

Brief Evaluation Report
for the
UNMC SEPA Breaking Barriers
Fall 2007 Inservice Workshops

BSCS Evaluation Report (ER 2008-7 June)

**Molly A. McGarrigle Stuhlsatz
BSCS Center for Research and Evaluation
5415 Mark Dabling Blvd.
Colorado Springs, CO 80918**

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Participants

In the fall of 2007, seventy-seven teachers from four tribal schools attended inservice workshops presented by UNMC SEPA project staff members.

Umo ⁿ ho ⁿ	August 9 th , 2007	23 teachers
St. Augustine	August 14 th , 2007	9 teachers
Tiospa Zina	August 10 th , 2007	18 teachers
Winnebago	August 15 th , 2007	24 teachers

Teaching experience ranged from 1 to 30 years with 23% of the teachers in their first two years of teaching. Figure 1 shows the spread of experience among the groups.

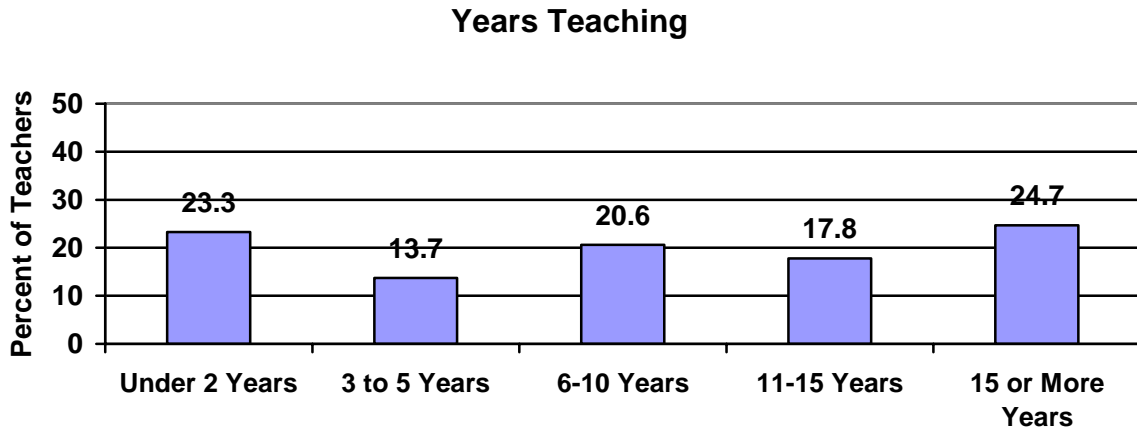
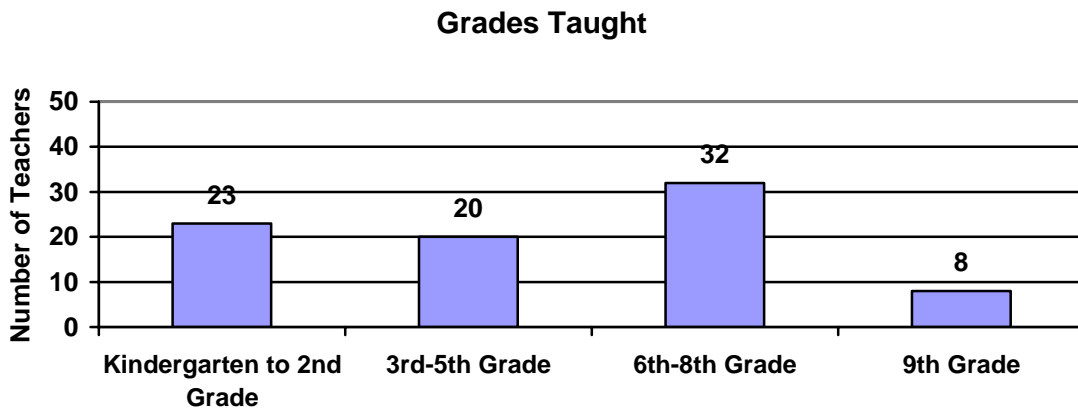


Figure 2 shows the grade levels taught by the teachers in attendance. Some teachers taught in more than one grade “band”.



Have you had any previous experience with the SEPA project staff?
Yes – 23.7% No – 76.3% If yes, what was the nature of the contact?

Eleven teachers had participated in Summer Workshops in Omaha.

Summer workshops
Summer workshops
I attended a SEPA program last summer.
Ms. Soper
Introduction to SEPA and what is available
Just came in and talked
Training June 06
Summer workshop
Workshop on how to think like a scientist

Beginning interview summer institute
SEPA conference June 07
SEPA conference in Omaha
SEPA workshop this summer
UNMC Workshop
This summer in Omaha
Went to meeting after school

Evaluation Data

Teachers were asked to rate the effectiveness of the various topics presented at the workshop. The mean scores for each topic were in the “Moderately Effective” to “Very Effective” range for all topics.

	Very Ineffective	Ineffective	Moderately Ineffective	Moderately Effective	Effective	Very Effective	Mean
RAFT Writing strategies	4.1	0	1.4	13.5	58.1	23.0	4.91
Dinah Zikes Foldables	2.7	0	1.4	6.8	39.2	50.0	5.30
Science & Math Connections with Literature	4.1	0	2.7	21.9	42.5	28.8	4.85
Working with the Die Cut Machine	2.6	0	2.6	5.3	39.5	50.0	5.29

The final ratings concerned the nature of the professional development experience. All mean ratings were in the “Agree” to “Strongly Agree” range. The highest rating was given for the item “I think that the information provided will be useful in my classroom.”

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Disagree a Little	Agree a Little	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean
Today’s in-service was a high quality professional development experience	2.7	1.3	1.3	5.3	56.0	33.3	5.11
Today’s professional development experience was worth the time	2.7	1.3	1.3	12.0	46.7	36.0	5.07
I think that the information provided will be useful in my classroom	2.9	0	0	5.7	48.6	42.9	5.26

Comments:

Since I am not teaching, it was hard for me to answer the questions; although, I thought there were some good ideas.
good ideas
Thank you!
The Dinah Zikes was awesome. What a great idea for vocabulary in reading and English.
SEPA is great! Mrs. Soper's classes are enjoyable and informative.
Need more time.
I have been to classes with same information - she did well for those who did not know it

Thank you for coming
Foldables - learned a couple new ones
Thank you for the safety posters
Very good information
Learning how to fold
Lots of great ideas
Very creative ideas
Learning the different foldables hands-on was very beneficial
Hand-on ideas, good materials

The final questions on the evaluation were open-ended. Each question and their responses are listed below along with a summary of the responses.

What did you like most about the professional development experience you had today?

The most common responses were “Foldables,” “Hands-on,” and die cutting. Teachers were also pleased with the new book and resource lists, RAFTS, and new ideas for graphic organizers.

I enjoyed using the dies and receiving the book lists
Hands-on involvement
The presenter was knowledgeable, experienced, pleasant, engaging...helpful.
Actual hands-on examples
Dinah Zikes hands-on
To review the things we talked about this summer and get enthused to use these new ideas again.
It was hands-on, relaxed...
Foldables and die cut machine
The paper folding
Graphic organizers
Learn about different activities
The Dinah Zikes for Venn diagram and for vocabulary
How usable the stuff is across the academic board
I like the idea of bringing more fun and color to the classroom
I liked the die-cut machine
Hands-on learning ideas
Can use in the classroom
Folding the papers, the die-cuts
Usable ideas for my classroom
Very interesting, enjoyable as well as informative
Presenter - friendly, helpful
Lots of great ideas
Short, sweet and to the point
Hands-on
Great ideas for organizing writing
Short and to the point
Using die-cuts
Versatility
Sharing of resources and books. Showing ways to use die-cuts

RAFTS
Process of science inquiry
Kinesthetic activities
RAFTS
Hands-on - something to take with me
foldables
rafts
To motivate students to learn
There were hands-on activities
Hands-on
Always informational
Information well presented
The open format
The foldable ideas
posters
I liked the demonstration on foldables
A lot of useful ideas/supplies, short and to the point
The different folds gave out great ideas for different activities
Hands on. Got to use it now too.
The ideas and book materials
Paper folding
Help in science
The variety of graphic organizers
New ideas! Things to make, not buy
it was just fine
The foldable examples
New ideas and possibilities for classroom
Usable things, info to do in our rooms
Very helpful/practical ideas
The creative ways to get children learning
Foldables
Die cuts
Different foldables, list of books
Will be able to use in my classroom

Great new ideas for concrete hands-on supplies or note-keepers for students to use
It was hands-on and useful to the classroom

Everything was very usable

What would you have changed about the professional development?

The biggest complaint about the inservice days was the timing and the lack of time. A few teachers mentioned that they would have liked to have the inservice at another time of year, not right before school starts. It might be helpful to plan future inservice days later in the school year. Others noted that they would have liked notice that they would have access to the die cutting machine so that they could have brought along personal materials to use with the machine. Others would have liked more time for inservices and more background on what SEPA is.

A more convenient time than 1 day before students arrive
Good variety and kept moving
More notice from school about number being able to use die-cut
More background on what SEPA is
A different day when I have materials for the die machine
Nothing
Would let know ahead of time to bring paper for die-cut. I realize a paper went out, but there weren't enough for everyone at the assembly.
Nothing
Nothing
Experience and have time to make my own die cut machine
More time to use equipment
Can't say because this is my first experience with this training
More time to use equipment
The focus at university level courses are encouraging us to keep science experiences real - not artsy-crafty
More time with the die-cut
Not have the inservice a couple of days before school starts. I want to be in my room working.
Nothing

n/a
Maybe a little later after we had started school
Hand-out with reminder of suggestion
More time to use die-cut
nothing
fine
Not much
rafts, foldables
Nothing
Told the price of the accu-cate or other items, or where to buy; not trying to cram everything in a short period of time.
nothing
Some new experiments
Little more examples of what you can do with a die-cut
nothing
Give perhaps a small tutorial on how it works for new teachers
Nothing - really liked the RAFT exercise
More time
More time to use materials
The foldables
More examples
Places to purchase different things
The die-cuts, foldables

I thought it was good. I liked how it was hands-on

More time needed

From the new strategies and techniques that you learned today, what do you expect to implement in your classroom?

Teachers mentioned the foldables most often when asked what they expect to implement in the classroom. They also noted die cuts, books, puzzles, RAFT, and new writing and note taking strategies.

I will use more foldables and books
n/a
The Dinah Zikes Foldables
Several "folding" ideas die-cut forms
Dinah Zikes
That notes don't just have to be in the notebook. Other formats may be more effective.
I will use the Dynah Zykes ideas to teach and review.
Not sure
The paper folding
Some of the different folding ideas
The Dinah Zikees and use of die-cut machine.
The different types of books
Puzzles for science association
Many things on life cycles
Any manipulatives that go along with programs already in place
As much as possible
Some of the booklets
Books and Dinah Zikes foldables
Vocabulary booklets
Dinah Zikes foldables
Dinah Zikes Foldables
Might use some cuts for lessons
I will use the writing raft and some of the foldables
I loved the foldable books
Several of the ideas, the wheel idea, paper folding
Foldables
rafts
writing strategies
foldables and rafts

rafts
Note taking
I plan to use many of the foldables
Foldables, writing ideas
Foldables, rafts
Foldables, raft writing
Foldables, die-cuts
Foldables - vocab, books
more writing
I will use the RAFT, foldables and die cuts
RAFTS writing technique, Foldables
Different folds to help bring in more timelines
RAFT and cut-outs/foldables
Puzzles, paper folding
The writing - science connection
Graphic organizer styles
Use hands-on materials. Fraction burgers, decimal dogs, etc.
They'll enjoy making the foldables
Foldables, use of die cuts
Foldables
Foldables
Some of the paper foldables, the books
Folding techniques will use in spelling and science
Foldables
A lot - fun - different
heart/brain die-cut activity
Foldables, die cut
Review aids, supplies for centers
Some of the paper folding and die cuts
The foldables

What impact do you think your new knowledge will have on your students?

When asked to describe the impact that teachers thought the inservice might have on students they mentioned making learning more fun, most often. They thought that by diversifying their teaching strategies students would become more engaged in learning. They mentioned that students might also learn new organizational skills, vocabulary and writing techniques. Finally, teachers mentioned that student interest and participation along with interest in science would increase.

I hope it will help improve their comprehension
n/a
I hope it will bring an interesting diversity into my teaching procedures.
Makes learning more fun - less boring, good for tactile students
Will help them organize notes, study review
Personalize their learning.
It will make learning more fun, less like work
Not sure - hopefully improve writing
very helpful, more activities
Hopefully will be more excited
It will help enhance their vocabulary
Help them to be organized
More interest in science through fun and art
Learning will be mor fun
They will understand more with manipulative
They will benefit
Visual and hands-on learning
Help them get excited about learning
Increase their vocab skills
They will like making the foldables
Make writing and vocab more fun and interesting
Might enjoy the accu cutes to help them stay focused
Hope to make learning fun/unique
More variety with activities
The ideas shared will provide an opportunity to learn something in a new way.
Lots - younger students more
high impact
Hopefully a lot
it will help to keep them invested and involved
minimal

It will give them a larger variety of activities and more strategies to use
More interest/participation
More interactive participation
A good hands-on activity
Reinforce vocabulary
A good one
Help to increase vocabulary and improve learning
They will understand the RAFTS strategy
I will teach more hands-on
More exciting, engaging strategies
Make the environment more interactive
Make class work more hands-on and fun
Good impact for learning strategies in fun ways
Science and writing
Make school more enjoyable and the students can claim ownership in the work
More fun and valuable learning experiences
space
More hands-on which makes things more productive
Positive
Make learning more fun and interesting
Good impact for learning strategies in fun ways
Effective
More interest with homemade projects
Life cycles, states of matter and K level
I feel they will enjoy the new material
Better organizational tools (die cut, foldables) Hands-on
help them remember/retain information. Aid in reviewing
Foldables, die cuts, writing strategies
more fun things for them to do

Foldables would be worthwhile - help them maybe understand a topic better

What science topics would you like to learn about in future professional development sessions with the SEPA staff?

Teachers mentioned a number of different topics for future inservice workshops. It might be worth while to schedule inservice days based on level. This would allow the professional development to be based on topics of interest based on grade-level group, rather than attempting to create an inservice workshop that applied to a large range of grades.

Earth Science, Health, Biology
Plants, rocks-minerals, life cycles
any
Cells, everything!
None
Current topics in science
Space, Environmental habitats, wildlife
Things that match standards
Don't know
Nature, animals
Solar system
Anything
Anything
Life cycles
not many
Not sure

Labs
Force and motion, chemistry, electricity
We share ideas
Science Inquiry, physical/chemical reactions
Environment
No answer at this time
any
More details about specific subjects
Soil layers
Nebraska plants, wildlife, related things
Integration of science into all subjects, using music, kinesthetic activities to go with science
Life cycles
Human Body
Weather topics geared toward Kindergarten