Perceptions of Teachers about the Application of 'Constructivism' in Newly Developed Primary Education Curriculum in Turkey





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"The human being can either be merely trained, mechanically instructed, or really enlightened. One trains dogs and horses, and one can also train human beings. Training, however, does little; what matters above all is that children learn to think. The aim should be the principles from which all actions spring" (Kant, 1803, Werke, vol ix, p. 450).

What is radical constructivism?

- Unconventional approach to the problems of knowledge and knowing
- Approach to knowing or theory of knowing
- A way of thinking about knowledge and the act of knowing
 - What is its assumption?

- Knowledge, no matter how it be defined, is in the heads of persons, and that thinking subject has no alternative but to construct what s/he knows on the basis of her/his own experience
- All kinds of experience are essentially subjective. Therefore,
- No way of knowing that it is the same

- Radical constructivism is laid out two basic principles (Glasersfeld, 1997, p.18):
 - Knowledge is not passively received but built up by the cognizing subject;
 - The function of cognition is adaptive and serves the organization of the experiential world, not the discovery of ontological reality

In this study;

- Turkish Primary Education Curricula whether it is really based on *principles of* constructivism and
- perceptions of teachers about 'constructivist curriculum', and encountered any problems during its implementations were investigated.

METHOD

- Data were gathered by
 - Scrutinizing curriculum in terms of principles of constructivism (specialists)
 - Administering open-ended questionnaire (52 primary education teacher)
 - Conducting individual and focus group interview (11 primary education teacher)

For analyzing data;

- responses were transcribed and
- coded by using inductive coding approach, and
- meaningful themes were generated.
- The findings were organized to the aims of the research

FINDINGS

PRINCIPLES of CONSTRUCTIVISM SCRUTINIZED

- Are defined goals and objectives
 - excited, interesting, enjoyable, meaningful, stimulating and productive for pupils?
 - flexible in order to take into account students' ideas?
 - viable for pupils' experiential world, prior experiences?

- > Are content designed as integrated and related to pupils' real-world?
 - Are subject matters meaningfully integrated?
 - Are themes constructed meaningfully?
 - Is content designed in accordance with students' experiential world, especially their existing schemata and living world?
 - Can students apply the concepts, principles and relations of subject matters, themes, and units in everyday-life, real-world problems?

- Are teaching-learning processes; activities, materials designed to provide students with constructing knowledge actively?
- Are assessment and evaluation tools valid, reliable, and applicable for measuring and evaluating students' progress and achievement in terms of constructing and generating knowledge meaningfully?

<u>Specifically</u>, in the <u>1940's</u> "Teacher Education Institutes for Villages" were established to prepare teachers to teach in the village schools.

• Children who had graduated from elementary schools in the villages were invited to attend these institutes.



-Education in these institutes was based mainly on progressivism (learning by doing and solving real-life problems),

-The curriculum was integrated;

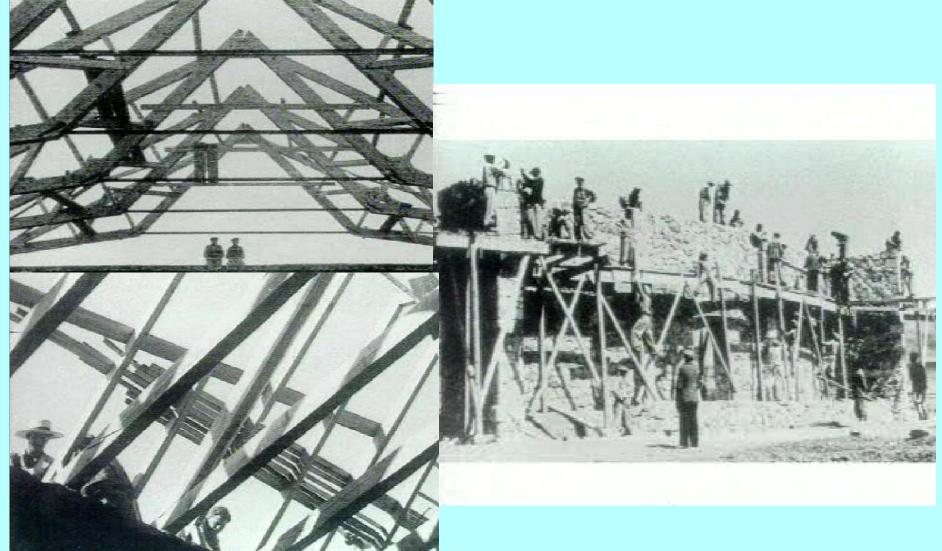




Curriculum included general art, fine arts (music, theater, dance, art), math, science, PE, vocational and professional education courses.



-In math and science, the students planned the construction of some of their buildings by learning about angles, area, volume, strength, etc.



- -They planned and constructed some of their buildings, planted trees, and farmed.
- -Math, physics, biology and chemistry problems came from construction, farming, sewing, cooking, home economics--that is, problems came from real-life



They also <u>communicated with</u> and <u>educated villagers</u> by theatrical performances, folk dances, concerts, sports, and home visits etc.









Every weekend, <u>during the weekly assessment meeting</u> with their teachers and administrators, students in these schools reflected on their positive and negative experiences, shared opinions, and made recommendations for the development of their education.



WHEN WE EXAMINED THE CURRENT PRIMARY EDUCATION CURRICULUM:

- There is very LITTLE evidence about integration of subject matters.
- Themes are too big to understand meaningfully, and most of the themes consist of unrelated sub-contents

Generally,

- learning outcomes,
- content and
- teaching-learning processes are not related <u>to students' interest, and THEIR</u> <u>EXPERIENTIAL WORLD</u>, and
- no flexibility

- Teaching-learning processes,
- activities, and
- materials were not designed to provide students with constructing knowledge actively and meaningfully. FOR EXAMPLE:

Lesson: Turkish

Learning field: *Reading* (I do not know what it means)

Grade: 3rd

Learning outcome: Define and criticize emotional and exaggerated elements in the reading text
Skills: Critical thinking and decision making
Materials: Hand-out

PROCESS:

<u>Direction</u>: Define the sentences which have exaggerated elements which one emotional

ADI: MÜMKÜN MÜ?

DERS : Türkçe SINIF : 3

YAKLAŞIK SÜRE : 25 dakika ÖĞRENME ALANI : **Okuma**

KAZANIM : Okuduklarında duygusal ve abartılı ögeleri belirler ve

sorgular.

BECERİLER : Eleştirel düşünme, karar verme.

ARAÇ, GEREÇ, ORTAM: Çalışma kâğıdı

SÜREÇ

Aşağıda verilen cümlelerden hangisi veya hangileri duygusal ya da abartılı ögeler içermektedir? Belirlediğiniz ögelerin altını çiziniz, cümleye duygusallık mı ya da abartı mı kattığını cümlenin karşısında verilen yay ayraç içine yazınız.

•	Dedemin	200 yaşında	alduğunu sa	övlüvorlar. ((abart1)
_	DOGOTTHIT	ECC PAGILIAA	adagana s	cylayalar.	

- Annesini görünce ağlamaya başladı.
 (.....)
- ♦ Maçta arkadaşım sakatlanınca çok üzüldüm. (.....)
- Geçen gün ayı kadar bir köpek gördüm.
 (......)
- Yaşlı amca çok üzgün görünüyordu.
- Güzel havalarda içimden hep şarkı söylemek geliyor. (......)
- 10 yaşındaki arkadaşım 50 numara ayakkabı giyiyor. (...........)
- 10 yaşındaki alkadaşını 50 ildinala ayakkabı giyiydi. (.....
- ♦ Türkçe sınavı sonucunu öğrenince sevingle haykırdı. (.....)
- ◆ Amcam beş yüz kilogramlık bir yükü bir hamlede kaldırdı.(.....)
- ♦ Kalabalığın önüne çıkınca utangından kulakları kızardı. (.....)

DEĞERLENDİRME

- Öğrencilerinizden, benzer örnekler bulmalarını buldukları örneklerdeki duygusal ve abartılı ögeleri belirlemelerini isteyiniz.
- İzledikleri reklam, film, çizgi film ve diğer televizyon programlarında duygusal ve abartılı ögelerle karşılaşıp karşılaşmadıkları hakkında konuşunuz.
- 3. Eşleştirmelerin doğruluğunu kontrol ediniz.

Lesson: Turkish

Grade: 3rd

Learning field: Reading

<u>Learning outcome</u>: s/he enhances word treasure by using visual aids.

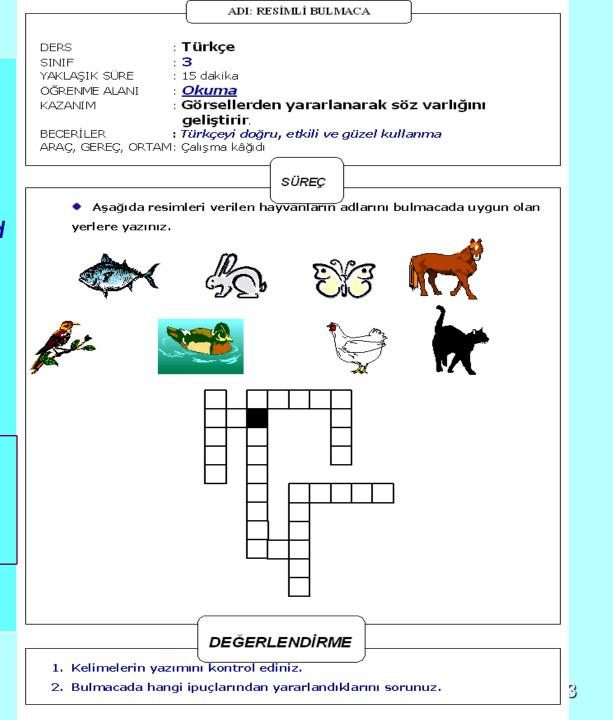
<u>Skills</u>: Using Turkish accurately and

effectively

<u>Material:</u> Hand-out

<u>Direction</u>: Write the names of animals on the puzzle below given pictures.

I wonder if students can enhance word treasure, and use Turkish Effectively with this teaching-learning process.



Teachers problems encountered:

- "Curricula are so confusing. Because most of the concepts in the curricula didn't make any sense."
- "Most of activities were not related to students' experiential world, and previous experiences."
- "These curricula were so directed and prevented teachers' creativity."

- School and class size, design, materials, and equipment were not sufficient and consistent to implement activities and authentic evaluation.



Administrators and teachers were not competent and enthusiastic to implement constructivist principles in education because of <u>lack of knowledge</u> about constructivism, <u>teaching-learning facilities</u>, and administers', teachers' promotion system.



One fifth (11/52) of teachers
 administered open-ended
 questionnaire found this curricula
 were useful because it stimulated
 students activity in the classroom.

SUGGESTIONS:

- First of all, policy makers in education must be enlightened about the problems and the way of solving problems.
- Curriculum studies is not the field of which everybody can work as consultant; so curriculum makers must be competent in Curriculum Studies

- Facilities of schools and classes must be improved
- Administrators and teachers must be educated in constructivism and its implementation in education by specialists who really knew constructivism and and its implementation in education.

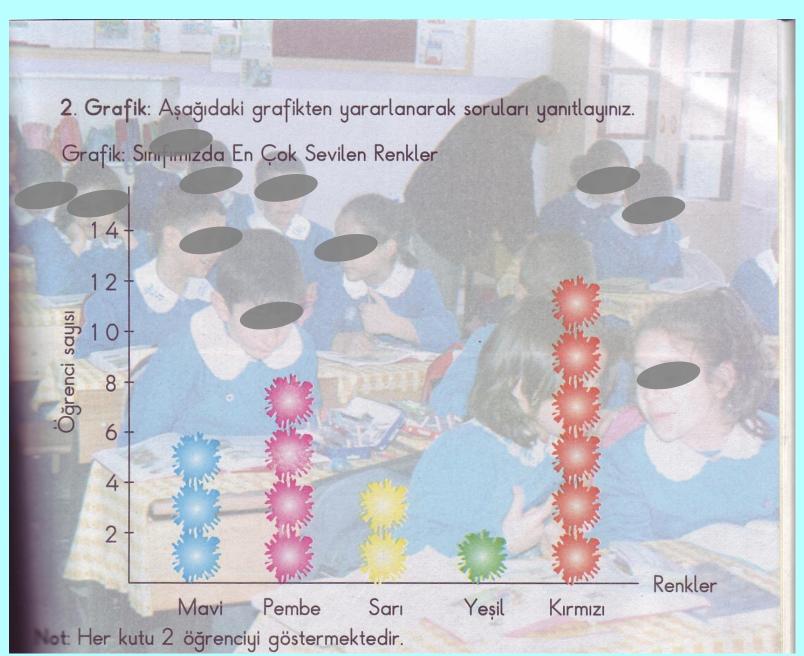


WHISHING TO ENLIGHTENING OUR CHILDREN'S MINDS, HEARTS, AND EYES IN ALL OVER THE WORLD!!!

İşte Öğretmeye (Öğrenmeye rehberlik etme) Önem Vermeyen Bir Sınıf Daha!!!



İlköğretim Matematik 3. Sınıf Ders Kitabı

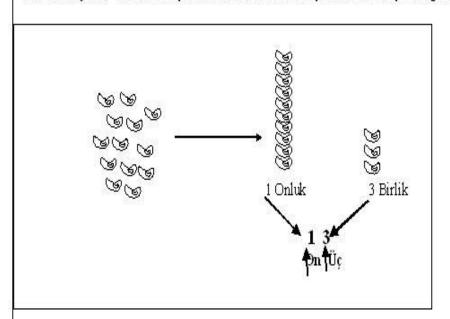


"Sayılar Öğrenme Alanı" (İlköğretim 1. Sınıf Matematik Programı)

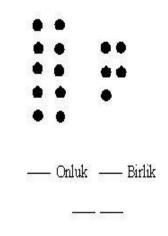
 Miktarı 10 ile 20 arasında olan bir grup nesneyi, onluk ve birliklerine ayırarak gösterir, bu nesnelere karşılık gelen sayıyı rakamlarla yazar ve okur.

Werilen nesnelerin 10 tanesinden bir onluk oluşturulur. Kalan nesneler birlikler grubu olarak adlandırılır. Birliklerin sağda, onlukların solda gösterilmesinin gerekliliği vurgulanır.

Bulunan sayının, sözlü okunuşu ile rakamlarla ifade edilişi arasındaki ilişki vurgulanır.



Aşağıda boş bırakılan yerleri doldurunuz ve karşılık gelen sayıyı yazınız.



Çocuk bu yolla deste bozmayı anlamlı bir biçimde öğrenebilir mi (yapılandırabilir mi)?

3.3. TAHMIN VE ZIHINDEN TOPLAMA

ALISTIRMALAR VE PROBLEMLER



- 1. Demet ailesinin yaptığı son alışveriş fişini rceleyiniz. Buna göre;
- a. Çayla birlikte 1 kg da şeker alınsaydı 650 YKr ödenecekti. 1 kg şeker kaç YKr'dir?
- b. Domates ve diş macunu için ödenen toplam Fyatı tahmin ediniz. Tahmininizi işlem yaparak ontrol ediniz.
- c. Geçen haftaki alışverişte 38 YTL ödenmişti. İki haftalık harcamalarının toplamını zihinden hesaplayınız.
- ç. Marul ve patatese ödenen tutar, çaya ödenenden ne kadar azdır?
- d. Bu alışverişte 5 kg'lık sıvı yağ alınsaydı 59 YTL ödenecekti:

47		59		1
. 00	veya	_ 00	ightarrow Yağ için ödenen	_
59		47	miktar ne kadaro	

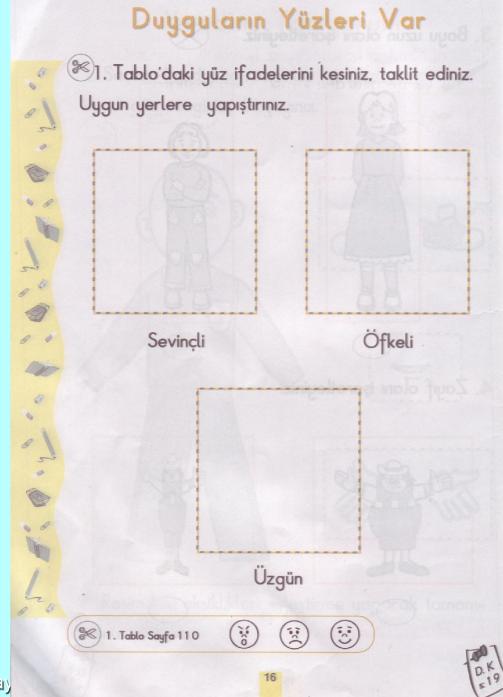
Bu işlemlerde izlenen yöntemleri ve aralarındaki ilişkiyi açıklayınız.

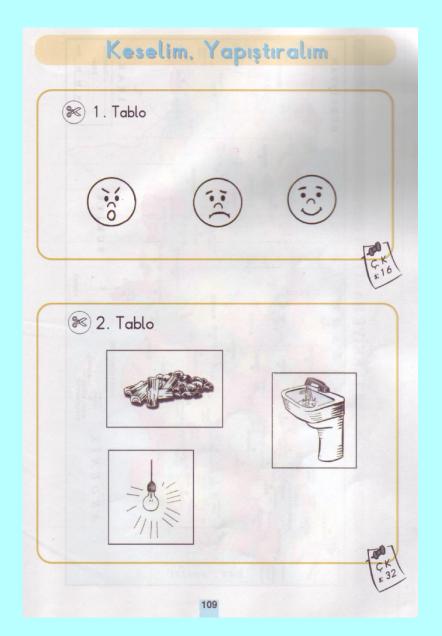
OKAN GIDA TARIH 14.01.2005 FIS NO: 007 SAAT 11.45 CAY 1 PAKET 350 YKr BALIK 2 KG 5 YTL ZEYTÍN 1 KG 7 YTL PEYNIR 1 KG 6 YTL **DOMATES** 3 KG 175 YKr MARUL 2 ADET 1 YTL 4 KG 2 YTL PATATES DIS MACUNU 1 ADET 325 YKr DETERJAN 5 KG 15 YTL PECETE 4 PAKET 3 YTL TOPLAM 47 YTL TESEKKÜR EDERIZ.

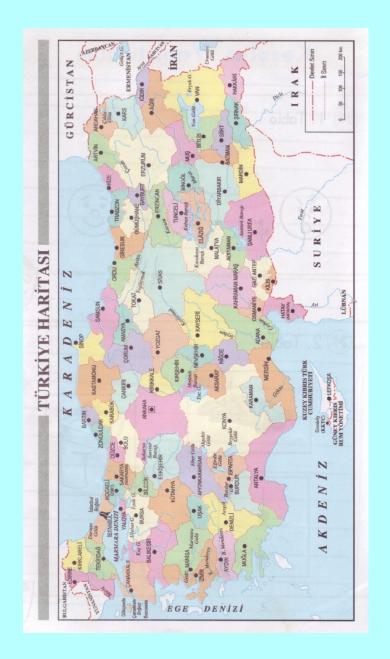
 Matematik 3. Sınıf Öğrenci Çalışma Kitabı

Neyi tahmin edecek?

"Domates(175) ve diş macunu(325) için ödenen toplam fiyatı tahmin ediniz" diye soruyor. Oysa sorusu tahmin etmek değil, zihinden toplama yapmaktır. Hayat Bilgisi 1. Sınıf
 Öğrenci Çalışma Kitabı







Hayat Bilgisi 1. Sınıf Öğrenci Çalışma Kitabı

Bu resimlerde neyin doğru neyin yanlış olduğunu siz yetişkinler bulabildiniz mi?
Ben şahsen bulamadım



Hayat Bilgisi 1. Sınıf Ders Kitabı

- Acaba çocuğun çatal tutan eli bileğine zamk ile mi yapıştırılmış ne???
- Siz yetişkinler <u>çocuğun</u> <u>kullandığı</u> araç gereçlerin <u>neler</u> <u>olduğunu belirleyebildiniz</u> <u>mi</u>???



Sonuç olarak, bu program ve kitaplarla ülkemizin zaman, emek ve parası boşa harcanmaktadır...

DOSTLAR ALIŞVERİŞTE GÖRSÜN!!!

