Statement of Purpose

The first couple weeks of school are exciting for the students and full of new experiences. These special weeks in first grade have always been ‘review weeks.’ This is a time where the teacher’s review Kindergarten material and prepare the students for first grade concepts. I have always wondered how to make these first couple weeks engaging and contextualized for the teachers and learners.

The unit I have planned incorporates contextualized teaching and learning with Kindergarten review concepts. According to Leigh Chiarelott, contextualized teaching and learning is a way of teaching and learning that motivates making connections, real world situation connections and application to lives’ (Chiarelott 2006). The text also states that these contextualized teaching and learning should incorporate ‘problem-solving, self-directed learning, learning from peers, learning in real situations and authentic assessments’ (Chiarelott 2006).

The purpose of this unit is to connect, review and engage first grade students with contextualized learning and teaching. These ideas, concepts and activities allow the students to learn and work among peers, problem solve and actively participate with lesson content. This unit meets the needs of the learners by preparing the students for first grade. It prepares and reviews content to help make well-rounded students and citizens.

Throughout this unit, the Ohio Academic Standards were used. By using the Animal ABC review unit, the students will be able to make connections to meet the indicators of the standards (Ohio Department of Education, 2003).

References:

Chiarelott, L. (2006). *Curriculum in context*. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth.

Ohio Department of Education. (2003). *Academic content standards: K-12.* Columbus, OH.