It’s Getting Bright In Here! Thematic Unit

Evaluation Document, by Jenni Clyde

**Learner Reaction**:

My class loves to do anything hands on. Especially experiments when I asked the class how well they have liked the unit so far, 100% said they loved the experiments, however many wished they could have done a Prezi instead of a Power Point. What I found out from my students, that I didn’t know, was that last year in fifth grade most of them had made a power point so they would have liked to try something different. Something to think about when creating my survey for next time is ask if they had done something the year before. Being new to this school I had no idea, where I might have known if I had been at the school.

**Meeting objectives:**

My pretest showed that 0% of my class passed the pretest. Two students knew over half of the material I was about to present. Out of those two students, both love science and have said they studied on their own about light previous to our pre test.

My post-test showed that 100% of my class passed the post-test with 80% or better. One thing that I noticed was that many of my students mixed up the words reflection and refraction, which is understandable. I do it myself. The next time I teach this I will teach them some type of trick to remember which one is which.

**What Worked:**

The thing that worked best for me was how planned out I was. I decided from the very beginning that I would make sure I had all of my materials ahead of time. Partly because I had to for the development document but the other reason is I didn’t want to be tracking down items that might be hard to find the day of the experiment or lesson, like so many times we do as teachers.

**What Would I change?**

Originally I had planned for the students to create their own Prezi. However, when I was creating the one for my lesson, I decided that it had too many glitches and so I decided to go with a Power Point Presentation instead. The students also expressed how they would have liked to create one. Maybe next time when I am not so new to the Prezi process.

I feel like I can always improve on my materials, especially when it comes to the experiments. Some things worked better than others in our reflective experiments. I would also have used a straw in a clear cup instead of a penny in a glass bowl for the refraction experiment.

**Evaluation of the Environment (room size, arrangement):**

If I could have it my way I would like to not be in a portable for experiments due to the fact that so many things would be made easier if I had a sink in my room. It would also be nice if I had actual tables for the students to group around for the experiments instead of a group of desks together.

**Continuity and Conformity of Implementation with the Design Plan:**

I actually had to make a change from the Design Phase to the Development Phase when it came to the type of presentation my class was going to make. Once I had such difficulty with creating my own I had to go to plan b. So we are now in the process of finishing those up.