

Lesson Plan #2: Epistemology

Anna, Eli, and Mia

Time: 45 minutes

Age: 5-6 years

Materials: Optical Illusion print outs, cloud picture print outs, 5 plastic eggs, materials inside the eggs

Learning Objectives:

1. Understand difference between knowing and believing
2. Think about how they gain their knowledge
3. Understand difference between what's real and what's fake
4. Think about relative versus objective knowledge

Intro (5 min)

- Reintroduce ourselves
 - Just names, pronouns
- Reintroduce guidelines
 - Listen, one person speaks at a time, it's okay to disagree
 - Let everyone speak/communicate equal-ish amounts

Activity #1: Optical Illusions (10 min)

- Show photos and ask what people see
 - Could it be both a bunny or a duck?
 - How do you know what you think you see?
 - "How many legs does the elephant have?"
 - How do you know?
 - Which line is longer? What if we cover the arrows?
 - Is it ok to change your mind? What made you change your mind?
- Bring printed photos of clouds and have them trace the shapes they see
- Is it possible for two people to see the same thing in different ways
 - Did everyone see the same thing?
 - Why do you see ____?
 - Is one of you right versus wrong?
 - Why do you think it's what it is?

Activity #2: Dreams (5 min)

- Draw a dream you've had

- Tell us about what is happening in your drawing, what was the dream like?
- Was it real? How do you know it wasn't real?
- What makes dreaming different from not dreaming?
- Are you dreaming right now? How do you know?
 - What things about right now tell you you aren't dreaming?

Activity #3: Egg (10 min)

- 4 plastic eggs with different materials.
- Eggs have either a: Pebble, Coin, Leaf, Water
- Children go around and shake the eggs and each whisper to us what they think is inside (so there's no conformity) -> we can write it down
 - Are you sure of your answers? Are you right?
 - Once you hear everyone else's answers, do you want to change your mind?
 - How do you know that/why do you think that?
 - What did you use to figure out what was in the egg?
 - Can we ever really know what is inside the eggs without opening them?
 - If we all agree on what is inside an egg, can we say for sure that material is in the egg?
 - Is there anything we just cannot know about the thing inside the egg?
- 5th egg -> We tell them not to touch this egg because "there's a baby bird inside"
 - Treat this egg with lots of care from the beginning!
 - What color is the baby bird? How do you know?
 - Do you believe there is a baby bird?
 - Do you know there is a baby bird?
 - Do you believe it/know it because we told you?
 - Open -> did the bird fly away?

End (5 min)

- Reflections
 - What did you like best? What was challenging?
 - Where do you get your information from? Your beliefs?
 - Do you know the difference between knowing and believing? Can you give an example?
 - Do you sometimes think you know something but actually don't? Can you be wrong?
 - Do you change your mind?





