

Bilingual Second Grade Teaching in California

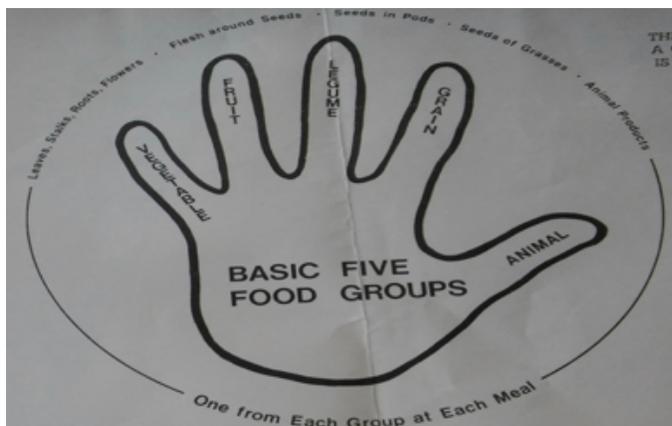
as told by Jann McGuire, 2018

I taught for Lindsay Unified School District in California from 1976 until 1995, and taught part-time contracts until 2007. For the first four years I taught Kindergarten-First Grade class. From 1980-1988 I taught a first grade bilingual class. During two of those years, I served as mentor teacher with training and practice in peer coaching. From 1988 thru 1995, I taught learning handicapped students as a resource specialist. My experience with the ICA and training in Imaginal Education were invaluable during these years.

Days in my classroom were punctuated with 5th City Preschool Songs. The opening exercise was centered around a calendar, where we chanted, "This is the day we have." A timeline that began the first day of school had a number added each day on adding machine paper, which eventually wound around the room.



Multiples of five and ten were circled as the line grew, and we counted by tens, then fives. We sang the days of the week and months of the year. The leader of the day pointed to the numbers, days and months as the class sang them. A large rainbow-shaped graphic set the context of an individual child in the center, layered by family, school, town, state, country world, universe as a background for singing "We Live in the Universe" and "Voom Voom Astronaut. Another wall featured a global grid covered with pictures of people that allowed the children to get an image of the various skin colors we sang about in "Universe Man".



For teaching nutrition, I blew up to wall size an ICA poster picturing a hand with one food group on each finger. The children glued pictures of vegetables on the little finger, fruits on the ring finger, meats on the thumb, and actual legumes and grains on the remaining two fingers. This montage is on one wall to point out where cafeteria foods would go as we read the menu.