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| **Element of Best Practice with definition** | **What the teacher is doing…** | **What the students are doing…** | **Comments** |
| **Student-Centered**Instruction that connects content in meaningful ways to students’ experiences, interests, concerns, and questions, while taking an active role in learning. Lessons are authentic, challenging and experiential for the students. | * provides relevant lessons that allow students to engage with the content
* provides materials to guide research
* facilitator for learning
* encourages students to ask questions and help each other
* builds lesson on students natural curiosity
* plans inquiry based lessons
* provides students with necessary tools to be successful
 | * working at their own pace
* motivating themselves
* experimenting in hands-on activities
* active participants
* communicating with others
* working collaboratively
* engaged and excited about the material
* students are asking and answering each others questions
* “learning while doing”
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| **Social- Collaborative**Learning by using scaffolding; students work with one another, not in silence. Promotes children learning with and from one another while working socially with each other in group discussions. | * acting as a guide for students
* steering students in the right direction when needed
* presenting small mini-lessons to give students the needed information to begin working together
* “scaffolding” lessons to ensure students are reaching their learning goals
* giving students the proper tools to be successful during group work
 | * working with one another on task given by the teacher
* talking and NOT working in silence
* helping one another understand or learn the information; learning from one another
* giving feedback to one another to help aid in learning
* following rules for working in groups during class
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| **Cognitive- Expressive**Students experiencing and communicating learning and understanding. | * preparing and implementing ideas and ways for students to express themselves and their learning in various ways
* teaching is assisting and providing many DIFFERENT and VARIED ways for students to succeed and show understanding
 | * being creative!
* given opportunities, students are communicating in a variety of medias- Example: speech, writing, drawing, dance, music and movement
* learning about themselves through content and how they choose to present information
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| **Cognitive- Developmental**Instruction at a developmental level of a student that requires higher-order thinking and inquiry to develop a true understanding of the concept | * developing differentiated lessons and projects
* making sure all students are successful at their learning level and are gaining knowledge
* providing materials that are developmentally appropriate for students
 | * working toward a personal goal
* learning in a way that is best for them
* gaining understanding of the concept being taught
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| **Cognitive- Reflective**Time set aside for teachers and students to look back on their learning, recognize connections, appreciate accomplishments, and understand how they overcame challenges. | * ALSO reflecting…on the lesson, what students learned, what worked and didn’t work, etc.
* guiding students with an outline/boundaries for the students’ reflections
* providing time for student reflection…beginning, middle, and/or end of lesson
* using a variety of reflection tools: entrance/exit slips, KWL charts, whole class/small group/paired discussions, “art walk” of what students learned, quick-write, etc.
* reading or listening to the students’ reflections and altering their future tasks and lessons to meet the students’ needs
 | * looking back on what they learned
* debriefing over the content discussed
* appreciating their accomplishments, while acknowledging their “failures”
* understanding HOW they overcame obstacles
* discussing with other; written reflections
* becoming consciously aware of WHAT they learned, HOW they learned it, and WHAT ELSE needs to be learned
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