribes you to the discussion board...

**HenriettaF**: I click on K-3 resource room

**BjB** : this is how group members can communicate between real time discussions. The discussion board is like an email list

**BjB** : Susan also sends out reminders of upcoming discussions

**HenriettaF**: ok

**BjB** : well, I think we did pretty well even if Maryann didn't join us! Do you feel this was a worthwhile discussion, Henrietta?

**HenriettaF**: yes and I thank you for all your help!

**BjB** : my pleasure! Tapped In is a wonderful resource...and the people I've met here are fantastic

**HenriettaF**: I will be mentioning this to my teacher friends.

**BjB** : I'm going to go to the WriteTalk discussion which will be starting in about 5 minutes.

**HenriettaF**: ok bye

**BjB** waves bye to Henrietta