

Tahirih's group



During the evolution unit focus time we talked about selecting informational resources as a group. David, Andisiwe, Lindokuhle and Shiloh presented resources they had selected yesterday, along with their selection criteria. Most of them felt that the book or website they had selected was good because of the informational content. It took time for them to also talk about the pictures or the ease with which they could understand the text as well. I feel that this process of explaining why one has made a choice is important, whether it is explaining why you have chosen a particular book or responded in a particular way to a situation. I think it is about being aware of the choices one is making and the reasons behind your choices. The children will continue to share their resources with the group throughout the research process to develop this ability.



Once we had looked at our resources, the conversation shifted to a discussion about taking notes. I asked the group to share what they were doing when they were taking notes from the resources that they were working with. There was silence for a while until Shiloh finally said, "We are writing down information in our our own words!" His response was followed by signs and a groans... "Tahirih, why are you asking us about this? Note taking is just note taking...we are gathering information. What is there to talk about?" came Andisiwe's voice. I said that I wanted to explore this act in greater depth so that they could get the most out of the activity and their use of time. I felt that a process of group sharing and discussion would support their understanding and ability. So I asked them to keep thinking about what they were doing when they were taking notes...again silence. Slowly their ideas began to come:



"I am learning about my topic..."

"I am learning new words and understanding them..."

"I am reading and writing..."

"I am getting more interested in my topic..."

"I am looking at pictures..."

"I am trying to concentrate..."

"I am summarizing information..."

"I am speed reading..."



This sharing was powerful. The children told each other what they needed to know, I just asked the questions. Their sharing supported their work in class for the next hour as they read and took notes for their respective research projects!



Other highlights from today include- Lindokuhle showing us how to do multiplication in numeracy; a game of twister which took place at break time and Shiloh's mask making in project time! The middle picture today shows David's plasticine worms which he made last week. You can also see Andisiwe working on a poster which shows the ingredients of a forest!

6th June 2007