Lesson: What do you know about the birds around you?

Intended Grade Level: Kindergarten

Academic Standard: K.4.2 Observe plants and animals, describing how they are alike and how they are different in the way they look and in the things they do.

Objective: The student after having a class discussion will observe birds both outside and in pictures focusing on how they are alike and different with 100% participation.

Assessment: Assessment will be formative. The teacher will assess throughout the activity that the students are participating and understanding the concept of how birds are alike and different.

Prep/Materials: The students will need to have science journals. The teacher will have to choose the spot for the students to sit while they observe outside and have the pictures of birds prepared for the students to look at while inside. Also the teacher will need a bird nest for the first part of the lesson.

Procedure:
Intro/Motivation: Set a bird nest on your desk. Ask the students if they know what kind of animal it belongs to. “I find this the other day in my backyard under a tree. Now I am not sure what kind of animal it belongs to but I am very curious. Can anyone tell me what they think?” Wait for the students to answer.

Step-by-Step:
- “Today we are going to be observing birds out in our playground behind school. I want you to focus on how the birds are alike and different. Alike means what is the same and different means things that are not the same. Is there any questions? Now pick up your science journals and let’s head outside.” (Gardner’s visual/spatial and Naturalistic)
- Have the students line up at the door and lead them outside.
- Stay outside for about 15 minutes.
- Ask questions like “What do birds do that is different from what other animals do? What kinds of foods do birds eat? What kinds of homes do birds live in?” (Bloom’s comprehension)
- Come back inside and allow the students time to look through pictures of birds back in the science center.
- Call everyone to meet on the carper after 10 minutes.

Closure: Lead the class in a discussion. (Gardner’s verbal/linguistic) Feed off of their answers. Some questions to be asked would be “How are birds alike? How are they
different? Where do they go during the winter? What are the names of some local birds? What do these birds look like?” (Bloom’s knowledge)

Adaptations/Enrichments: An adaptation would be to have students who might suffer from ADHD to observe for shorter periods of time. Have them draw pictures of birds as another activity to finish while the other students finish observing. An enrichment would be to have the students help design a bird feeding and observing area. They can help build bird houses and decide what sorts of plants and food should be put around the area.

Reflection: Did the students enjoy the activity? Did they all participate? Was the objective met? What could be done to improve this lesson? What worked and what did not work? Would I teach this lesson again?