The Effects of Work Journals, Portfolios, and Cosmic Education on Intrinsic Motivation

An Action Research Report by Heather Brown
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How will work journals, electronic portfolios, and cosmic education effect intrinsic motivation in an upper elementary Montessori environment?
Methodology

- Duration: 8 weeks
- Participants: 34 learners; 17 girls, 17 boys
- Methods of Assessment
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interest</th>
<th>“What a marvelous characteristic in this creative spirit of humanity which springs forth independently of every form of education or instruction; this great spirit which transforms the environment like a god, which pierces the mountains, conquers the air and eradicates distance, this creative spirit of humans which enables them to perform such marvels independently of human teachers, which creates civilization as the pearl oyster creates the pearl, the Madre pearl, the coral, the bees, the honey and wax, this, this is the genius of humanity.”</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cosmic Education</td>
<td>-Maria Montessori</td>
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<td>Competence</td>
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<td>Electronic Portfolios</td>
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<td>Autonomy</td>
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<td>Work Journals, Advisory Meetings</td>
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<td>Relatedness</td>
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<td>Advisory Meetings</td>
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Pre- & Post-Assessments

Intrinsic Motivation Inventory (IMI)

Class Average of Controlled Motivation

Class Average of Autonomous Motivation
Observations

Average of Desirable Behaviors

State of Flow
Feedback: Electronic Portfolios

How do you feel about making an electronic portfolio?

- I really enjoy it: 20
- I enjoy it a little: 15
- I don't enjoy it: 10
- It's confusing: 5
- I don't use it: 0

Do you think the portfolio helped you to do your best work?

- Yes: 10
- Sometimes: 7.5
- No: 7.5
- I don't know: 2.5

Do you think the portfolio helped you to do your best work?
Feedback: Work Journals & Advisories

Preference of Work Journals and Work Plans

- Journals: 55.2%
- Plans: 31%
- Unsure: 13.8%

Are weekly or bi-weekly conferences helpful?

- Yes: 62.1%
- No: 31%
- Unsure: 6.9%
Feedback: Cosmic Education

1. Do you enjoy learning about the universe, Earth, and the history of life on Earth?
   - Yes: 69%
   - No: 17.2%
   - Kind of: 13.8%

2. Do you think it's important to learn about the universe, Earth, and the history of life on Earth?
   - Yes: 79.3%
   - Unsure: 13.9%
   - No: 6.9%
So, now what?

- Collaborate with learners to maximize effectiveness of work journals, advisory meetings, and electronic portfolios
- Support paper portfolios for learners who struggle with the technology component
- Increase philanthropy efforts
Questions?