Video Explorations  Questioning

Video Summary

Questions are universal teaching tools. Good questions can be used to: find out what students know, believe, or can do. Questions can also: motivate, help students organize thinking, interpret meaning, emphasize a point, show relationships, discover interests, provide review, reveal thinking processes, permit expression, and diagnose misconceptions or learning difficulties. Skillful questioning can also help learners to construct and expand their understandings of science concepts.

Tips for Viewing, Objectives, or What to Watch for

Keep in mind the following as you watch these videos:

✦ The first-grade classroom footage is authentic and unrehearsed.

✦ A team of two preservice teachers taught the lesson under the supervision of an experienced classroom teacher.
Questions for Exploration

1. What are the different kinds of ways that teachers may use questions? (Refer to Table 7.1.)
2. What examples of these uses did you see in the video?
3. Consider what you understand about wait-time. What types of wait-time did the teachers use? How long did she wait? Did her wait-time seem appropriate? Why?
4. Consider what you understand about inquiry. In what ways did the teacher help children to inquire? If you were teaching the lesson, what are some things you might have done differently to promote inquiry?

Activity for Application

As seen in the video, what kind of impact on children seems likely when a teacher tries to model good questioning habits? How quickly do you think a teacher could expect to observe the influence of modeling?

Use the effective questioning checklist (Table 7.3) and check those skills you observed in this brief videoclip. Based on this brief observation, what do you conclude about the teacher’s skill in using questions? Videotape a lesson that you teach and use the same checklist. What do you conclude about your skills in using questions? What goals will you set for self-improvement?