CHAPTER 7

A ‘PHILOSOPHY FOR CHILDREN’ APPROACH TO SOCIAL STUDIES

CLINTON GOLDMING

FOCUSING QUESTIONS

1. How might we promote inquiry, social decision-making and values exploration in social studies?
2. How might we teach complex and controversial subjects or content?
3. How do you teach students how to decide what is right and wrong?
4. How can you teach students how to decide what they should believe and what they should not believe?
5. How do you teach students to be responsible citizens?
6. What student skills, knowledge and understandings are needed to meet the aims of the social studies curriculum?
7. What thinking, ethics and values skills are needed to meet the aims of the social studies curriculum?
8. What disciplines are needed to meet the aims of the social studies curriculum?
9. Why do we need to add philosophy to the mix?

The social studies curriculum calls for skills, knowledge and understandings beyond what the traditional social sciences of history, geography, politics and economics can deliver. Certainly the social sciences are necessary for social studies, but more is needed as well. This paper argues that philosophy would be the addition needed to meet the needs of the social studies curriculum. It will show that philosophy should be a part of the social studies curriculum and will then go on to show how philosophy could be incorporated into what already happens in a social studies class.
The social studies curriculum is designed to help students develop the skills and knowledge necessary to become informed citizens. It is crucial for students to understand the social sciences and how they relate to everyday life. Understanding the concepts of race and class, gender, and social issues is essential for students to develop critical thinking skills. The social studies curriculum should be designed to foster a sense of civic engagement and responsibility. The curriculum should cover topics such as history, politics, economics, and sociology. It is important for students to understand the complexities of social issues and be able to make informed decisions about them. The social studies curriculum should also encourage students to explore different cultures and perspectives. It is important for students to be exposed to diverse viewpoints and to develop an appreciation for cultural differences. The social studies curriculum should be designed to help students develop into well-informed and responsible citizens.
A philosophy for children approached in a classroom

**Philosophical Content**

and skills and habits of mind. Social studies and philosophical education develop the essential skills of social and emotional development. There are three main ways a philosophy for children can be used:

1. **Philosophy for Children**
2. **Philosophical Content**
3. **Philosophical Approach to Social Studies**

In addition to developing improved understanding of complex ideas, for values and ethical thinking and for making ethical decisions, it could be argued that various thinking skills of values education are needed in social studies because it is the descriptive method for children. This method does not rely on direct instruction but instead, provides the framework for developing the necessary social skills and knowledge. The philosophy for children is intended to provide this framework and to help children develop the necessary skills and knowledge to understand and apply ethical principles in their daily lives.
Developing a Community of Inquiry

Time and reasoning about ideas, with other people, engage with ideas, and engage with each other in communities of inquiry, where ideas are discussed, and issues on which there are substantial differences, resolution of essential questions, and progress of the research. This requires a comprehensive and flexible approach to inquiry, as well as a safe and open environment of scholarly discussion and a community of inquiry. A community of inquiry underlies the main process used in a philosophical approach to social studies.

Conflicts and positions in society:

Philosophy for Children: Approaches to Social Studies

Key terms:...

essential questions:...
and logical thinking occurs. And keep the process of thinking and creating good ideas.

Citation: Citing an article, a report, or a book. 

The habit of questioning is the habit of being curious and the habit of reasoning is the habit of understanding and believing. The two habits are fundamental to a philosophical approach to social studies. When students are placed in situations where they are questioning and reasoning, they are developing their abilities to think critically and logically. This is essential for developing the skills that the students will need to develop as an adult.

Developing Philosophical Skills and Habits in Students

The professional approach to social studies emphasizes the development of critical thinking and reasoning skills. This begins in the classroom where students are encouraged to ask questions, think critically, and analyze information. The teacher’s role is to facilitate this process by providing opportunities for students to engage in meaningful discussions and to develop their own ideas and opinions.

The community of inquiry is an essential process for a successful philosophy class. It is important for students to develop an understanding of how to ask questions and how to reason through those questions. This requires the teacher to be a facilitator, guiding students through the process of inquiry and helping them to develop their critical thinking skills.

The teacher must create an environment where students feel comfortable asking questions and expressing their ideas. This can be achieved by creating a safe and supportive classroom atmosphere. Students should feel free to express their ideas and opinions without fear of judgment or criticism. The teacher must also be willing to share their own ideas and experiences, as this can help to encourage students to think more critically and to develop their own ideas.

In the classroom, the teacher must be a facilitator, guiding students through the process of inquiry and helping them to develop their critical thinking skills. The teacher must also be willing to share their own ideas and experiences, as this can help to encourage students to think more critically and to develop their own ideas.
I think "cool" is right. We've messed up the point about what do other people think.

Teacher: Can you explain why you think the term is "cool"?

I think it's... People get hurt ininyo games. It's pretty.

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CONCLUSION

For us to carry on with next theme, let's come to a vote on whether or not to accept the question. Vote and let's decide on what is considered acceptable and what is not. Thanks, write down your thoughts on what is acceptable and what is not.

May there be good and bad violence.

Thank you - anyone else?

Teacher

Stop if you think violent.

Thinking and according to the rules, but that doesn't.

Teacher

May I disagree with Geooff's view? You can say that.

Geooff

This is not a vote on violence. Whenever one person

Teacher

On ya... I didn't think of that.

Geooff

That's not what I meant.

Teacher

Can someone summarise what progress we have

Jean

It's going well so far.

Teacher

That's pretty good - we just have to look at whether...
A philosophy for children, Appendix to social studies.


