

### **Inquiry and Student Engagement, Gr. 3**

Female: **[00:00]** The science is all about stable and strong structures, right? And instead of me saying, "Well the triangle is the strongest structure." So if you incorporated that shape into your structures, right—or, you know, if I, if I had to coach them and gear them and told them what to do, it would have taken the fun a) out of the assignment. But for them to explore—my, my job was just to coach them and say, "Think of that shape."

So instead of them actually using my information, saying "Build triangles, and you'll notice it's, you know, stronger, it's a stronger structure. Or build cylinders, and you'll find that that's stronger," I just hinted that, "If you played around with the shape, you might end up seeing an, an, an enormous difference." And they had different materials to play with as well, right? Like, the, the—we had straws and a variety of different materials like paper and, and ... So they would see if that same shape would work with the same type of materials as well as ...

**[00:55]** The inquiry based learning that's happening in my classroom, I've noticed that when, when it is inquiry based, there's just a high engagement in student in—in students. They're very enthusiastic about the task and they know that they have to make choices, they have to make decisions. And it empowers them, right? Like, instead of me telling them what to do and them trying to meet up to my expectations, there's the exploring, that, the experimenting and the freedom that they can navigate with or, or network with a variety of different students and have their thinking affirmed or challenged.

It creates a whole different kind of atmosphere. And I find that when it's all teacher-talk, when there's too much teacher-talk in the classroom, that that's when the kids become unfocused and, and not engaged in the learning. But when their voice is always present and they know that their voice is valued, and it's utilized by the teacher, that that spurs them and motivates them to, to learn even more.

[END OF RECORDING – length, 01:58]