SCIENCE BOOKS MIND MAP

Purpose: To encourage teachers to use children's factual science books to learn about science concepts and to brainstorm ideas about ways to teach those concepts

What to do:

- **Ask teachers to bring children's nonfiction books** from their classrooms on science topics, such as the human body, health, nature, animals, motion, and building.
- **Bring poster-size sheets of paper and a book** you can use to model the activity.
- **Share your book** and its main concept. (Sample is attached.)
- **Invite each person to find a partner and read** one of the books together.
- **Ask each pair to identify one key science concept** from their reading.
- **Show each pair how to make a mind map** centered on a science concept. Place a main concept in the middle of a large piece of paper and brainstorm related ideas, including vocabulary words, materials, questions, and activities.
- **Ask each pair to make their own** mind map.
- **Hang up the posters** for the large group to see, and ask each pair to explain what they learned and their ideas.

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EXAMPLE: SCIENCE BOOKS MIND MAP

Based on *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle

Main Concept

How do seeds spread?

How can we involve families?

Families with gardens can bring in different types of seeds.

How can we encourage children to use the steps of the scientific method?

Observe seeds outside and make predictions.

Brainstorm with children about how things move in nature—wind, legs, wings.

Do related experiments, such as measuring wind speed or blowing objects with fans.

What other activities can help teach children about how seeds spread?

A visit from a naturalist, a video about wind, a school garden

How can we tie in math, language, and other domains?

Graph results of experiments, such as the number of new seeds that appear in one spot outside each day.

Ask children to talk about what they know about seeds.

Teach songs and movement activities about seeds.

What outcomes do we want for children?

Birds, animals, wind, and gravity are some things that cause seeds to spread.

How can we measure children's learning in this area?

Collect children's drawings, listen to children's explanations

What vocabulary can we teach?

Seeds, sprouts

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