**Ep. 46: Interview with Melinda Mack**

Using project work to integrate early literacy and early math in your classroom may sound like a daunting task, but allowing your students interests to be heard and exploring them more in depth can make learning fun AND engaging. If you have been debating using project work in your classroom, our special guest shares a plethora of suggestions and ideas from her own classroom experiences.

Joining Sam Statler and Amber Meyers in this podcast episode is Lead PreK teacher, Melinda Mack. Melinda has been in the teaching profession for over 35 years and has been implementing project work in her classroom for the past 6 years. Melinda shares how topics are chosen for project work in her classroom and next steps in getting started. One important tip Melinda emphasizes is that teachers must be familiar with their grade level standards before they begin planning a project. Tune in to hear more about using project work to integrate different content areas in your classroom.

**What to Listen for:**

* How are topics of study chosen for a project-based approach? (How to choose topics for a project-based approach)
* How can a teacher plan and setup their classroom for project work? (Planning and classroom setup for project work)
* How can student learning be assessed, and student work documented during the lifetime of a project? (Documentation and assessment during a project)
* How can standards be integrated into a project? (Integrating standards and other subject areas into a project)
* How can different subject areas be integrated into a project? (combined with above)

**Resources:**

Helm, J. H., & Katz, L. G. (2016). *Young investigators: The Project Approach in the early years*. Teachers College Press.

Hynes-Berry, M. (n.d.). *Now read this! Books that Bring Math to Life*. NAEYC. Retrieved November 16, 2021, from https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/tyc/oct2017/now-read-this-books-bring-math-life.

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