

Longitudinal Projects with Kids

2:30

Attendees – Denise Dumouchel, Maggie Haskin, Kendra Liddicoat, Bill Hug, Becky Collier

Essential Questions:

- What is the difference between studying one group for a long period of time or a similar group of people over time?
- What types of things have other people done and what are the memories and descriptions of what people have done?
- Do the participants in a long-term program come to the facility or does the staff go to them throughout the study?
- How do you choose participants for this type of program?
- What seems to have a lasting impact on the memory of a trip/program?
- From a funding standpoint: How do you avoid dropout rate in the program? How do you get funding knowing that the program goals may change so much?
- Is there a way to help influence a small group as they grow and give them opportunities that they wouldn't have otherwise have?

Take Home Message:

- There is a difference between self reported knowledge and actual occurrences
- Memories are not necessarily what actually happened
- Sometimes we think we remember the actual events when in actuality we're remembering what we've been told of the occasion
- Denise's goal is to establish a program that follows students through from early elementary to college and try to figure out if there is a way to measure the learning going on through these years
- High school years are often lost and are yet such a critical time period
- "Cradle to Grave" programs – planning a 20 year project that follows the same group of people through many years of development
- The Wisconsin model for environmental education is a set of standards to be followed as a student moves from Kindergarten through high school
- Morie's Camp in upstate New York – a group that works with students for multiple years through youth development... it's free for the participant
- Teacher research may be useful to follow as they move through college, student teaching, and the first few years of teaching
- Framingham (or something close) – A city close to Boston where the entire population as studied throughout their lives for health/nutrition/exercise, etc... trying to assess how health issues affect overall health
- You have to start with enough participants that several can dropout without affecting your results
- Charlotte Clark – did a longitudinal study of intentional communities and how they come together to decide to build a community of homes that are light on the

land: intended to become a dissertation, but became too time consuming so a portion was taken out for the degree and the study continues on

-