

THE BENEFITS OF INQUIRY-BASED LEARNING IN FOSTERING CURIOSITY AND LIFELONG LEARNING

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In the ever-changing education landscape, the focus has shifted from rote memorization and passive learning to fostering a deep and lasting understanding of concepts. Inquiry-based learning has emerged as a powerful pedagogical approach that ignites students' curiosity and encourages them to become active knowledge seekers.

At its core, inquiry-based learning is an educational philosophy that places students at the center of the learning process. Rather than passively receiving information, students are encouraged to ask questions, investigate, and construct their understanding of the world around them. It sparks curiosity, engages critical thinking, and fosters a sense of ownership in the learning journey. Encouraging students to explore topics of personal interest and relevance creates meaningful and lasting connections to the subject matter. IBL is a form of active learning in which students are given a carefully scaffolded sequence of mathematical tasks and are asked to solve and make sense of them, working individually or in groups (Ernst et al., 2017).

Inquiry-based learning is a catalyst for igniting the flame of curiosity in young minds. Students who are free to explore and pursue their interests become active participants in their education. The joy of inquiry lies in the pursuit of knowledge driven by genuine curiosity and wonder. In this dynamic learning environment, students are encouraged to ask questions, seek answers, and uncover new insights, sparking a love for learning that transcends the boundaries of the classroom.

One of the most significant gifts of inquiry-based learning is its impact on students' attitudes towards learning. By fostering a love for exploration and discovery, inquiry-based learning nurtures lifelong learners eager to seek knowledge throughout their lives. When students experience the joy of learning through inquiry, they become self-directed learners who can adapt, grow, and thrive in a rapidly changing world. The skills developed through inquiry-based learning, such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and research, equip students with the tools to navigate challenges and pursue their passions beyond the classroom.

The benefits of inquiry-based learning extend far beyond academic achievement. The study by Abdi (2014) revealed that students instructed through inquiry-based learning achieved higher scores than those taught using the traditional method. It cultivates essential 21st-century skills, such as communication, collaboration, and information literacy, preparing students for success in an interconnected and knowledge-driven world. Moreover, this approach enhances learning experiences for children, allowing them to explore topics themselves rather than passively memorize facts. As they delve into a subject, students develop critical thinking and communication skills applicable across all areas of learning. Inquiry-based learning fosters curiosity by encouraging students to share their ideas and questions, inspiring a more profound interest in the material. By making their connections, students better understand the topics, moving beyond mere memorization. Taking ownership of their learning empowers students, while active engagement increases their connection with the material. Ultimately, inquiry-based learning cultivates a love of learning as students develop a passion for exploring and pursuing knowledge.

Inquiry-based learning is a transformative educational approach that awakens the joy of learning and empowers students to become lifelong learners. By nurturing curiosity, encouraging exploration, and fostering a deep understanding of concepts, inquiry-based learning creates a rich and meaningful educational experience for students.

As educators embrace this pedagogical approach, they ignite the spark of curiosity in their students, opening the door to a world of endless possibilities. In the joy of inquiry, students embark on a lifelong journey of learning, discovery, and growth, becoming curious and empowered individuals ready to impact the world positively.

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